

N E W S



L E T T E R

September 1989

# LATEST STEP IN AUTOMATION

August has been a busy month at the American Library in Paris. Four computer terminals now sit on new green shelves in the place where the card catalog once stood. The last two of these OPAC terminals (the acronym stands for Online Public Access Catalog) were added at the beginning of August to allow more ALP users at the same time to locate the books and magazines of their choice. Since then, member usage of the computer catalog has more than doubled -- even though fewer members were in town and the library's hours were shorter during August. With the *rentrée*, we expect the terminals to be even more popular.

The card catalog is still in the circulation area, but it was officially "closed" on December 31, 1988. This means that all of the more than 3,500 books added to the collection since the end of 1988 can be located only by means of the OPAC terminal. The card catalog will remain where it is until we are certain that the new system is working perfectly. Most of the collection's 70,000 volumes are already in the computer system, so even now the card catalog is almost obsolete.

If you haven't yet tried to use the OPAC, don't panic! It's a simple system, and to help you along there are printed instructions beside each terminal. If you would feel better with a bit of human reassurance, please ask any ALP staff member for a demonstration. Once you get the hang of it, you'll see that the terminals are much more efficient than the old card catalog -- and more informative too: They even indicate whether a given book has been checked out and, if so, when it is due back at the library.

As of September 8, all members are being issued laminated, bar-coded identification cards, which will require a photograph and a signature. (As before, no photograph is needed for family cards; individual and student members may reuse the photos from their old cards if they wish.) You will be requested to exchange your old card for a new card when you borrow your first ALP book on or after September 8. Because of this exchange procedure, as well as some electronic odds and ends involved in "linking" each item to the computer, checking out material will take a little longer for a few months. Once all members have bar-coded cards and all items are linked, the check-out/check-in system will be much speedier than before. In one further change, we regret that under the new system we cannot keep family membership cards on file at the circulation desk.

AMERICAN  
LIBRARY  
IN PARIS

10, RUE DU G<sup>nl</sup> CAMOU, 75007 PARIS  
TEL.: (1) 45.51.46.82

NAME :

EXPIRES :

TYPE :

## An example of the new card (actual size)

So, at last the goal is in sight. The conversion to the OPAC system will be an accomplished fact by the end of 1989. As a result, you will have easier, more complete access to the library's collection and faster service at the circulation desk. We greatly appreciate your patience during these final steps of the process and once again invite you to seek out an ALP staff member any time you have questions or need assistance.

*Bob Grattan*  
Head Librarian

## NEW, LONGER HOURS

When the American Library in Paris reopened September 8 after a week of computer work, patrons found new hours posted on the door: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The addition of morning hours three days a week -- which among other advantages makes the library's schedule much easier to remember -- is possible chiefly because of the eventual savings of staff and patron time that automated circulation will bring.

ALP will continue to close on French legal holidays and Thanksgiving. This autumn, those are November 1, All Saints; November 11, Armistice; November 23, Thanksgiving; and December 23-25, Christmas.

The library will close at 6 p.m. for Board of Trustees meetings on September 19 and November 14.

## PARIS AND ALP GREET INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

Randall Barry of the Library of Congress just finished a year at the American Library in Paris as ALA Library/Book Fellow, helping with the library's automation. Randy's innumerable contributions to ALP included the following report:

The 55th conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) was held in Paris August 19-25. The American Library in Paris was the site of several related events.

A reception for American delegates to the conference on August 20th was attended by more than a hundred people. They toured the library and met Linda Crismond, the new Executive Director of the American Library Association (ALA).

The reception, sponsored by ALA, was preceded by a meeting with Ms. Crismond and seven other dignitaries, including ALA's president and its out-going executive director, and officials from the Library of Congress. They were briefed on ALP activities, especially the automation effort. ALA has traditionally supported the American Library, which was founded in 1920 with funds from the association.

At midweek, delegates from the IFLA conference took tours of the American Library in Paris as part of a program to give visiting librarians a chance to see librarianship in action in Paris. Visitors from the United States were pleased to find a pleasant atmosphere at the library that reminded them very much of home, and



Some of the guests at the ALA/ALP reception

everyone was impressed with the new computer system and software by, respectively, Hewlett Packard and VTLS; both companies were also represented at the conference and in meetings at the American Library.

### CALLING NEW VOLUNTEERS

Do you wake up in the morning wondering, "What shall I do today?" Do you feel the need to further a good cause in some way? Do you enjoy books and people?

If your answer to any of these is yes, and you're a member of the American Library in Paris, you may want to join our corps of volunteers.

The jobs you can do are varied, and all are useful. Last year our indispensable volunteers contributed 5,554 hours of support to ALP staff in the following categories:

- Helping with circulation.
- Working at the information desk.
- Reading stories and showing filmstrips during the Wednesday afternoon Storytime.
- Helping in the office.
- "Linking" books with their computer records.
- Working on the annual open house/book sale.
- Licking stamps and stuffing envelopes for annual publicity, fund-raising and membership campaigns.

In these and many other ways our volunteers help increase the service we can give to members. We welcome everyone, both those who can contribute time regularly and those who can help only occasionally. If you'd like to join us, please see me, or leave a note.

Jeff Williams  
Coordinator of Volunteers

RECENT PRICES OF HARDBACK  
BEST-SELLERS ON RUE DE RIVOLI:  
193F...207F...187F...196F...245F

A WHOLE YEAR OF HARDBACK  
BEST-SELLERS AT ALP:  
400F (individual membership)  
600F (family membership)

### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BEGINS

For the first time in many years, the American Library in Paris is organizing all its membership, publicity, public relations and fund-raising activities into a single program, and for the first time ever, a full-time staff member has been hired to run the program.

Rebecca Brite, for nine years an editor at the International Herald Tribune, joined the staff as Development Officer in mid-July after spending five months producing English-language public relations and fund-raising material for Payap University and McCormick Hospital in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and worked for newspapers in Nebraska, Indiana and upstate New York before moving to Paris in 1980. Ms. Brite has been active in development as a volunteer at the American Church in Paris.



## ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS IN PARIS

David Applefield, who teaches at the American University of Paris and publishes the twice-yearly literary journal called Frank (soon to be included in the ALP periodicals collection), has a new venture going. His Paris-Anglophone business directory, published in early September, offers more than 2,500 commercial, cultural and professional listings related to the English-speaking community in France. This highly useful volume, organized into 57 categories with a full index, costs 125F. It can be ordered from Applefield at B.P. 29, 94301 Montreuil Cedex.

Meanwhile, France-U.S.A. Contacts, the brainchild of John Vanden Bos, is celebrating its first anniversary with circulation booming at 10,000 copies and distribution at more than 100 outlets in Paris (including ALP) and 20 in New York. Vanden Bos started with four pages of classified advertisements. Now FUSAC has grown to as many as 12 pages of classifieds, display ads,

### ALP GALA, VINTAGE 1989

The third annual Gala Benefit Dinner of the American Library in Paris took place June 20 at the U.S. Embassy Residence on the Rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré. The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, Mark C. Lissfelt, representing the new U.S. Ambassador, Walter J.P. Curley, introduced the guest of honor: Edward Behr, whose recent books include *The Last Emperor*.

Mr. Behr relayed anecdotes from the filming of Bernardo Bertolucci's film "The Last Emperor," and, in a more serious vein, spoke of his career as a foreign correspondent.

Thanks go to the corporate sponsors of the dinner:

- Coca-Cola France.
- The International Herald Tribune.
- IBM.
- J.P. Morgan.
- Reader's Digest.
- Rockwell-CIM.

We also thank all the members and friends of the library who attended the Gala and thus made donations (as did many friends who were unable to come). Preliminary figures show that the event netted more than 260,000 francs. As always, gifts were tax-deductible both in France and in the United States.

With such contributions, the American Library in Paris moves forward. One way to be part of these efforts is to attend the 1990 Gala Benefit Dinner. Watch for details early next year.

Virginia Pilpoul, Trustee



small articles, even an Americana crossword. The paper, available free, comes out the second and fourth Wednesday of every month: Look for the special coupon issue in October. Ad rates and information from FUSAC, 38, rue Rosenwald, 75015 Paris, tel. 48.56.86.62; call to have a free sample copy mailed to you.

### SUNNY DAYS IN CHILDREN'S ROOM

Thanks to members of the Board of Trustees, the Children's Room has had a sprucing up, with a coat of shiny, bright yellow paint, new pillows and a lively display of posters about children's favorites old and new. The redecoration was carried out in April, with help from Mary Beth Behrent, Jeff Williams and Berna Huebner from the board, and Michael Bell of the ALP staff.

Storytime and the filmstrip that follows on Wednesday afternoons have returned to their old times. The story, for 3- to 5-year-olds, is read at 2:30 p.m. and the filmstrip for children 4 and up is shown at 3 p.m. The library has just bought a new filmstrip projector.

### 65 YEARS AGO AT ALP

From *Ex Libris*, literary journal of the American Library in Paris, October 1924 (Volume 2, Number 1):

"The House with the Green Shutters," by George Douglas, is one of the great novels in the English language, Edwin Muir declares in his recently published essays, entitled 'Latitudes' (Huebsch). 'It is easily greater,' he adds, 'than anything that has been achieved since, either by the reputations of Mr. Conrad and Mr. Galsworthy, or by later writers such as Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Joyce.' "

### STAFF NOTES

Murielle Pouillaude, who started as a temporary ALP worker in 1987, recently received her library diploma from the University of Villetaneuse (Paris XIII). She works with André Lardinat in Periodicals.

The newest staff members are Michael Bell and Kim Myers of Circulation. Michael, a native of Northern Ireland, has a library degree from University College, Dublin, and has worked at the London Library, the world's largest private library. He came on staff in February. Kim, from Colorado, will be with us through mid-November. They join Isabelle Luziau and the head of Circulation, Marie Anne Esquivie.

## J. WALLACE HOPKINS, 1931-1989

The Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and friends of the American Library in Paris deeply regret to note the death of J. Wallace "Wally" Hopkins, a member of the board since 1978 and its chairman since 1987. He died in Paris on August 27, of cancer.

James Wallace Hopkins Jr. was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 16, 1931. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, he practiced law in New York and Paris before joining the International Energy Agency in 1975. Upon his retirement as deputy executive director of the IEA in May, President George Bush wrote him a letter praising his "wisdom, clarity of thought and steadfastness of vision."

These qualities, combined with his remarkable energy and strength of will, saw the American Library through some of its most far-reaching changes in recent years. Under his leadership, the library entered the computer age and began a development program whose aim is to assure the financial stability and growth of the American Library well into the next century.

### YOU CHOOSE THE BOOKS: SOME RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Don't overlook the ALP Suggestion Box, next to the circulation desk. The staff takes your book recommendations very seriously. If there's a book you want that we don't have, fill out a suggestion form and we'll do our best to meet your request. (Comments on library operations are also appreciated.)

In January-July 1989, the library acquired almost 5,000 books, including about 1,800 works of fiction and more than 1,600 non-fiction for the main library, as well as about 1,500 fiction and non-fiction books sent to the branches in Grenoble, Montpellier, Nancy, Nantes and Toulouse, according to Simone Gallo of Cataloging.

Here are just a few of the most recently published books among August arrivals (not yet totaled):

**Fiction** Saul Bellow's new novella, A Theft; The Temple of My Familiar, by Alice Walker (author of The Color Purple); In Transit, 20 short stories by the Paris-based writer Mavis Gallant; Garrison (Lake Wobegon Days) Keillor's We Are Still Married; Fellow Passengers: A Novel in Portraits, by Louis Auchincloss; Bharati

Mukherjee's The Middleman and Other Stories; and Amy Tan's The Joy Luck Club.

**Biography** Satchmo, by Gary Gibbons (jazz great Louis Armstrong); Richard F. Fenno's The Making of a Senator: Dan Quayle; Arafat: A Political Biography, by Alan Hart; Daughter of Destiny, the autobiography of Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto; Charles Higham and Roy Moseley's Cary Grant: The Lonely Heart; and Dylan: A Biography (of pop icon Bob Dylan), by Bob Spitz.

**Other Non-Fiction** David Halberstam's baseball book, Summer of '49; The New Holiday Guide to Paris; Revolution in Print: The Press in France, 1775-1800; Louis Rukeyser's Business Almanac (reference); Desperados: Latin Drug Lords, U.S. Lawmen, and the War America Can't Win, by Elaine Shannon; Lois Wyse's Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother; and William David Spencer's Mysterium and Mystery: The Clerical Crime Novel.

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