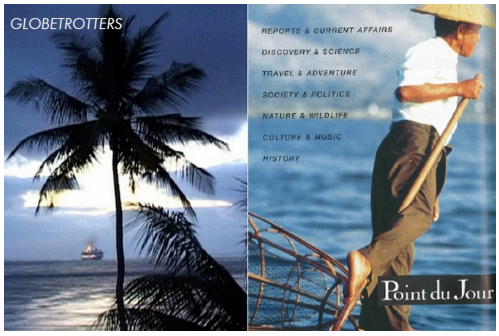

FRANCE: THE OLD MAN AND HIS RING

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Jean Traxel, Monsieur Jean to his friends, has been the proud owner of a box ring in Montreuil, a Paris suburb. Montreuil has not much changed since the war. The ring as well is not a gleaming fitness centre, but a place that "breathes" boxing in the old style. Monsieur Jean has been there almost as long as the ring itself, since 1941 and he has plenty of stories to tell. When his memory betrays him, he opens his precious bible, the ring of records. Great souvenirs! Kid Marcel, Oscar Menozi, Villemin and even Marcel Cerdan came here to work out. Times have changed since, but Jean moves heaven and earth to keep his ring alive and the locals respect his fervour and passion.

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