

# The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

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Dear Library supporter,

Researchers, scholars, and Library staff take great joy in digging through the Library's extensive institutional archives, which include photographs and letters from every epoch of our storied past, from our inauguration in May 1920 to the present day. What comes to the fore when sifting through these pages from our past is the dedication and enthusiasm that the Library community—staff, readers, and supporters alike—brought to bear on our endeavors. The archives tell a long tale of service to the greater good.

The American Library in Paris originally grew out of the Library War Service, a vast nationwide effort coordinated by the American Library Association to send free books—upward of 2 million—to soldiers stationed in France. The Library embodied a distinctly American service model that delighted and surprised its patrons, offering open stacks, Sunday hours, and story hour for children, all of which were novelties at the time. During World War II the Library remained open and again shipped books to service personnel, this time throughout Europe. That spirit of service is still at the core of what we do today.

Twinned with this service ethic is our donors' generosity, without which we would not have been able to send books to soldiers nor stay open throughout periods of political upheaval. Without their support, we would not stand as a living monument to writers who roamed our stacks, gave readings, and wrote in our reading rooms through the past nine decades.

Today, it is thanks to people like you that we are able to serve as a platform for authors and as an open forum for debate and discussion in our *Evenings with an Author* speaker series. Thanks to you, we still provide the largest circulating English-language collection on the European continent. Thanks to you, we serve as a welcoming space for readers from all walks of life, who come to work quietly or to meet people in book groups, in writing workshops, or through volunteering. Thanks to you, hundreds of children participate in our annual Young Authors Fiction Festival, the only creative writing contest of its kind in France.

Thank you for enabling the American Library in Paris to serve our diverse community. As you know, the Library is an independent nonprofit, and our modest membership dues cover only a fourth of our operating costs. Your generosity is crucial to our success. As we move toward our historic anniversary next year, when we will celebrate a century of service in Paris, please consider making a donation so that we may continue to thrive.

Sincerely,



Audrey Chapuis  
Library Director

10 rue du Général Camou  
75007 Paris France  
+33 01 53 59 12 60  
[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)

