

ALP NOTES

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS NEWSLETTER

10, rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris tel. 45 51 46 82

No.15

September-October 1987

EARLY CLOSINGS AND HOLIDAYS

During the remainder of 1987, the ALP will observe the following holidays and early closings:

Monday, November 2	All Saints Day
Wednesday, November 11	Armistice Day
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day
Thursday, December 31	New Year's Eve
Friday, January 1	New Year's Day

Tuesday, September 22, the ALP will close at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17, "

ALP BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. Wallace Hopkins, former Second Vice Chairman, was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ALP at the March Board meeting. He replaces Mr. Stephen Pierce who had been Chairman since 1982. Mr. Pierce will remain an active Board Member concentrating his efforts on fund-raising. Mr. Hopkins is looking forward to helping the ALP on its way to becoming a fully modernized, technologically up-to-date facility.

LIBRARIAN'S MESSAGE

After many months of shopping and planning, I'm happy to announce that the Executive Board of Trustees of the ALP has approved the purchase of the necessary hardware and software to begin a total automization of the ALP and its collections. Much of this has been made possible through discounts from the Hewlett-Packard Computer Company (France) and the Virginia Tech Library System (VTLS). Upcoming newsletters will keep you posted on the status of this project and the various ways that we will be serving you better and more efficiently.

AUGUST OPENING GREAT SUCCESS

For the second consecutive year, the ALP was open part-time during the month of August. Thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers and Bob Grattan, Head Librarian, the ALP served an average of 29 users per hour open. The ALP keeps moving closer to one of its important goals, being open 100% full-time!

ALP CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The ALP offers two weekly programs for younger children every Wednesday afternoon. These are excellent (and fun) ways for bilingual children to hear English and it is very good preparation for grade school. They both take place in the Children's Room.

2:30 to 3:00 Stories for pre-schoolers
3:00 to 3:30 Book film strips for four years and up

For additional information, call Berna Heubner, 45-00-42-83.

ALP VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

As with the beginning of any new year (and in France with the "Grandes Vacances" followed by the "Rentrée", September indeed begins a new year), the ALP is greeting many people new to Paris and has said "au revoir" to several who moved "back home" or on to other cities. Among the latter were some of our most active and faithful volunteers. The ALP Volunteer Program is an efficient and serious organization which helps the ALP serve you better as well as being an enjoyable way to meet new friends and learn about different aspects of running a library. The ALP asks that volunteers be members of the Library. There are certain advantages offered volunteers after they serve a given number of hours served. The following areas need special attention:

Circulation and Hospitality desks
Open House and Book Sales
Publicity
Book Selection (murder mysteries, sci-fi, novels)
Compiling and publishing book lists (there are three waiting to be "word processed" right now)
Children's Room programs
Revising master address list
Library Archives
Last, not least, most boring but most important --
Shelf Reading!

If you would like to give a few hours a week on a regular basis to the ALP, please ask for "Jeff" Williams at the front desk or just leave your name, time available and job interest. The ALP thanks you very much and takes this opportunity to welcome back our regular volunteers and to thank them for their continued interest and help.

SUPERVOLUNTEERS

The ALP extends a special thank you and "au revoir" to Polly Laviolette who for the past four years headed up ALP's publicity efforts and this past year was in charge of the Book Sales. Polly has gone to live near Grenoble where we are sure the ALP Branch will be as glad of her coming as we are sad at her leaving.

Mr. Peter Telfair also deserves special thanks from ALP as he has set up a private Volunteers' Office on the mezzanine over the non-fiction stacks with a typewriter, filing cabinet, desk and shelf. The new office can also be used for meetings. The ALP is very appreciative of his hard work and even more of the fact that he is not moving away!

ALP "EXPRESS"LY INVADED

Over 1,500 French people streamed into the ALP between September 8 and 12 all searching desperately for the answer to L'EXPRESS magazine's last summer quiz question concerning an obscure 19th century American painter and one (the only?) of his paintings hanging in the Boston Museum of Fine Art. The ALP took quick advantage of this invasion and was able to provide a compilation of the information available. Several visitors became members and many expressed an interest in coming back with their children who are studying English. Though very hectic, it was a fun moment both for the ALP and the contestants. All 1,500 left with information and will spread publicity for the ALP!

A BIT OF HISTORY: FIRST FRENCH PUBLIC LIBRARY?

"There is (in Orleans) two (reasonable) fair public libraries, whence one may borrow a book to one's chamber, giving but a note under hand which is an extraordinary custom, and a confidence that has cost many libraries dear"

John Evelyn's Diary, vol I, with notes B EV 22. Comments from his trip to France in 1614. Contributed by Katya Lowe.

SUGGESTION BOX AND BOOK BAGS BOTH AVAILABLE TO ALPERS

The ALP NOTES shall be happy to include any interesting item such as the above to our newsletter. Please place your contribution in the Suggestion Box which is right by the front desk. Bob Grattan, Head Librarian, checks the box everyday and reports that it is much used. ALP book bags are also available at the front desk for the paltry sum of 40 francs - chic and convenient!

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