



**The head of a one-humped camel,
or dromedary, in Syria**

In 1997, there were over 19 million camels worldwide. Most of these were the one-humped species, or dromedary, which lives in North Africa and the Sahel as well as the Near East and the Indian subcontinent. The two-humped Bactrian camel, found in the cold deserts of Russia and Asia, accounts for only five percent of the total camel population. Although frequently omitted from the lists of productive livestock, camels are important contributors to transportation, traction, and dairy production in many arid regions of the world.