

[Undated handbill advertising "the Aïssaouas' snake and scorpion eaters"].

Publication/Creation

date of publication not identified.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/b8qzz8nj>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

THE
AISSAOUAS'
Snake and Scorpion Eaters.

Abstract of the "Paris Petit Journal."

"The most wonderful sight now on view, is that displayed in the Algerian Concerts, at the Paris Exhibition. No one could imagine what the Aissaouas are; they cannot be compared to Actors, Dancers, &c., their work being totally different from any Performance or sights hitherto seen.

The Aissaouas belong to a tribe where religious practices are held particularly sacred. They eat cactus leaves all bristling with prickles, they make their eyes come out of their orbits, they stick long needles through their jaws, they allow themselves to be bitten by vipers, they eat scorpions, they stand up on the sharp edge of a sword, and they burn their bodies, all without pain or bloodshed. After standing for a few moments near a blazing fire they become intoxicated and begin to turn round their heads, until they get into a state of hypnotism; while the Band plays their peculiar enervating melodies, they come forward and perform the feats just described, before the audience. The sight is terrifying, but most certainly curious and everybody ought to see it."

EVERY EVENING AT 8-30

Matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays at 3 o'clock

ADMISSION—

Sofa Stalls, 5s. Reserved Seats, 2/6
Seats, One Shilling.

JOHN STUART, Printer, 3, Arthur Street, Oxford Street.