

# TESTIMONIAL SHEET

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## Culturally Speaking: Promoting Cross-Cultural Awareness in a Post-9/11 World by Mary Coons

### What others are saying:

"In a world brimming with tension, discord and conflict, *Culturally Speaking* shows the urgent need for both sides to try to understand and respect each other's culture, religion, tradition and mores... We need more dialogue and understanding in order to wipe out hate and fear... This is a must read that can benefit both of these groups of people... Please pass this book on to a friend."

Dr. Sam H. Zakhem  
Former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain - 1986-1989

"*Culturally Speaking* by Mary Coons offers every reader an irresistible opportunity to know the Bahrain and its Arab traditions that he/she didn't know. A majestic ride through the unfathomed realms of cultural, traditional and historical memory lanes of Bahrain! The efforts of a foreigner to bridge the gap between ignorance, false conceptions, convictions and awareness, and lead the reader to the greener pastures of reality surrounding this tiny Arabian Gulf island must be the prized possession of every reader, visitor and Bahraini resident. This book undoubtedly is a torchbearer for every inquisitive person of Bahrain, an island of religious tolerance and harmony. Mary's Bahrain experience ignites the fire for mutual respect and international understanding - the only way to thwart hatred and atrocities meted out to human beings on the basis of religious and political self-centred agendas. A study of the book will help the West to remove many misconceptions about Islam and achieve a better understanding about this religion of peace. May her endeavor yield fruitful results! I wish her venture every success... Indeed Mary's glory pervades the human spirit as a book with a difference."

Soman Baby  
Associate Editor, Gulf Daily News  
Kingdom of Bahrain

"This book is the beginning of the quest to understand the differences between cultures. Neither culture is wrong in how they live, work, or act - just different. America is full of - and respects - differences in opinions and ways of life in America. This acceptance should be conveyed to other cultures, other countries, and other ways of living.

Mary has created a unique dialogue in her book. She does not provide her own opinions on how the American and Arab cultures see each other. She interviewed individuals from both countries and found very interesting viewpoints. As you read this book, you begin to understand the power of propaganda, and how points of views are created through what the media wants you to know.

A book of this nature and information is a beneficial must-read for individuals in every country, not just America and Bahrain. Before you form an opinion about a different culture, or way of life, make sure that your opinion is based on facts, and not on what other entities want you to know."

Toni Grundstrom, Andover, Minnesota

Dear Mary,

I am so grateful that you have written and published this book! It is such an important topic, and one that I have recently become very interested in researching and speaking about. I just spent six months in the Middle East - mostly in Egypt - but also traveling in Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Israel/Palestine. When I arrived home and heard the political rhetoric being used to reference that region and the Muslim people, I was outraged. Terms like "axis of evil" and "terrorists" were still being tossed around. What an absurd and destructive way to speak about entire nation-states of people. I'm sure I am "preaching to the choir", as the saying goes.

My point is simply to say thank you. I am so glad you have had the courage, experience, and sensitivity to write this book. I hope that it becomes a best seller!

Ma'salema (peace be upon you),  
Elisabeth Geschiere, Minneapolis, Minnesota

"I highly recommend this book. There are millions of misconceptions that Americans have of the Muslim world. This book brings light to the fact that most of the misconceptions spring from the few radicals within the Muslim world. As this book says, "overcoming ignorance is the key"."

Anonymous customer review on Amazon.com

February 2009

Dear Mary,

Thank you so much for the copy of your book. I am grateful for its publication because you write on such a crucial topic for our foreign relations. In the months and years ahead, I look forward to working with President Obama as we seek to shatter misconceptions and build bridges to the Muslim world. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

With appreciation and best regards, I am sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State

Dear Ms. Coons,

I am happy to recommend your book for I have personally found it interesting not only as a Bahraini, but as someone who is interested in exploring that field of cross-cultural work.

Mariam F. Al-Doseri, Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Mary,

Congratulations on your book awards. It's a wonderful book that brought East and West to a mid point where we can see each other very clearly. Everyone needs to know more about the Arab world.

Thank you for your efforts,

Wafa'a Ashoor, Kingdom of Bahrain