

Philippe Jonathan, Architect

PERIODICALS SECTION APPROVED

To make the American Library's renowned collection of magazines, newspapers and other periodicals more accessible to the public, the Board of Trustees has approved plans to build a special section for periodicals.

The American Library in Paris has about 350 current subscriptions and 100 defunct periodicals, some dating back to the 19th century. Most are now stored in the area behind the circulation desk or in the basement, and researchers who want to see articles must ask a librarian to retrieve them.

The new periodicals section will be on the ground floor and a mezzanine at the back of the non-fiction stacks, an area now used by the American University of Paris. The project has two phases: 1) remodeling the space, adding the mezzanine and furnishing the section, which will cost about one million francs; and 2) replacing the bulk of the periodicals collection with microfilm and other media, an undertaking now estimated at \$300,000.

It is hoped that the first phase can be completed this year, which is the 70th anniversary of the founding of the American Library in Paris. The trustees' approval of the project is contingent upon availability of funding.

Building the periodicals section will enable the American Library to expand its reading room into the area behind the circulation desk now occupied by recent issues of reserve periodicals. Those shelves are closed to the public, but in the new section the periodicals will be available to all library users.

Eventually the project will also free space in the basement, which one day may be converted into a multi-use reading room and auditorium.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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LIBRARY ACCESS IS EXTENDED

The beginning of the new year brings two big bonuses for members of the American Library in Paris, thanks to a cooperative agreement with the American University of Paris.

Starting January 22, with the beginning of the spring university semester, members of the American Library in Paris will be able to consult (though not borrow) books at the University Library, whose facilities adjoin those of the American Library. ALP members will also gain access to their own library later in the evenings and on Sundays and Mondays for limited service (check-out, check-in and renewal).

The University Library can be reached either through the door at the back of the American Library's non-fiction stacks or through its main entrance at 9 bis, rue de Montessuy, one block north of rue du Général Camou. Members of the American Library in Paris will need to show their barcoded membership cards for admission to the University Library, which is not open to the general public.

AMERICAN RESOURCES FOR EUROPEAN LIBRARIANS

From its beginnings, the American Library in Paris was intended to be a model library. When it was founded in 1920 with a large amount of help from the American Library Association, one of its underlying purposes was to expose Europe to the latest American library techniques. During the American Library's early years, classes in library science were even taught here.

In a continued effort to bring the most recent American library research and techniques to France, the ALA is sending free copies of its publications to be housed here in a special collection. We have received almost 150 items so far. And, following the ALA's example, Meckler, one of the leaders in library automation materials, is also sending free publications in this field. Most recently, the Special Library Association has agreed to join the project and is expected to start shipping books and pamphlets early this year.

Librarians in the Paris area will have a chance to see this special collection at a demonstration of the VTLS library automation system this spring. The American Library in Paris and the American University of Paris Library operate the VTLS system jointly.

Librarians who want to consult the collection of library science materials can take advantage of the free day-user passes that the American Library in Paris offers to librarians of all nationalities. These materials can also circulate to members of the American Library and can be borrowed through interlibrary loan. It is through cooperative efforts such as these that the American Library in Paris is able to remain in the forefront of librarianship and make up-to-date resources available.

Bob Grattan
Head Librarian

The University Library is open seven days a week:
9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

These hours vary at times; changes are posted at the Montessuy entrance, and the American Library will have copies of the semester schedule.

The American Library's entrance on rue du Général Camou will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, as now. But during the longer hours that the University Library is open, American Library members will be able to use the university's Montessuy entrance and check out and return books at the American Library's circulation desk.

You have to be an American Library member before you can take advantage of this service, since the staff on duty will not be able to accept membership applications. Nor will day users be admitted through the University Library entrance. Payments of fines will also have to wait until the American Library's regular hours.

Guide to Children's Libraries and Literature outside the United States



One of the many publications donated by the ALA.



LATEST ARRIVALS: BOOKS AND A LITERARY MAGAZINE

The American Library has begun subscribing to Granta, one of the most successful literary magazines to have appeared in recent years. The subscription starts with the 10th anniversary issue, Granta 28. We would appreciate donations of back numbers of Granta.

Acquisitions of recent fiction since September include Tom Clancy's Clear and Present Danger; Foucault's Pendulum by Umberto Eco; Ken Follett's The Pillars of the Earth; Marge Piercy's Summer People; Paul Theroux's My Secret History; The Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories, edited by William Trevor; and Edmund White's The Beautiful Room Is Empty.

Among the latest additions to the general non-

fiction collection are Don't Diet by Dale M. Atrens; Peter F. Drucker's The New Realities; John Lukacs' Budapest 1900; John McPhee's Outcroppings; Dangerous Dossiers by Herbert Mitgang; and Richard Wright: Myths and Realities, edited by C. James Trotman.

Biographies recently acquired by the library include Russell Baker's second volume of memoirs, The Good Times; William James Bouwsma's John Calvin: A Sixteenth-Century Portrait; Goldwyn by A. Scott Berg; Miles: The Autobiography, by jazzman Miles Davis; and The Duchess of Windsor by Diana Mosley.

About 2,400 books were cataloged, exclusive of those sent to the branches, in September-December.

RECEPTION TO LAUNCH WELLS COOKBOOK LIST

On January 25, members of the American Library in Paris are invited to an evening with Patricia Wells, restaurant critic for the International Herald Tribune and author of The Food Lover's Guide to Paris. At a reception at 8 p.m., she will present a new American Library booklist, a selection of her favorite cookbooks in the ALP collection. Space is limited, so this event is open only to library members and their guests.

The visit by Patricia Wells is the latest in a series of appearances by writers and literary personalities, both Paris-based and visiting. Mort Rosenblum, special correspondent for The Associated Press, kicked off the series with a speech in early November, open to the public and enthusiastically received. In December, the photographer Tana Hoban, who specializes in children's books, spent an afternoon signing copies of her works during a book sale in the Children's Room.

William Pfaff, the noted foreign-affairs expert whose latest book, Barbarian Sentiments, was shortlisted for the National Book Awards, will give a speech open to the public on March 22. Other writers who have expressed interest in appearing at the American Library include the London-based drama critic Sheridan Morley and the highly respected novelist and short-story writer Hugh Nissenson, author of The Tree of Life.

ANNUAL MEETING IS SET

The American Library in Paris has scheduled its annual meeting for Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. Members are welcome. The 1989 annual report will be presented and members will have a chance to hear about plans for 1990.

The library closes at 6 p.m. for that meeting and for the January 30 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Holiday closings in coming months include Easter Saturday, April 14; and the first two Tuesdays in May, French legal holidays.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Council of the English-Speaking Community is sponsoring a leadership workshop on Friday, January 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at WICE. It will be led by Jane Kendall, an American human resources expert. The price is 150 francs. To reserve, call Lynne Chaillat at 42 63 24 15. WICE is at 20, blvd. Montparnasse, 75015 Paris.

The CESC works to coordinate activities and improve communications among the many British, American and other anglophone groups in Paris. One of its latest efforts is a community calendar to be published in the monthly Paris Free Voice newspaper. Information for the calendar should be sent to WICE.

STAFF NOTES: NEW FACES AT CIRCULATION DESK

Welcome to Maggie Villa as head of circulation, replacing Marie-Anne Esquivié. Maggie, who was Marie-Anne's maternity-leave substitute in 1988, is originally from California. Michael Jasper and Daralis Collins will be at the circulation desk part-time under the cooperative agreement with the American University. Michael is a doctorate student in architectural history and theory from Princeton University in New Jersey. Daralis, who is Canadian, is a former ALP volunteer.

BRITANNICA OFFER

Included with members' copies of this issue of the American Library in Paris Newsletter are cards entitling library members who buy the Encyclopaedia Britannica to receive a substantial discount. For every member who takes advantage of this offer, the publisher of the Britannica will give the American Library a donation of Britannica publications or credit toward publications.

To receive details about the offer, fill out the white card and drop it in the mail. No stamp is needed. Sending in the card does not obligate you to buy anything. But if you do decide to get the encyclopedia because of this offer, the only way both you and the American Library benefit is if you have used the white card. It is best to send the card soon, since the publisher reserves the right to put a time limit on the offer.

65 YEARS AGO AT ALP

Ex Libris, literary journal of the American Library in Paris, reported in January 1925 (Volume 2, Number 4) on "American Studies Among French Doctoral Theses." Only two such theses were published between the Civil War and the Spanish-American War but an average of more than two a year were recorded in 1901-22.

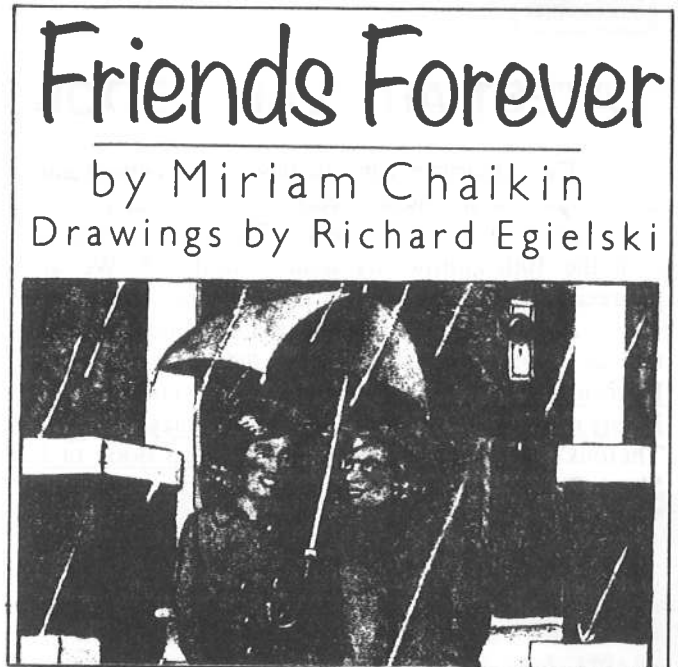
CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GALA

More than 200 children and adults – including the wife of the U.S. ambassador, Mrs. Walter J.P. Curley, who is scheduled to tour the American Library in Paris later this month – attended the library's annual Christmas party on December 8 at the Hôtel Talleyrand. The Mona Bismark Foundation sponsored the evening. Many thanks to Mary Brodbeck of the Board of Trustees, who organized the party.

The next big event for friends of the American Library in Paris is the Gala Benefit Dinner, tentatively scheduled for the U.S. Embassy Residence in the second half of May. Kandice Vettier, secretary of the Board of Trustees, is the gala organizer. If you would like an invitation and have not received one by mid-April, contact Rebecca Brite, the library's development officer.

Candice Gemski, from Rhode Island, replaced Kim Myers as temporary circulation worker in mid-November and will be here till mid-February. She recently finished studies in sociology and government at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

ALP staff members, volunteers and trustees will have a chance to get better acquainted during a party later this month at the home of Catherine Coste, a member of the Board of Trustees.



From the cover of a new children's book.

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION GROWING

The children's collection has evolved so much in recent months that the Children's Room needs a new name. We might call it the "children and young adult section" to reflect the addition of many books for young people up to age 16 or so. Since September, more than 300 books have been added in all categories, but especially for young adults, partly thanks to donations by Sol de Swaan, a Paris-based literary agent. A booklist for young adults is in the works.

The collection is growing in the other direction as well. Among the approximately 150 books on order for the section are many for babies from about age 6 months to 2 years. Generally these are round-cornered, washable, hard-cover books showing one or two brightly colored objects per page.

If you have ideas for a new name for the section, please tell us. Meanwhile, don't miss the latest equipment in the room: a computer terminal on a low desk has been getting brisk use by young readers since late last year. Like the terminals in the front of the American Library, it is hooked into our electronic catalog.

Mrs. Robert Williams
Children's Librarian