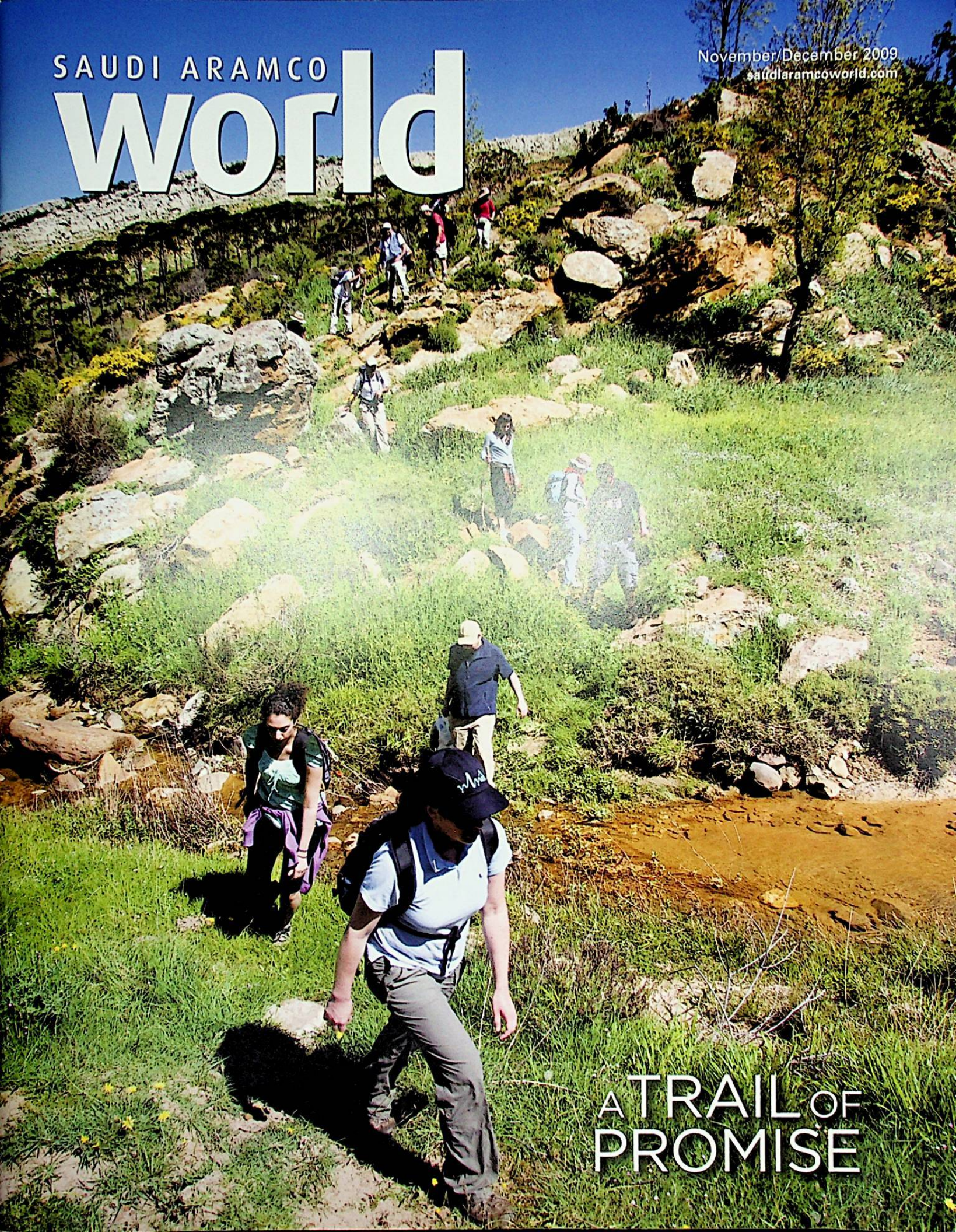


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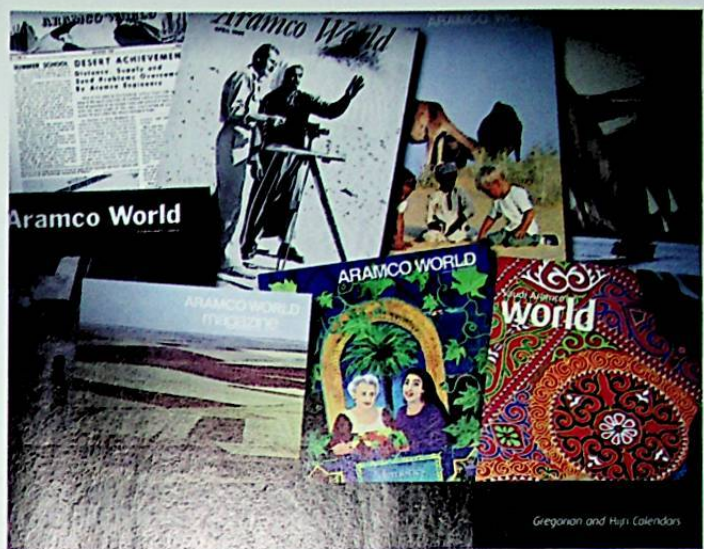


A TRAIL OF  
PROMISE



## 17 2010 Calendar: Six Decades

In November 1949, Aramco started a company newsletter "to break down walls of isolation" between its US offices and its Saudi Arabian oilfields. Through each of its six decades, *Saudi Aramco World*—now an international bimonthly magazine—has found new ways to broaden and deepen that intercultural mission.



## 33 A Trail of Promise

Written and Photographed by  
Norbert Schiller

Winding along the crest of the country's mountainous spine, the Lebanon Mountain Trail is the longest and most challenging in the Middle East. A team of six—often joined by dozens of guides—has completed it by spending a month "walking it through."



## 40 Al-Burdun (The Boardinghouse)

Photographed by Peter Fryer  
Written by David Campbell

In the early 20th century, many Yemeni sailors manned British ships, which often called at the English port of South Shields, near Newcastle. Forbidden to lodge with English families, the seamen lived in boardinghouses, a term they Arabized to *burdun* ("boor-doonn"). Today, only two boardinghouses remain, but one of England's earliest Muslim communities is still vital.



## 44 Classroom Guide

Written by Julie Weiss

## 46 Events & Exhibitions



Cover



The Lebanon Mountain Trail is more than a recreational initiative: Its founders hope it will spur national conservation efforts and boost tourism in the 26 towns along which it passes. Several thousand hikers have already sampled its wayside beauty. Photo by Norbert Schiller.

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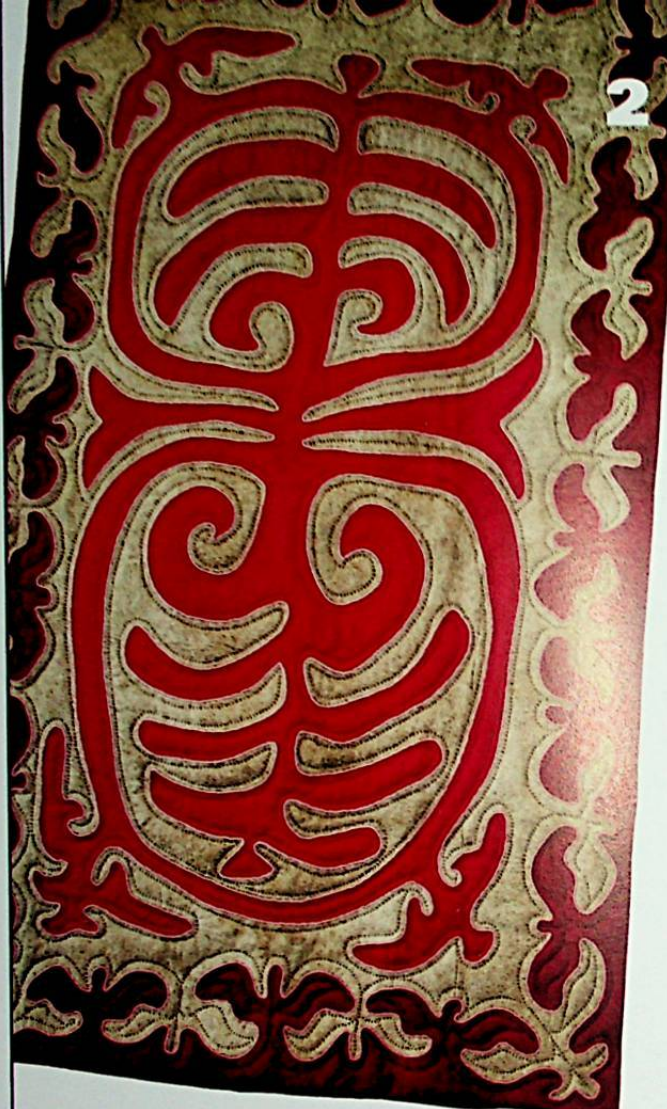
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**Shyrdak  
and the  
Art of Felt**

Written and  
photographed by  
A. M. Kueppers

The felt rugs known in Kyrgyzstan as *shyrdaks* reflect more than 4000 years of techniques and designs, and the "Golden Hands" women's cooperative is reviving them as both a national symbol and a proud export.



**8 From Moravia to Arabia**

Written by Peter Harrigan

Born a peasant in Hapsburg Moravia (now in the Czech Republic), Alois Musil was not only an honorary Bedouin shaykh and a top orientalist scholar of the early 20th century. He was also a novelist whose friendships in the Middle East guided the arc of a luminous, bridge-building career that now, 65 years after his death, is receiving recognition.

Back Cover



Alois Musil's dramatic discovery in 1898 of Qasr 'Amra, an eighth-century Umayyad hunting lodge in the Jordanian desert, was notable, but the representational

frescoes inside it made Musil first suspect, then celebrated, among Arabists. Painting by Leopold Alphons Mielich, courtesy of the Vyškov Museum.

Saudi Aramco, the oil company born as an international enterprise more than seventy-five years ago, distributes *Saudi Aramco World* to increase cross-cultural understanding. The magazine's goal is to broaden knowledge of the cultures, history and geography of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their connections with the West. *Saudi Aramco World* is distributed without charge, upon request, to a limited number of interested readers.



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