

October 1990

NEW CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN

At its September meeting, the American Library in Paris's Board of Trustees voted to begin work on the creation of a new research facility within the Library's premises. As reported in the January Newsletter, the Trustees approved plans for this project contingent upon proper funding being available.

A new Development Committee was formed, chaired by First Vice-President, John H. Riggs, Jr., and promptly went to work raising funds. The Committee is proud and happy to report that more than one third of the necessary one million francs has been obtained and, confident of its success in raising the remainder, has recommended that the work should proceed. The Library is very grateful to the Irving Berlin Charitable Trust Fund for kicking off the fund-raising effort with a \$40,000 donation.

In its annual Fall fund-raising appeal letter, the Library will ask you to make a special contribution for this project in addition to your much needed regular support. As a non-profit, unsubsidized institution, the Library depends on donations for over one quarter of its revenues simply to ensure its daily operation.

The new research facility will house the Library's renowned and impressive collection of more than 350 periodicals, some dating back to the last century, in one, easily accessible to the public, area in the back of the Library behind the non-fiction stacks. As it will also house other reference and research materials including compact disc and microform readers, for example, it was decided to rename the old periodicals room project, the new Research Center.

The new Research Center will have a far-reaching impact on the Library as a whole. It will free up space in the main section allowing for a much needed expansion of the reading room. It will make possible a bigger Children's Room with two distinct areas for younger and older children to use. And it will enable the basement to house a multi-purpose room, as well as other services, such as the English Language Library for the Blind.

Phase One of this project, the actual renovation of the premises, will thus begin very soon. The whole project will not be completed until the bulk of the periodicals collection is replaced with microfilm and other media. This will cost 1.5 million francs. With the faith and confidence in the Library now being shown in terms of financial support, the Trustees are certain that

this project will be a reality before the celebration of our 75th anniversary in 1995!

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

BRODBECK, NISSENSON LAUNCH AUTHOR SERIES

Our 1990 season of "Evenings with Authors" will begin November 8 with a talk in English by Didier Brodbeck, co-author of *Chic et Toc, le vrai livre des contrefaçons*. The lecture promises to be full of curious facts and amusing anecdotes about the ever-increasing phenomenon of imitations.

Brodbeck is a marketing specialist in the field of luxury products, as well as a journalist. He is the editor of *Adresses*, a bilingual magazine of Paris activities. He also writes regularly for *Challenge*, a Swiss magazine, and *Joyce*, a French fashion magazine. Brodbeck is presently writing a book on diamonds.

Chic?



Or toc?

On December 11, our guest will be Hugh Nissenson, author of *The Elephant and the Jewish Problem*, *My Own Ground*, and *The Tree of Life*. He will speak on the effect that 19th and 20th century French literature has had on his development.

At the age of 15, having read *The Waste Land*, Nissenson knew he wanted to be a writer. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 1955 and did a brief spell as a copy boy at the *New York Times*. He received a Wallace Stegner writing fellowship from Stanford and began writing short stories. What he wanted eventually to create was a work in which the arts of narrative, poetry, and painting are combined--and this is what he has achieved in *The Tree of Life*. *The Tree of Life* was translated into French by Actes Sud in August.

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Meet the ALP Trustees:

DUNHAM ACTIVE IN ALP LEGAL MATTERS, FUND-RAISING

When we visit the Library to do research or to check out books, we seldom think about the day to day management of the building itself. In fact, someone must have official responsibility for advising the Board and the Library administrative staff on legal matters related to building maintenance and renovation, and that person is Guy Dunham. Serving as Second Vice-President of the ALP Board of Trustees, Dunham is also the Chairman of the Building Committee. As such he is the Board's liaison with the copropriété, the one who must see that the structure itself is properly maintained and that the residents are content. This task, along with numerous others he performs, are so ably accomplished because of both his background as an attorney and his natural flair for diplomacy.

Dunham was born in Paris of an American father and a French mother. He received his Baccalauréat from Lycée Henri IV, his B.A. from the University of Virginia, his law degrees from Columbia University Law School and from the Faculté de Droit de Paris. Besides holding membership in the Bars of New York and the District of Columbia, he is presently a conseil juridique and partner of Porter and Dunham law firm in Paris.

Along with his membership on the ALP Board, Dunham serves as Vice-President of the Mona Bismarck Foundation in Paris. "It is through Guy's good graces that the Library has benefited in so many ways from the generosity of the Mona Bismarck Foundation," emphasizes ALP Board Chairman Michèle Gompel. And this generosity includes the use of its facility on avenue de New York, where a reception was hosted by the ALP in June in appreciation for those who contributed to the success of the Gala and of the Library's operations throughout the year.

UNESCO PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

Most of us have been able to read for as long as we can remember. But the United Nations estimates that one-fourth of the world's population cannot read or write. Moreover, functional illiteracy remains a serious problem even in highly industrialized countries.

Photographs displayed in the library offer an introduction to International Literacy Year, 1990. Coordinated by UNESCO, Literacy Year is designed to



ILY Logo

"give a boost to literacy work being carried out around the world by governments, United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, and especially, by groups working at the grass-roots level."

Thanks to Mr. Svein Østtreit at UNESCO, the ALP is participating in the ILY through the photography exhibit and fliers available at the Information Desk. Further, ILY buttons will be distributed to ALP children during Children's Book Week in November.

HOLIDAYS AND EARLY CLOSINGS-1990

November 1	All Saints Day	CLOSED
November 13	Board Meeting	CLOSES AT 6:30
November 22	Thanksgiving	CLOSED
December 25	Christmas	CLOSED

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the automation progresses at the ALP, you will be noticing changes in our old services and the addition of new ones.

The old card catalog has disappeared from the front entrance area as it has been obsolete and out of date for almost 1 1/2 years. Using the OPAC (On-line Public Access Catalog) terminals, you can consult the joint ALP/AUP catalog at any of the 11 different public terminals placed at various points in the two libraries. As an aid to the elderly and handicapped, we have placed an OPAC terminal on a low table with chair in the reading room, near the 900s.

Patrons can now benefit from our VTLS acquisitions module which lists books "on order" in the OPAC. A simple request at the circulation desk will put your name on the book and you will be notified by mail when it has been received and is available.

Thanks to the automated system, some of the many services to be added in the future include OPAC searching by keywords and Boolean operators, and telephone renewal of materials.

The new Wilson Workstation with eight years of *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* (a gift of the H.W. Wilson Co.) is now available in the front area. Articles may be searched by subject, author, title, or keyword. Directions are included at the terminal, but please ask if you need help in using it.

To make our automated services work best for you, we need your suggestions and comments as we develop.

Bob Grattan
Head Librarian

ALP BENEFIT GALA ATTRACTS WIDE SUPPORT



Ambassador Curley, guest speaker Helmut Newton, and Mme. Chirac chat briefly at the ALP Gala.

The American Library is happy to report that its Gala Benefit Dinner on May 22, 1990, was the most successful to date. It was graciously hosted by United States Ambassador to France and Mrs. Walter J.P. Curley, who personally welcomed the 160 guests to the Embassy Residence, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré.

For this special event, celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the American Library in Paris, Gala Chairman, Kandice Vettier, called on her long-time friend, photographer Helmut Newton, to give a slide presentation of some of his work. Newton was recently presented with the Médaille d'Or de la Ville de Paris by Mayor Jacques Chirac.

Madame Jacques Chirac, under whose patronage all four Library Galas have been held, was present for after dinner coffee and cordials. The Library is deeply grateful to her for her continued patronage.

The major sponsors of the 1990 Gala were introduced and heartily commended for their support of the Library by Ambassador and Mrs. Curley in after dinner remarks in their separate dining rooms. Thank you again to:

IBM Europe
International Herald Tribune
J.P. Morgan
The MAC Group
Marwais Steel Company

A special mention was made to thank the Irving Berlin Charitable Trust Fund for its marvelous and continuing support. The Florence Gould Foundation and the Mona Bismarck Foundation were also thanked for their generous contributions to honor the Library's 70th year.

Other special thanks go to Helmut Swarovski for the beautiful crystal animal favors from Swarovski Crystal, Château Boursault for the champagne, and Maison Bichot, Beaune, for the dinner wine.

The Library especially thanks all its friends and members who attended the Gala individually and those who could not attend but who made contributions ensuring its success. With this generous and much needed support, you help to keep the Library moving forward.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ALP NEWS BRIEFS

Because the ALP is now open to members seven days a week, our system of charging fines has been slightly modified. Beginning September 1, weekends are no longer excluded from overdue calculations (1 franc per day for regular collection, 2 francs per day for CAPES/Agrégation collection). As before, books will be given due dates only for days the library is normally open (Tuesdays-Saturdays).

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An abbreviation has caused some confusion with ALP rate and fact sheets. In the section explaining how many books of various categories may be checked out by ALP members, the category "pbs" (i.e. "paperbacks") refers only to the uncataloged paperbacks on the shelves just right of the current periodicals display. Cataloged

paperbacks (i.e. those with call numbers on the spine) fall into the category of "books."

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ALP members are reminded that they can take advantage of the extended library hours on evenings after 7 p.m., on Sundays, and on Mondays by means of the University Library entrance at 9 bis, rue Montessuy, with a valid ALP membership card.

The policy remains in effect that during these hours members can only return, renew, and check out books (no fine payments or card renewals), and that these transactions must be carried out only at the ALP Circulation Desk. The University Library collection is open to ALP members for reference use only, as during regular hours.

STAFF NOTES

Hee-Seop Régent is the new Head of Circulation, as of mid-July. She is a familiar face to ALP members because of her previous volunteer work at the Circulation Desk. Prior to coming to Paris, Hee-Seop earned her Masters in Library Science from Indiana University and has held professional positions in all aspects of library operations.

Another new face at the Circulation Desk is Jennifer Breay, who joined the ALP staff in September for a three-month period. She is a student at Harvard University majoring in American and French literature and history, and comes to the library position through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Previously, Jennifer worked in the Boston Public Library.

The Library welcomes to its administrative staff Mary Brodbeck, who began as Assistant for Development in June. A graduate of Connecticut College, Mary is a former bilingual executive secretary for Ted Bates France and a former active board member of the AAWE and of the American Library. As a member of the ALP Board of Trustees, she was the organizer of the Library's 1989 Christmas party at the American Embassy.

Dorte Kellermann, a student at the Royal School of Librarianship in Copenhagen, will assist with the ALP children's services October 22 to November 16. During her internship, she will be helping with automation of the children's collection, with the Wednesday Story Hour, and with a series of library orientation visits scheduled for students of the bilingual schools of Paris during Children's Book Week in November.

In other staff news, Murielle Pouillaude returned in September to the Circulation area after six months' maternity leave, and Michael Bell has moved to the evening and weekend shift, working in both the ALP and AUP Circulation areas. Jean-François Giraudeau has assumed Michael's position during the weekday shift.

CHILDREN'S HOUR CHANGES TIME

..... Due to popular demand, the Children's Story Hour will be held 10-11 a.m. beginning Wednesday, October 17, on a trial basis. If there is continued support for this new time, the change will be permanent. Let us know your views. See you and your 3-5 year-olds then.

..... Story Hour drew record attendance during the summer months, thanks to the efforts and innovative touches provided by Gail Porter and those who helped her: Janet Pappani, Carol White, Sheri Weiller, Michele Belle, Carol Dufaure, Terry Spoletti and Mary Andersen.

..... We gladly accept books your children have outgrown. They, and our new stock of duplicates will fill our book crates for the planned Pre-Christmas Children's and Young Adults' Book Sale. Watch for the announcement of the date.

Jeff Williams

Children's and Young Adult Services

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have a love of books, a love of people, a little free time, or all of the above, you may enjoy becoming a volunteer for the ALP.

Over the past year, indispensable volunteer staff contributed 4,841 hours toward Library operation in all areas of service: Circulation, Information Desk, Children's Services, Book Sales, Office work, Automation, and the 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 the group, please see or leave a note for Jeff Williams, Coordinator of Volunteers.

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