

Marie Therese Arbid



Monday editions of «L'Orient le Jour» (daily French Lebanese newspaper) were the usual appointment of readers with Marie Therese Arbid's writings for the past twenty five years. However, on this January Monday, her readers read the news of her death.

Marie Therese Arbid, journalist and editor of the cultural page of L'Orient Le Jour passed away on Sunday, January 27, 1991, after a severe heart attack.

A leading journalist in the French-speaking press of Lebanon, she began writing for «Le Jour» in 1966 and joined L'Orient Le Jour when the two newspapers (L'Orient and Le Jour) were merged.

Her literary talent in French was admired by many. She held a degree in French Literature from the Sorbonne in Paris. Her hate for war and death lead her to write two books: «L'Ete 82» (Summer 82) edited by Express International and «Ma Guerre Pourquoi Faire?» (My War, What is it For?) edited by Dar An-Nahar. Both

books reveal her cry against the violent rape of Lebanon. She reminisces the golden days.

Marie Therese Arbid was one of the dynamic career women of the Lebanese press. Many a times she was interviewed and honored on the little screen of the Lebanese television. La Revue du Liban mourns her saying that journalism was her big love. A meticulous and passionate writer, says la Revue, she either loved or hated and she was either liked or disliked.

How did she die? She was struck by a heart attack on the staircase of her building while on her way to her art gallery in the underground shelter. Marie Therese Arbid had turned the damp room which was home for rats into a gallery of art and inaugurated it only one week before her death (January 16, 1991). The name of her gallery was «La Baraka» meaning the Blessing.

The friends and colleagues of Marie Therese Arbid, in the press and cultural art circles mourn her ●

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