



Fall 1992

## ALP RECEIVES MARLENE DIETRICH'S PERSONAL LIBRARY

One Saturday evening in June, Library Director Bob Grattan was preparing to leave the Library when the telephone rang. A male voice identifying himself as Peter Riva began, "I'm going through my grandmother's estate and have hundreds of her books in cartons. I would like to give them away and I wonder if your library would like them. The American Embassy had no place for them and suggested you. If you are interested in the books, the movers are here and can bring them to you within the half hour."

"Yes, we would be very interested and we appreciate your offering them to us," Grattan replied. "Send them on."

"My grandmother was Marlene Dietrich," the voice added.

So, within the half hour, the ALP was the owner of over 1,500 books from the shelves of the great movie legend. It seemed an appropriate place for her collection. She had lived in Paris for many years, and yet had strong ties to the United States. Born in Berlin, she began her career in German films. Upon the international success of her role in *The Blue Angel*, she came to the United States in 1930 with Josef von Sternberg. There, the two collaborated on such films as *Morocco* (1930), *Shanghai Express* (1932), and *The Devil Is a Woman* (1935). Her career continued to thrive with movies like *Destry Rides Again* (1939).

During World War II, Miss Dietrich made more than 500 personal appearances before Allied troops, and in the 1950s continued her successful motion picture career with such classics as *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957) and *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961).

This past May, as posters of Miss Dietrich--from a scene in *Shanghai Express*--honored her throughout France and publicized the 45th Cannes International Film Festival, the world received news of her death.

Many books from her apartment on Avenue de Montaigne are simply paperbacks or hardcover editions of popular novels, with no identification of ownership and no annotations. These will become a part of our regular collection in Paris and of our branch libraries throughout France.

A glance at these books reveals a personal side of the great star that no doubt would interest some ALP

readers. If the number of titles she owned by a single author can be thought to reflect anything, Miss Dietrich's preferences in fiction would seem to have included Vladimir Nabokov, Ernest Hemingway, and Truman Capote, as well as John Creasey, Simenon, and Philip Roth. In poetry and drama, she seemed partial to W.H. Auden, Ranier Maria Rilke, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, George Bernard Shaw, and Jean Cocteau. She seems to have been an avid reader of mysteries and biographies as well as a collector of books about the movie industry and its people.

The books about Hollywood, films, and the lives of performing artists will become the foundation of an ALP collection of works on the cinema. Several  
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### FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN SOON UNDERWAY: WATCH FOR YOUR LETTER

The American Library's annual fall fund-raising campaign is set to begin. At this crucial time, we are reminded of the letter received last year from **Holly Gauthier**, regarding the generous gift to the Library from the estate of her aunt, **Helen Walters**, a former member of the Library Board of Trustees:

"I hope [Helen's contribution] serves to inspire more gifts....Helen's love of the library came from a commitment to independence. She...believed that information was the foundation for that independence....[She felt that] libraries can be the only source of that information for many and harbor a crucial diversity of ideas, thoughts and emotions. Libraries must be cultivated and nurtured to maintain that diversity....The American Library in Paris was special to her because she found the Library an oasis of intellectual stimulation...an English language source of recreation and inspiration."

"Association titulaire d'un compte d'Association  
à la Fondation de France no. 06 0452"

## MEET THE ALP TRUSTEES

## BROOKE SHELDON CONTRIBUTES LIBRARY EXPERTISE TO BOARD

One of the most recently appointed members of the ALP Board of Trustees is **Dr. Brooke E. Sheldon**, who represents both the field of professional librarianship and an interest in the Library from the perspective of those currently living in the United States.

One of her first contributions as a Board member has been to visit the Library in early October in the role of consultant. In doing so, she was playing this role for the Library for a second time, the first being in 1987, when she and then Executive Director of the American Library Association, Thomas Galvin, made a study of the Library's goals and policies and offered suggestions for putting these ideas into practice.

She is presently the Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to coming to U.T. in 1991, she was Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies at the Texas Woman's University and Acting Provost of the University 1979-80.

Dr. Sheldon is a graduate of Acadia University in Nova Scotia; her Master's degree is from Simmons College in Boston, and her Ph.D. is from the University of Pittsburgh. She has held a wide variety of offices in both state and national organizations, but the focus of her professional activity has been largely with the American Library Association. She has served as the association's president from 1983-84 and in 1985-86 chaired the task force that developed ALA's first long-range strategic plan.

Moreover, she co-chaired the first world conference on Continuing Education for the Information

Professions held in Chicago in 1985, and was a founder of the Continuing Professional Education Round Table in IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations).

She has lectured and conducted workshops and seminars throughout the U.S. and abroad on various aspects of management, including planning and evaluation of library projects, grant proposal writing, and leadership. She has been a consultant for many state, public and academic libraries in the United States. Furthermore, she has published several monographs, evaluative studies and many articles relating to management, continuing education and issues and trends in librarianship. Her recent book *Leaders in Libraries: Styles and Strategies for Success* (1991) is a library "best seller."

The American Library in Paris is very pleased to welcome Dr. Sheldon to the Board, and the Board and staff look forward to continued work with her this fall as she reviews the Library's progress over the past few years and offers fresh insight for future plans.

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of these are biographies of Miss Dietrich and some forty are books containing references to her.

And finally, the books personally dedicated to Miss Dietrich as well as those in which she herself wrote marginal comments will be housed in the Director's office. These books will be available for members to examine but will not be allowed to circulate.

This part of the collection contains books inscribed to Miss Dietrich by a wide range of authors including Peter Bogdanovich, Lilli Palmer, Louis Nizer, Rod McKuen, Anthony Armstrong Jones, Pearl Bailey, Irving Stone, Pauline Kael, Alain Bosquet, and Ingmar Bergman.

In other books, her own handwriting often offers a glimpse at her serious nature, or sometimes at her sense of humor. In a copy of *My Life, My Loves* by Eddie Fisher, there appears his claim, "[Marlene] was aware that ours was an unusual relationship." In the margin, she has had the last word: "You said it, kid! We never met!"

Many thanks to Peter Riva, and to the American Embassy, for making this special collection of books available to us.

## ANNUAL BOOK SALE PLANNED

Tentative plans have been set for the ALP Annual Book Sale. The sale will take place on a Sunday afternoon in late November, provided that enough volunteers come forward to help. When plans are firm, notices will be posted and fliers will be available in the Library.

If you are interested in helping with the sale, please contact Adele Witt right away at 45.51.46.82.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

## ALP Adds Compact Disc Collection and Offers New Policies for Seniors

Welcome to our returning members and a special word of greeting to all newcomers. As a part of this welcome, I am happy to announce two new benefits now available to ALP members.

First, and as long promised, we have started a **small collection of 75 compact discs** which includes both music and the spoken word. For security reasons, the CDs will be housed behind the Circulation Desk where they can be requested for loan. A printed listing by composer/author of all selections will be displayed in the "New Book" area--all discs will also be accessible through the OPACs. *In any case, please consult an OPAC to determine the availability of the title you wish before requesting it at the loan desk.*

Because of our small beginning collection, loans will be limited to 2 discs per member at one time. The loan period will be 3 weeks; however, we urge members to return discs sooner if possible so that others will be able to borrow them. This initial collection was purchased with some of the funds donated by **Holly Gauthier**, niece of the late **Helen Walters**, a former trustee who was a generous supporter of our music collection. The collecting, processing and cataloging were done by our part-time circulation assistant, **Chris Daniels**, but on a volunteer basis.

To help our collection grow, we would appreciate any donations members could make from their own CD collections. The old 33 1/3 vinyl albums, which no longer circulate, will be soon phased out.

As a second benefit, the ALP has created a **special category of membership for Senior Citizens** (60 years or older). This new category will allow eligible members the following extra privileges:

- Senior members will be granted up to two renewals on every item, provided no other patron has placed a "hold" on the item.

- Individual Senior members will be allowed the same borrowing quantities as Family members.

- Senior members will be given a one-week grace period for fines. No fine will be counted if the item is returned during its first week overdue; however, once the grace period has been exceeded, the fine will be calculated from the first day overdue.

If you are 60 years of age or older, and wish to change to this new category (I3), you will need to request a new card (free of charge) at the circulation desk. This new card is obligatory before any of the above privileges can be accorded. A Senior Family card (F3) can be issued only when both adult members qualify as Senior Citizens.

I regret that we are unable to offer a membership discount to Senior Citizens and hope that these additional privileges will solve some of the problems encountered with returning books and travelling to the library.

Bob Grattan  
Library Director

Special 1992 Bibliography Lists  
ALP Books on Christopher Columbus

*"And there I found very many islands filled with people innumerable, and of them all I have taken possession for their highnesses, by proclamation made and with the royal standard unfurled, and no one contradicted me."*

So wrote Christopher Columbus in his diary in 1492. But in 1992, the year of the 500th anniversary of his discovery of America, some *are* contradicting him. What is the truth about the man? A variety of responses await you on our Library shelves, ranging from the 1940 classic *Christopher Columbus* by Salvador de Madariaga to the recent controversial work, *The Conquest of Paradise* by Kirkpatrick Sale.

Other recent titles include *The Worlds of Christopher Columbus* by William D. Phillips, Jr. and Carla R. Phillips, *Christopher Columbus: The Grand Design* by Paolo Emilio Taviani, and *In Search of Columbus: The Sources for the First Voyage* by David Henige. And for everything you ever wanted to know about Columbus and his times, do not miss *The Christopher Columbus Encyclopedia*.

A special bibliography of ALP books about Columbus (including a list of children's titles) has been prepared by Director Bob Grattan and is currently available in the Circulation area for consultation.

## LIBRARY NEWS BRIEFS

- The Library's fall lecture series began on October 6 with **Axel Krause**, corporate editor of the *International Herald Tribune* and author of the recently published book *Inside the New Europe*.

Next in the series is **Martha Rose Shulman**, writer, journalist and caterer, who will speak on Wednesday, November 18, at 8 PM at the Library. She is author of such classics as *Mediterranean Light*, *Garlic Cookery*, and *Gourmet Vegetarian Feasts*. She is co-author of *Stress, Diet and Your Heart* with Dean Ornish, M.D. Her forthcoming book *Provençal Light* will be published in 1994.

- Make plans to attend the Library's annual Christmas Party, scheduled for Friday, December 11, at the Hôtel Talleyrand of the U.S. Embassy.

- See ALP volunteer **Edgar Rubin** at the Reception Desk for information on U.S. voter registration and absentee voting.

- New CD-ROM databases now in the Research Center are *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, the *1991 Time Magazine Compact Almanac*, *Poem Finder on Disc*, and later this fall, an index to the literary criticism series by Gale Press.

- Director Bob Grattan has arranged for the Library to receive most of its book shipments from the U.S. via United Parcel Service rather than through the regular post office. Early results show that UPS shipments take about 2 weeks, rather than 2-4 months by post. Cost has been about one franc per pound more through UPS.

## ALP STAFF AND VOLUNTEER NEWS

In October, **Jean-François Gireadeau** became new head of Circulation, having served five years on the ALP staff. He replaces **Cheryl Gilman**, who is starting a new job with *Galleries Magazine*. **Michèle Bodelin** joins the Circulation staff filling Mr. Gireadeau's position. She holds a degree in Art from Palomar College in California and has experience in library work as well as in sculpture and painting.

**Rachel Markowitz** has also joined the Circulation staff, replacing **Alexander MacBride**, who has returned to complete his studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Ms. Markowitz just graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. in French. Both students came to us through the Council on International Educational Exchange.

**Isabelle Luziau** has returned to the Circulation staff after a one-year leave of absence.

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The ALP is *urgently* in need of new volunteers this fall, as many of our faithful workers have left Paris. Among those no longer in Paris are **Audrey Horrocks**, who worked with the development coordinator for 3 years, **Johanna Jagers**, who helped coordinate the Children's Room and conducted the Poetry Workshop last year, and **Chi-Thanh Le**, who helped with the Information Desk, book processing, and the book sale. Other volunteers who have also moved on are **Petra Beunderman**, **Cathy Townsend**, **Barbara Haner**, and **Elizabeth Garver**. We will miss you all.

**AMERICAN  
LIBRARY  
IN PARIS** 10, rue du Général Camou  
75007 Paris