



Summer 1992

NOTED JOURNALIST FLORA LEWIS ADDRESSES AUDIENCE OF LIBRARY SUPPORTERS AT SIXTH ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

Ambassador and Mrs. Walter J. P. Curley graciously welcomed the 125 guests to the sixth annual American Library in Paris benefit dinner at their residence May 21. The Gala was again held under the patronage of Madame Jacques Chirac, whom the Library thanks for her continued interest. The lovely and successful evening was made even more pleasant by very summery weather as guests enjoyed pre-dinner cocktails in the beautiful gardens of the residence.

Flora Lewis, senior columnist of *The New York Times*, was the Library's honored guest speaker. The award-winning journalist and author gave a humorously slanted talk overviewing the somewhat chaotic world events taking place today, quoting French poet Paul Valery, who said there are two dangers constantly threatening the world--order and disorder: As long as any one government doesn't think it has all the answers--and the disastrous results of the last two ideologies which experimented with total order, fascism and communism, show this to be true--and can adjust and change, correcting mistakes as best it can, the needs of the individual and his need for a society in which to live will be met.

From Miss Lewis's observation, the wellspring of the great conflicts of today is the question of identity--the ultimate combination of this social-individual need. We all need to be aware of and accept the multiple identities, nationality, race, religion, gender, age, social position, etc. of humans. She said libraries remind us of our human condition for there we can find that there is no problem that we haven't had before or that somebody else doesn't also have. Libraries are a means of keeping in touch with ourselves and with each other and help us to sort out our peculiar behavior.

Winner of distinguished reporting awards for the excellence of her work from the Overseas Press Club, the Edward Ewing Prize, Columbia University's School of Journalism, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Affairs and the Aspen Institute, Miss Lewis has been constantly on the move all during her career, which specialized in diplomacy and foreign policy. From Europe and Eastern Europe just after World War II to Central America, Vietnam, the Middle East for the Six Day War, to the battlegrounds of the Miami and

Chicago political conventions, Miss Lewis is now settled in Paris.

A second edition of her latest book, *Europe--a Tapestry of Nations*, is being published this fall in conjunction with a PBS television series. She also wrote *Case History of Hope* and *Red Pawn* as well as *One of Our H-Bombs Is Missing*. The American Library in Paris is extremely grateful to Miss Lewis for being our guest speaker and for reminding us of the importance of libraries to everyday humanity.

When introducing Miss Lewis and thanking the Library's Gala dinner sponsors, Ambassador Curley spoke of his own and Mrs. Curley's love of books. His appreciation of our sponsors' contributions was all the more heartfelt because their support enables the Library to continue to serve our "multi-identities" community. The Library extends its sincere thanks to this year's Gala sponsors: ALICO, American Airlines, GEMINI Consulting, *The International Herald Tribune*, and Marwais Steel Company.

As well as thanking all who attended the Gala and those who made contributions, the Library would like to express its gratitude to the Ecole Active Bilingue Jeannine Manuel for taking a table for all six

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Summer Library Hours

As before, the American Library in Paris will be open during the entire summer except for three holidays: July 4, July 14, and August 15. Regular hours of opening in June and July will be from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Regular hours in August will be from Tuesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be some extended hours, but these will vary according to the schedule of the American University and will be posted.

Meet the ALP Trustees**Pera Brings International Banking Experience to Board**

When **Patrick H. Pera** joined the Board of Trustees of the American Library in Paris last year, he brought a broad and successful experience in management of banking and finance operations. Most recently, he served three years as General Manager for France of Continental Bank N.A. Prior to that, he was with Barclays International Finanziaria SPA as Managing Director and General Manager for Italy. His career includes several other positions in banking management in Italy from 1977-1985.

A French citizen, married with four children, Mr. Pera completed his education in the United States. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Business and the MBA in Finance and International Business, both from Columbia University in New York. He is fluent in French, English, and Italian.

We are pleased that Mr. Pera's background also features another kind of figure than the monetary ones of his present profession. As many members might recall, he was the French National Figure Skating Champion, 1966-1972, and an Olympic Figure Skating Medalist in 1968 and 1972!

Board Adds Four New Members at Annual Meeting

We welcome to the Board of Trustees four new members, elected at the annual meeting in March. The three Paris area residents in this group are **Frederick H.S. Allen**, Vice President and Executive Secretary, International Council, J. P. Morgan; **Charmaine Donnelly-Pfauwadel**, Vice President, Bank of America; and **Steven von Steen**, Vice President, Merrill Lynch. The fourth is **Dr. Brooke Sheldon**, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas/Austin. A former president of the American Library Association, Dr. Sheldon served as a consultant to the ALP in 1987. She replaces Dr. Robert Wedgeworth, formerly Executive Director of ALA and Dean of Library Science at Columbia University.

LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The end of school often means clean up time. If you are retiring books from your personal bookshelves to make room for new ones, please consider donating your "cast-offs" to the American Library. Such donations form a significant portion of the Library's collection. No one likes to throw away books; let us help you recycle your favorites.

■ Moving many periodicals to the Library's new Research Center has allowed for more breathing room in the Circulation area and a much larger browsing space for the New Books section. We have also relocated the Science Fiction books, expanded the regular Fiction collection, and slightly shifted some reference books. If you need help in finding these materials, please ask a staff member to help you.

■ The fall lecture series begins in September with Australian fiction writer **Gillian Mears**. (Date to be announced.) Selected by the Literature Board of the Australian Council, Ms. Mears will be in residence at the Cité International des Arts in Paris this fall. **Axel Krause**, corporate editor of the *International Herald Tribune* and author of *Inside the New Europe* will speak October 6. Look for more details in the fall.

■ Newly added periodicals subscriptions are *Utne Reader*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vanity Fair*. As you may know, *Utne Reader* is a bimonthly digest of articles from the alternative press, the March/April issue featuring articles with such titles as "Sexual politics of meat," "Creativity helps heal society's ills," "The four stages of environmentalism," "Is Peru the Pentagon's next battlefield?" and "Is Barbie a feminist?"

Coming Soon

The ALP has begun to acquire a small number of recordings on compact disc that will be available for circulation to Library members this fall. It is the start of what we hope will eventually be a sizable collection of various kinds of music, of English language spoken recordings, and of CD's for children.

If you have compact discs that you are willing to contribute, your donations will be greatly appreciated.

FROM THE DIRECTOR**New Library Policies Arise from Senior Citizen Survey**

Many thanks to those members who took the time to complete our Senior Citizen Survey this spring. Although participation was somewhat light, certain responses and comments tended to dominate on the forms. Susan Keyes, who tabulated the results, indicates that "the majority of senior citizens who responded are American, permanent residents of France and tend to read more than their younger counterparts."

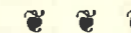
The administration will be formulating a new policy for seniors which involves extended loan privileges and a grace period for fines. This new category of membership, available to members who are 60 or above, will be announced in the fall.

Our lack of adequate seating space, mentioned by most respondents, is an issue with all ages. Now that the Research Center has been completed (adding about 24 new seats), a campaign is planned for the early fall which will seek funds for renovating the library's entrance and circulation areas. Plans include extensive mezzanines to free up needed public space on our ground floor and provide additional seating areas and shelving on an intermediate level. Biographies, fiction and mysteries will remain downstairs, along with new books and circulating periodicals, while the call numbers from 000 to 499 will be moved to the mezzanine. Detailed plans will be available soon and placed on display.

Difficulties with reaching higher book shelves and with using the computerized catalog were mentioned by several seniors. ALP staff and volunteers are happy to help anyone having problems physically retrieving materials--please ask for help. Our OPACs (computerized catalog) are really easy to use; however, if you are reluctant about using them, then do not hesitate to ask for assistance. A computer system upgrade is planned for later this year which will be much faster and even friendlier.

The library greatly appreciates the support it gets from its senior patrons, some of whom have been members for over sixty years. We always welcome any comments or suggestions about improving our service to you.

Bob Grattan
Library Director

**Two Senior Members Share Moments of Their Life Stories with ALP**

We thought it would be interesting to learn a bit more about some of our senior members. Two of the questionnaire's respondents, **Margaret O'Brien** and **Julian Behrstock**, both American expatriates, agreed to talk a little about their lives.

Margaret O'Brien first visited the American Library in 1925, while on tour with an American ballet company. After briefly studying in Berlin with modern dance pioneer Mary Wigman, she made Paris her home base. Classical ballet was both her vocation and first love, but she believes there is much to learn from all types of dance.

After the death of her father, Miss O'Brien's mother joined her in Paris. Miss O'Brien regularly visited the American Library to obtain books for her mother, who was unable to read French. Because of the stringent rehearsal schedules required of a professional dancer, she was unable to participate in Paris's active café scene and in the literary salons of the time. Her career as a dancer took her on tour much of the year, including two seasons in Algiers.

In 1937 she and her mother travelled around the world, beginning in Los Angeles, travelling by ship to Japan, to China, across India by train and on to Egypt

and Yemen. They returned to France just as the rumblings of World War II were heard. At the beginning of the war, she and her mother were evacuated through Lisbon on a U.S. rescue ship to New York, where she spent the remaining war years as a nurse's aide. After the war she returned to Paris and to a career as a ballet teacher.

Today, Miss O'Brien is an active reader, who especially enjoys the Library's wide range of biographies of visual and performing artists, as well as mysteries. Since her first visit to the Library more than 65 years ago, she has remained an active and dedicated member of the American Library.

Julian Behrstock began his distinguished career in Paris in 1937. Directly out of college, he found work as a reporter at the *Herald Tribune* and later for *Time* magazine. In 1938, he returned to the States for graduate studies in history, and about the same time began to write on current history for *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia*.

He spent World War II in London as head of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, which, in cooperation with the BBC, monitored enemy radio

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Behrstock (Continued from page 3)

broadcasts and passed on the information to Washington. In 1946, he was sent to Japan to monitor domestic broadcasts from Korea, China, the Soviet Union and other countries.

He resigned from the Government to work in Paris as a member of UNESCO's Secretariat from 1948 through 1976. Mr. Behrstock served as Director of Programs for Free Flow of Information and book promotion. Among his accomplishments, he organized a series of conferences in developing countries to bring librarians, booksellers, and publishers together and directed International Book Year 1972.

Since his retirement from UNESCO, he has published a book, *The Eighth Case: Troubled Times at the United Nations* (1987), about his personal experiences at the U.N. loyalty hearings, engendered by the communist witch hunting of Senators Joseph McCarthy and Pat McCarran. He is presently working on a second book, *A Memoir of Dissent*, which deals with the effects of the hearings upon the lives of seven other people. He is also the consultant for Kodansha, the largest Japanese publisher.

Mr. Behrstock has been an active member and enthusiastic supporter of the Library since his first visit in 1937. He uses the library both for personal reading and for professional research, and looks forward to the day when ALP members will be able to borrow books from the American University Library.

Susan Keyes
Coordinator of Development

Children's Corner

✿ The Children's Room held a Poetry Celebration the afternoon of Thursday, June 18.

The children who had participated in the two poetry workshops read their work, and an anthology of their poems was distributed.

✿ Many thanks to Board Member **Berna Huebner** for organizing the Dr. Seuss party during Story Time on Wednesday, May 20. After listening to readings from his books, the children feasted on cake and cookies.

✿ We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of you who regularly devoted your time as readers during the Wednesday Story Hour (2:30-3:30 p.m.). We hope to continue this popular activity during the summer and are looking for volunteer readers for July and August. Interested parties should please contact **Janet Pappani** or **Johanna Jagers** at the Library as soon as possible before the first of July.

✿ New periodicals in the Children's Room include *Ladybug* and *Lollipops* (both are from the same people who bring you *Cricket*), *National Geographic World*, and *Sesame Street Magazine*.

✿ If you have posters related to children's reading that you are willing to donate, or if you have ideas about children's book exhibits or programs, please contact **Janet Pappani** or **Johanna Jagers**.

Library Gala (Continued from Page 1)

of the Library Galas and to the **Chubb Group** who also took a table this year.

Other contributions to the success of this year's Gala included a special American Library in Paris edition of the *International Herald Tribune*, which reprinted some of Flora Lewis's famous editorials as well as remarks from Ambassador Curley and Library Board Chairman, **Michèle Gompel**. **Chanel** was responsible for the favors of gift-wrapped Chanel No. 5 perfumes. And **Chateau Boursault** again gave the Library its delicious champagne. A very special thanks to you all. **Bob Gogel**, Library Trustee and Gala Chairman, is to be thanked for his excellent efforts which resulted in the success of this, his second Library Gala! He was assisted by **Mary Beth Behrent** who worked especially hard with **Ron Weddle** of the *International Herald Tribune* in the production of the special edition devoted to the Library Gala.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

REMINDER TO DONORS

Library donations should be made payable to the "American Library in Paris." Donations may also be made to "La Fondation de France - Compte No. 060452." In the latter case, the gift must be more than F 200 and will be subject to a 3% handling charge by the Fondation de France.

Top Ten Choices among ALP Borrowers Reveal Wide Variety of Reading Tastes

Of the New Fiction and New Non-Fiction books purchased since the beginning of 1992, the most popular with our readers (based on the number of times circulated) are as follows:

**FICTION**

D'Amato, Barbara. *Hard tack: a Cat Marsala Mystery*. M D18
Keillor, Garrison. *WLT: A Radio Romance*. F K265
Atwood, Margaret. *Wilderness Tips: Stories*. F At96
Kellenman, Faye. *Day of Atonement: A Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus Mystery*. M K2861.
Lathen, Emma. *East is East*. M L347
Parker, T. Jefferson. *Pacific beat*. M P2281

NON-FICTION

Thompson, Hunter. *Songs of the Doomed: More Notes on the Death of the American Dream*. 973.92/T373s
Friday, Nancy. *Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women's Sexual Fantasies*. 306.7/F912w
Lacey, Robert. *Little Man: Meyer Lansky and the Gangster Life*. B L292L
Severin, Tim. *In Search of Genghis Khan*. 915.17/Se83i

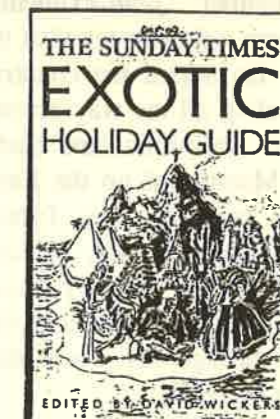
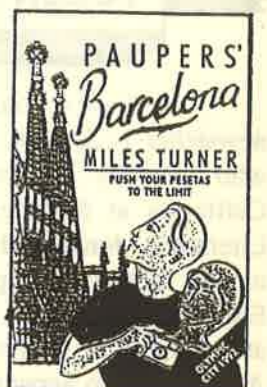
Needless to say, should you wish to borrow any of these books, you might find them already checked out. If so, please tell the Circulation Staff that you would like to place a hold on the titles that interest you.

Travel and Guide Books Offer Fun and Practical Summer Reading

Whether you journey far away this summer or simply stay in France, our newest travel selections should help you plan your days. Brazil, most recently in the news because of the Earth Summit, may be the destination of your dreams. If so, be sure to consult *The Real Guide: Brazil* (918.1/R2296) or *Fodor's 91 Brazil* (918.1/F683b). Perhaps the Summer Olympics is more to your taste. In that case, take a look at *Birnbaum's Spain and Portugal, 1991* (914.6/B537s) or Miles Turner's *Paupers' Barcelona*. If you set your sights on lands a bit less in the limelight, you may be interested in *Baedeker's Budapest* (914.391/B144b), *Fodor's India (Including Nepal)* (915.4/F683i), *Discovery Guide to Cairo* (916.216/H111d), or *The Sunday Times Exotic Holiday Guide* (910.4/W632s).

Planning to go to the States? We have *Frommer's Budget Travel Guide: Where to Stay U.S.A.* (917.3/W574u) and *Birnbaum's United States 1991* (917.3/B5375u). Or maybe you just want a quiet summer in France. How much quieter can you get than *Guide des Hôtels de Charme de Paris et des Environs* (914.436/N935g) and *Guide des Cimetières de Paris* (914.436/L496g)?

For these and many more, browse through the 900's in the New Non-Fiction books and the Stacks.



BOOKS ON AGING ARE POPULAR, BUT NOT WITH SENIOR READERS

Interestingly enough, our Senior Citizen Survey revealed that the types of books most often sought by senior members were history books and biographies, with several respondents suggesting that the Library acquire more business magazines and mysteries. Large print books were requested by only a few.

It seems that our senior members are not primarily interested in reading books about aging. Yet, the subject of aging is one that is increasingly popular among U.S. library users in general, largely those with aging parents and those approaching retirement years. Among our more recent books on this subject are:

Gordon, Michael. *Old Enough to Feel Better*. 613.04/G657o

Hager, Thomas, and Lauren Kessler. *Staying Young*. 612.68/H122s

Linkletter, Art. *Old Age Is Not for Sissies: Choices for Senior Americans*. 305.26/L648o

Those of you wishing to explore further the ALP holdings on the subject of AGING should first consult the OPAC (computerized catalog). To access books on this subject, type S/AGED on the OPAC keyboard. This will bring you approximately four screens of subheadings related to the various aspects of aging.

For magazine articles on the subject of AGING, the best place to begin is the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, which exists both in book form and on CD-ROM. To consult the *Readers' Guide* on CD-ROM, enter the BROWSE mode, then type AGED. This will give you a list of subdivisions that begin with AGED AND ... Or type AGING, which is the subject for health-related articles and the process of aging. If you need help getting started, please consult a staff member.



● New on our Circulation staff since the last newsletter is **Jordan Geiger**, a native of New York, who recently graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.A. in Comparative Literature. Jordan, who replaced Nicole Chism, comes to the Library through the Council on International Education Exchange. He will pursue a master's degree at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture in September.

● French staff member **Jean-François Giraudeau** has just returned from a three-week visit to the United States (his first). He toured the country alone, by Greyhound bus, traveling all the way across the center, from New York to California, and back across the southern route, to Miami and up the East Coast. He was particularly keen to visit Tulsa, Oklahoma, where one of his favorite movies, Francis Ford Coppola's *Rumble Fish*, was set. Jean-François was excited to have a chance to practice his English, which he has learned mostly through his job at the Library. Welcome home, Jean-François!

● We have been notified that the name of **Kitty de Zwart** should be added to the 1991 Volunteer Honor Roll published in the March newsletter.

● A new application form is available for those interested in volunteer positions. Please ask at the Reception Desk if you would like to help us on a regular or project basis. Inactive volunteers will be receiving a copy of this new form to reactivate their status as ALP volunteers.

Volunteers are an integral part of the ALP's operations and are urgently needed for the Reception Desk. These friendly faces are the public's first contact with the library.

We look forward to seeing a team of volunteers that includes new faces as well as many "veterans."

● All volunteers are reminded that they should fill out their time sheets each time they work so that we can keep an accurate count of all hours contributed by volunteers.

● Volunteer coordinator and attorney **Loida Lewis** has just published *101 Legal Ways to Stay in the U.S.* Congratulations, Loida!

● Volunteer **Edgar Rubin**, at the Reception Desk on Wednesday afternoons, has information regarding U.S. voter registration for any interested Library members.