

CPS SOURCE bySunday

Spices, colors, music - the life of **Morocco** is a sensory overload that has historically been a crossroads of cultures. Morocco is geographically a part of Africa, but the Northern city of Tangiers is only nine miles from Spain. Aspects of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa are blended together in Morocco's architecture, clothing, and traditional crafts. There is a great melting pot of people as well, but the indigenous people are the Berbers, called **Amazigh** by those who belong to the group today.

Over the centuries, several foreign powers have taken political control of Morocco. Each occupation has brought a wave of cultural change to the Amazigh. In the 7th century, the Arab invasions led many of them to convert to Islam. As recently as a century ago, Spain and France claimed responsibility for Morocco and ruled the nation as a protectorate. European control introduced western lifestyles and political thought. In fact many Berbers fought in the World Wars for the western allied countries. The famed Casablanca Conference brought Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt to the country, and American and European societies were introduced to traditional Moroccan customs, increasing tourism and western presence. When we look at cultural objects from Morocco we can see the influence of all these occupations. The tray below is Amazigh, but has a symmetrical **arabesque** design with a center tile pattern. The knife and scabbard shown have a distinctly Berber shape, however.



Amazigh Tray
Morocco, North Africa
20th century
Copper



#1982-0477



Amazigh Knife & Scabbard
Morocco, North Africa
early 20th century
Iron, Wood, Brass

#1982-0460

The Amazigh rose up and claimed independence in 1956, and since then they have been an Arabic country in Africa with strong European ties.

EXPLORE

To see more artifacts, visit the MoA's online databases:
<https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/?q=online-databases>

Database search words: Morocco, Berber,
North Africa, Arab

Tips for Using the Museum Databases

- Log in as a "Guest."
- Enter search terms into one or more fields and click the "Perform Find" button in the status area on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Use the book icon in the status area to move from one record to another in the found set.
- Click on the magnifying glass icon to return to find mode and perform additional searches.
- When finished working with a database, please be sure to click the "Log Out" button in the status area to close your session.



M O R O C C O

