

The discovery of Batroun and Dar al-Mona with the Uruguayan ambassador

It was on a Wednesday of our soft spring... a radiant day during which the wives of ambassadors accredited to Lebanon, wives of diplomats and a group of privileged persons set out to discover Batroun and "Dar el-Mona Fine Arts" in response to the invitation of the Uruguayan ambassador, Dr. Jorge Jure Arnoletti. It was a lovely morning as we arrived at the garden of the beautiful old Lebanese house refurbished as a cultural center, baptized Dar el-Mona, in the heart of Batroun, which is located on the coast between Jbeil (Byblos) and Tripoli. The owners of the center, the architect Sabah Abi-Hanna and his wife, Mona, a painter, welcomed the group for coffee and the traditional lemonade. A film was shown at Dar el-Mona on the historical sites and remains of Batroun before a guided tour of the old town -- the souks, the Roman amphitheater, the churches and the other sights of this charming locality. Return to Dar el-Mona for a buffet-lunch served in halls decorated with paintings, including tableaux by the artist Bruno Steir, a Uruguayan painter of Lebanese origin. The proceeds of this successful excursion, and of the tombola on a painting by Mona Abi-Hanna, went in aid of the Uruguay School for Orphans, located in Beirut's Ashrafieh neighborhood. ■



Uruguayan Ambassador Dr. Jorge Jure Arnoletti, Mona Abi-Hanna and Myriam Azzi



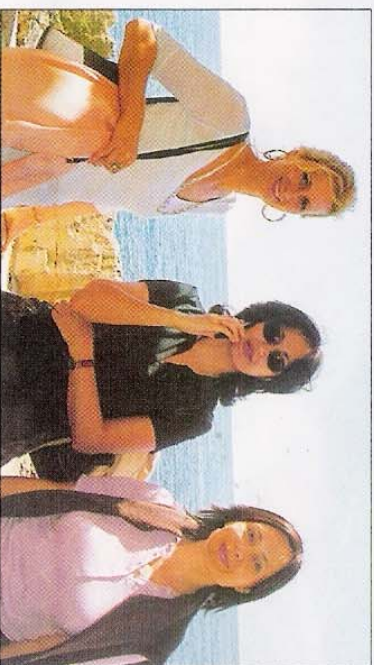
Batroun Mayor and Mrs. Marcelino el-Herk, Sabah and Mona Abi-Hanna and the Uruguayan envoy, Dr. Jorge Jure Arnoletti, in the company of the ambassadors' wives



Fabiola Benzo (Spain), Amami Majali (Jordan), Denise Monreal (Mexico), Maria Helena Salas (Venezuela)



Myriam Azzi, Nemuca Hamed (Paraguay) and the painter Bruno Steir



Kathleen Verkammen (Belgium), Amami Majali (Jordan) and Edith Famas (Hungary)



Arlette Haddad, Linda Chaghoury and Carmen Mogos (Romania)



Inaam el-Hairi (Iraq)



Claudia Alvarez (Mexico)