



December 1991

ALP MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO WELCOME HOLIDAYS WITH ANNUAL LIBRARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

For more than a decade the American Library in Paris has hosted an annual Christmas Caroling and Children's Party, and this year's event promises to carry on the tradition in fine fashion. The 1991 party is set for December 6, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the American Consulate (Hôtel Talleyrand). Designed for youngsters and adults alike, the festivities include a cocktail buffet in one room, with children's entertainment (including, as always, a visit from Santa Claus himself) in another. The Christmas party is also the occasion when Library members and friends exchange their novels and history tomes for carol books, as guests of all ages gather around the grand piano to sing favorite holiday songs in the splendor of the Talleyrand.

From its inception in the late 1970's through its early years, the annual party was held at the American Ambassador's residence, recalls Michèle Gompel, current Chairman of the ALP Board of Trustees. In those days, the actress and then Board member Olivia de Havilland read stories to the children. With the renovation of the reception rooms at the Hôtel Talleyrand, the Christmas party was moved there in the early 1980's, for the popularity of the event was bringing the need for more space.

Serving as co-coordinators of the 1991 party are Board member Virginia Pilpoul and Library volunteer Loida Lewis. Directing the children's program and the decorations are Board members Berna Huebner and Mary Beth Behrent, respectively. For information and reservations, call Mary Brodbeck or Adele Witt at the Library (45.51.76.84). Cost is 150 FF for adults, 80 FF for children under 12.

FALL LIBRARY FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED

The Fall fund-raising campaign is underway for the American Library in Paris. Many of you will be receiving our campaign appeal letter with this newsletter. I hope you will all respond generously. The Library is a non-profit association and receives no government subsidies. The Library's annual operating costs are covered approximately in thirds by membership fees, some business income, and donations. Without your donations, the Library could not operate at its present high standard of services or at its relatively low fees.

Two very generous gifts have kicked off this year's campaign; the Irving Berlin Charitable Fund has given \$15,000, and Mr. Guy Dunham, Second Vice Chairman of the Library's Board of Trustees, has donated \$5,000. With this kind of generous support, we are sure to achieve record-breaking results in 1991!

The Library has been making great improvements in recent years. They include computerization and extended opening hours for

members--part of an agreement with the American University of Paris's library that also allows access for ALP members to AUP collections. With the completion of the construction of the new Research Center, you will soon see a complete rearrangement of the front part of the Library. Keeping up with the communication, information retrieval and recreational reading needs of an ever-expanding international community is a main goal of the Library.

To provide our high quality service, to continue to advance with the technology of our times, to maintain our branches in five French university cities, in short, to be the kind of library this English-reading community deserves, we must have the strong financial support of that community. Please contribute to helping the American Library in Paris be a reflection of our community's generosity. Thank you.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

*Meet the ALP Trustees:***ROBERT GOGEL AND BRENDA HARPER OFFER BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE**

Robert Gogel brings his international business education and experience to the ALP Board of Trustees, as well as his interest as a family man. A graduate of Harvard in 1974 (with Junior year at the Sorbonne), he also holds a Licence en Sciences Economiques Appliquées from the Université de Louvain in Belgium and an MBA, with focus on international business, from the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business, both in 1976. He worked at the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, from 1976 until 1978, when he joined the MAC Group. Gogel is now a Senior Vice President and has been head of the Paris office since 1985. Earlier this year, the MAC Group became part of the Gemini Consulting Group (part of the Sogeti Group) of which Robert Gogel is country head.

Since joining the Library Board in 1990, he has performed a variety of important tasks for the Board and the Library membership. He served as Chairman of the annual fund-raising gala in 1991 and agreed to take on the job again for this coming year. He has also been an active member of the Board's Development Committee, working in various capacities to help the Library increase both corporate and individual support. And finally, perhaps his most visible (if somewhat disguised) contribution was his jolly portrayal of Santa at the 1990 Library Christmas party.

The Gogel family—his wife Sandy and their four children—are all Library members and well integrated in the American community in Paris. The children attend the Ecole Active Bilingue, Jeannine Manuel, where Sandy is coordinatrice des correspondants de classe and vice president of the Association des parents d'élèves.

Another Board member with impressive credentials in international business is Brenda C. Harper, who has served as a Trustee since 1987. Having grown up in Paris and in Weston, Connecticut, Ms. Harper also is a graduate of Harvard, where she majored in government/international relations. She worked for Morgan Guaranty Trust Company in New York from 1982 to 1986, then five years ago returned to Paris where she has worked for J.P. Morgan until her resignation this fall. In September of this year she married Marc Vandamme.

As a Library Trustee and a member of the Development Committee, she has worked very effectively to continue the close relationship between the J. P. Morgan Company and the American Library in Paris. She has also been quite diligent in her efforts

to seek support from other prestigious organizations in France, such as the Conseil Supérieur de Mécénat.

In Paris, Ms. Harper is active in the American community as a member of the American Club, the Harvard Club and the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, and serves as the Treasurer of the American Aid Society of Paris. She also enjoys sports—tennis, riding, swimming and skiing—in her spare moments.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AND BOOK SALE REPORTS RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS

"We did it, we really, really did it!" We broke all records for attendance and receipts. The October 20 Open House and Book Sale brought some seven hundred visitors and more than thirty-one thousand francs to the ALP's book budget. The earnings will help buy many new books, even at today's prices. And many more newcomers now know where to find our library.

Hats off to the following volunteers who helped with the sale: Chris Daniels, Loida Lewis, Chi Thanh Le, Maureen Paget, Janet Pappani, Berol Robinson, Diane Tanabe, Bob Williams, Nini Baldwin, and Richard Banks. Many thanks also to the staff members who volunteered their time for the Sunday event: Adele Witt, Jean François Giraudeau, Gerry Cloud, Mary Brodbeck, and Bob Grattan. And thanks as well to Trustees Whitney de Courcel, who organized the refreshments, and Kandice Vettier and Michèle Gompel, who assisted all around as needed.

While we are expressing our gratitude, we haven't forgotten our members who donated books for the sale. Their gifts of paperbacks made a difference between having only a skimpy offering and having one almost equal to our Pre-Gulf War collection. And finally we bow to all our members and friends who turned out to join in the fun and to support this important annual event.

Jeff Williams
Volunteer Coordinator

(Ed. note: As she is too modest to mention her own part in the success of the event, the Library Trustees, staff and members join in thanking Jeff Williams for so ably coordinating the Open House and Book Sale yet again this year. Hats off to you too, Jeff!)

STEPHEN MARLOWE READING OPENS FALL BOOK AND AUTHOR SERIES

An enthusiastic audience of some 45 people gathered October 10 to hear Stephen Marlowe, the first guest in the Library's 1991/92 Book and Author Series. His lively talk and the ensuing question/answer session centered mostly on two of his works, the internationally acclaimed *The Memoirs of Christopher Columbus*, for which he was awarded the Prix Gutenberg du Livre in 1988, and *The Death and Life of Miguel de Cervantes*, his twelfth and most recent novel.

As 1992 approaches to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America, listeners asked the author's opinions on Columbus the man. He was not eager to exploit the current debate over the Columbus myth, emphasizing that controversy had not been his interest in writing the novel.

Born in New York and educated in Virginia, Marlowe was founder of the writer-in-residence program at The College of William and Mary. In recent years, as he describes it, with his wife Ann, the author herself of three books, he "wanders restlessly in search of material for his work." He adds that the Marlowes "have lived in some twenty countries, and for twenty years have been on the verge of getting a pied-à-terre in Paris."

Although Mr. Marlowe has been writing under his present name for more than thirty years, his career began in his 20's as a science fiction writer under his given name, Milton Lesser. In his 30's, he wrote a prodigious number of crime and suspense novels under at least six different pseudonyms. Do the names C.H. Thames, Andrew Frazer, Adam Chase, and Jason Ridgeway strike a chord with mystery lovers? It was also during this period that the Chester Drum series was written. In his 40's, having taken the pseudonym of Stephen Marlowe as his own, he moved from the genre novel to the kind of novel he had wanted to write for some time.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Immediate opening for challenging position assisting ALP Board and staff in development activities. Qualifications are:

- Valid working papers
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience using microcomputer databases and word processing
- Good organization skills
- Mother tongue English with fluency in French

Interested candidates should send CV to Adele Witt, American Library in Paris.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Although much enthusiasm has been expressed about our new Research Center facility, a few of our faithful friends and supporters have expressed a certain apprehension about our move towards computer technology and microfilm. Let me attempt to reassure those who have doubts about this project.

Most patrons, including myself, if given a choice would prefer to have the actual paper magazine to read rather than the microfilm image of a page on a screen. But, because of the lack of physical storage space, the preservation costs and necessary personnel, most libraries have already gone in the direction we are now taking. The result, in all cases, has been a better satisfied public as well as a more efficient and cost effective operation.

The ALP will not be canceling any of its current subscriptions to the actual paper copies of periodicals—in fact, the new facility will allow at least the current year's worth of paper copies to be kept together in open access display units for easy use. As the units become full, old issues will be replaced with microfilm. Depending on the title, these old issues will be donated to other libraries, stored off-site (historically valuable works) or discarded.

Periodicals which are valued for their graphic quality (*Life*, *Harpers*, *National Geographic*, etc.) will not be replaced with microfilm and will remain on public access shelves as long as space permits. Some of the older, voluminous works of this kind will have to remain in the basement and be requested as needed at the desk.

Microfilm periodical files will allow patrons to examine older copies of titles without the fear of torn out pages, missing issues or deteriorated paper. The modern reader/printer machines will be able to print good clear copies of any pages needed.

I would like to invite anyone wishing more details on the project to stop by my office at any time.

Bob Grattan
Library Director

NEW COORDINATOR NAMED FOR ALP CHILDREN'S ROOM

The new Children's Room Coordinator, Johanna Jagers, brings with her a long-time interest in children and books. Until her husband's work brought them to Paris a few months ago, she had taught eight years in Brooklyn, NY, and five years in San Francisco (her experience ranging from pre-kindergarten to third grade). She holds a bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and a masters in Elementary Education. Along with her impeccable credentials, Ms. Jagers is a warm, friendly person who will have new ideas and make the Children's Room an even more attractive place.

She will have strong support from Janet Pappani, who continues to direct the popular children's story time, from Berna Huebner, the chairman of the Children's Committee of the ALP Board of Trustees, and from staff member, Murielle Pouillaude.

*Jeff Williams
Volunteer Coordinator*

ALP STAFF NEWS

In October, Gerry Cloud began working in the Circulation Department, where he will remain until mid-December. Gerry comes from San Francisco State University, where he has been studying toward a degree in the English Department. He has a great deal of work experience with the public so is a natural for the Circulation Desk.

Seann Colgan joined the Circulation staff on November 5, taking the place of Lisa Coats who had held the position during the fall. Seann comes to the ALP from Cornell University where he majored in literature. He has previous work experience at Cornell University Library in the Circulation Department.

Both students are serving in three-month positions under the auspices of the Council on International Educational Exchange.

LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

In observance of Children's Book Week (November 11-15), ten groups of students from several Paris bilingual elementary schools have come to the ALP during November for a story and an introduction to the Library and the Library computer. The annual observance has been coordinated by ALP staff member Adele Witt, and the story hour and library orientation have been presented by Library volunteer Cathy Townsend.

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Members who wish to be part of our Volunteer Corps may contact Janet Pappani (45.74.54.08 or 45.74.52.89), Loida Lewis (45.51.47.59) and Cobi Chamberlain (45.51.47.59). This team will take care of interviews and scheduling of volunteers. If you are interested in working with us, ask for a volunteer form at the Information Desk. We would like a minimum of four hours weekly for regular duty, but are more flexible for special projects. There is a variety of opportunities. Come join us!

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On November 11, the ALP hosted the annual meeting of the VTLS/Europe Users Group. This organization, of which the ALP and the American University in Paris are members, is composed of European libraries which use the VTLS library computer system. Besides France, the other countries represented are Finland, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, and the USSR.

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Members are reminded to watch for special opening hours at the Library in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. This holiday schedule will be posted soon.

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Construction continues on the Research Center, which is due to be completed by the end of the year. By early 1992, the new facility will be open to the public, expanding considerably the amount of space available for study and research.