



Summer 1993

LIBRARY BIDS FAREWELL TO DIRECTOR BOB GRATTAN

Robert Grattan, III, Director of the American Library in Paris since April 1986, has resigned his position and will be returning to the United States at the end of this summer. After almost seven and a half years, Bob is leaving behind an impressive array of accomplishments at this Library.

Bob oversaw the complete reconversion of the Library catalog (representing 80,000 books and 450 periodical titles) from traditional printed cards into machine readable format. This was begun after the Board of Trustees and the American University Library decided to modernize their operations by installing and sharing a totally automated system. The two collections are now united in a jointly operated online bibliographic database, accessible to users of both libraries.

In addition to automation of the catalog, Bob supervised the streamlining of the circulation process which now uses bar codes and light pens, vastly simplifying the old manual card system. Other processes were automated as well, such as book-ordering and serials record-keeping. These major elements in the automation of the Library were completed by 1990, using the American-produced VTLS integrated library software.

Since then, Bob has developed and maintains other automated projects such as the fund-raising database for donor records, four CD-ROM workstations in the new Research Center and several PC's which he has put in place for administrative functions. In addition, he has overseen development of a master plan for automation of the ALP branch libraries across France and has worked on preliminary plans for linking the ALP public catalog to MINITEL.

During Bob's tenure the Library began to systematize and expand its fund-raising and public relations activities and the first of seven very successful Gala Benefit Dinners was held at the residence of the United States Ambassador in 1987. A two million franc fund-raising campaign was carried out to build and equip the new Research Center which is now fully operational. During the planning stages of the Center, Bob worked closely with our architect Philippe Jonathan to ensure that the new facility reflected current American library design concepts. The popular series, "Evenings with Authors," began in 1990 and has been a key element in efforts to make the Library better known to the public.

It is not surprising to learn that outside the

Library as well Bob likes to work with computers! He is a founding member of the VTLS Users' Group in Europe and editor of the *European VTLS Users' Group Newsletter*. He is also a ham radio operator (N4MRV) and has built much of his own equipment himself over the years, including his first computer. He enjoys photography, the study of languages and, with his wife Mary, traveling. He has visited and driven in almost all the countries of North America, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

Before leaving the American Library, Bob will perform a last major automation task in July when he installs the new computer hardware upgrade. (See related article, Page 3.) This will allow implementation of the new and improved version of VTLS this fall.

In a farewell ceremony at their June meeting, the Board of Trustees presented Bob with an 1890 first edition of *La Seine à Travers Paris* with color illustrations, in recognition of and thanks for his fine work in automating the American Library in Paris. As was said then, whether it be by MINITEL, by modem or by any other modern communications method he has rendered possible here, we hope Bob will keep in touch with all his many friends from the Library. We wish him and Mary the best of everything in this new step in their lives.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS

In July, the Library will be open as usual Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 AM to 7 PM. Extended hours for ALP members with card will be available through the American University of Paris until July 22 as follows: Mondays, from 10 AM to 7 PM, and Sundays, from 2 PM to 7 PM. The ALP will close for Bastille Day on Wednesday, July 14.

There will be no extended hours from July 23 through August 29.

In August, the American Library in Paris will be open Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon - 6 PM, and Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM.

1993 GALA DINNER AND TOMBOLA DRAWS STRONG SUPPORT

The Seventh Annual Benefit Gala for the American Library, under the patronage of **Madame Jacques Chirac**, was held on June 22nd at the American Ambassador's Residence. We were greatly honored by Madame Chirac's presence at the dinner. The Library also had the privilege of being the guest of the newly appointed American Ambassador to France, **Mrs. Pamela Harriman**. Among the many other distinguished participants at the event was **Ms. Marisa Berenson**, the acclaimed international actress.

The Residence is always an elegant setting for a special event in Paris. During cocktails, guests listened to Cole Porter selections performed by pianist **Mr. Paul Marks**, examined the impressive art collection in the Residence, including Ambassador Harriman's magnificent personal additions, and enjoyed a view of the expansive gardens.

Dinner was served in the adjoining salon with Ambassador Harriman, Madame Chirac, and **Mr. Robert Grattan, III**, Director of the Library, among those seated at the head table. Following the dinner, Ambassador Harriman welcomed everyone and spoke eloquently of the Library's important role and mission in the community, its accomplishments, and its goals in the coming year. **Madame Michèle Gompel**, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, acknowledged and expressed the Library's gratitude to MARWAIS FRANCE and to the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE--its two corporate sponsors, who had made the evening possible. She also expressed appreciation to Gemini Consulting, Chubb Compagnie d'Assurances, J.P. Morgan, TLC-Beatrice International Foods Holdings, 3M France, Coca-Cola, and Merrill Lynch for their contribution and support.

Madame Gompel recognized outgoing Library Director Robert Grattan, thanking him for his many valuable contributions to the Library since his arrival in 1986. She then introduced our guest speaker, **Mr. Lee Huebner**, publisher of the *International Herald Tribune*, who addressed the gathering on "The Rise of the Global Community." For those interested in reading Mr. Huebner's thought-provoking commentary, copies of the speech will be available in the Library.

The evening continued with the Terrific Tombola, a special event organized to raise funds to begin a videocassette collection and Video Club for Library members this fall. Most of the Gala guests were recipients of tombola prizes, which bore such

prestigious names as Artie France, Baccarat, Bottega Veneta, Chanel, Euro-Disney Resorts, European Benefits Administrators (Château Weekends), Forum Voyage, Innosoft, *International Herald Tribune*, Lanvin, Open Golf Club, Ritz-Escoffier Ecole de Gastronomie Française, Sonia Rykiel, Swarovski, and Tsan Catered Dinners. Many thanks to these companies for their donation of prizes and their contribution to the much awaited video collection.

Along with the tombola, another exciting first for the 1993 Gala is that it will receive press coverage for the Library with photos of the evening in one of the upcoming editions of *Point de Vue/Image du Monde*.

The 1993 Gala was a special evening in a splendid setting for our Franco-American friends and supporters of the Library. As always, the evening was also critical to our fund-raising effort. The Library receives no government subsidies and depends on donations for more than one-third of its annual operating income.

An event such as this is successful because of the many people who give of their time and talents. As gala co-chairmen, we would especially like to thank **Ms. Freda Hazen** of Artlink, Inc., for designing the invitations, **Randy Weddle** of the *International Herald Tribune* for printing of the invitations, and Paul Marks for providing the piano music (all gifts to the Library). Also our sincere thanks to Van Cleef et Arpels for the donation of its perfume, "First," to the lady guests, and to Château Boursault for offering the champagne. Our sincere appreciation to Mr. Lee Huebner, our speaker, and to our prestigious donors and sponsors who made the evening possible.

And especially our deepest appreciation to Madame Jacques Chirac and Ambassador Pamela Harriman for their distinguished presence and support of the American Library in Paris. Many, many thanks to all who participated in the 1993 Gala evening. We are honored by and grateful for your help and for your interest in the American Library in Paris.

Mary Beth Behrent
Steve von Steen
Co-Chairmen, 1993 Gala

Editor's note: And from us all, many thanks to our Gala Co-Chairmen for 1993, **Mrs. Mary Beth Behrent** and **Mr. Steve von Steen**, for a job very well done.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

COMPUTER UPGRADE OFFERS MAJOR BENEFITS FOR USERS

In July, the ALP will be installing a computer upgrade to greatly increase the capacity of our present system which, as most are painfully aware, has become very sluggish. For those who are interested in the technical side, we are moving from our present "classic" Hewlett-Packard Micro 3000XE to a Hewlett-Packard 937LX RISC machine with three times the storage capacity and 16 times the computing power of the present mini. Once the installation is completed, you, as users, will benefit immediately from two major improvements:

- ◆ Faster response times--several seconds rather than minutes.
- ◆ "Keyword" searching capability from the OPACs.

Keyword searching, the true power of an automated database, will allow looking for a book when you know only one or two words contained somewhere in the title or series. For example, the word(s) you are looking for can be specifically in either author, title or subject, or anywhere in all three. By entering the phrase "teen* and alcohol*" you can retrieve material containing the words *teenager(s)* or *teens* and *alcohol*, *alcoholic(s)* or *alcoholism*. The search process can be as simple or as sophisticated as you wish. If you are not already familiar with keyword searching then please ask one of our staff members to show you how it operates. The present method of searching by author, title, subject or call number will remain unchanged.

The new computer upgrade will open the door for many future projects which are presently in the planning stages, such as ALP access via MINITEL, automation of branch collections, and networking with other American/French/European libraries.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the Library, the staff, and the Board of Trustees for their help and support over the past seven and one-half years that I have been with the ALP. Mary and I will be leaving Paris this summer to return to the United States and our home in Virginia. The work here has been exciting and rewarding, and I look forward to keeping in touch with the Library community to stay abreast with its activities and projects.

Bob Grattan
Library Director

NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY BRANCH TO OPEN SOON IN ANGERS

In October of this year, the American Library in Paris will inaugurate a new branch library in Angers. With its 20,000-volume opening collection, this library will hold the largest English language collection in western France.

This new "bibliothèque angevine" is the product of a cooperative effort among the American Library in Paris and several local groups in Angers: the Conseil Général de Maine et Loire, the Ville d'Angers, the Université d'Angers, and the Université Catholique de l'Ouest. Chief negotiator for the ALP Board of Trustees in this endeavor is **Mrs. Virginia Pilpoul**, who has traveled numerous times to Angers to meet with various groups and individuals in the town to work out suitable space and legal arrangements. ALP Director **Bob Grattan** has developed a tentative layout for the building, incorporating ideas for the renovation of the space according to traditional American library design principles. **Mrs. Adele Witt**, Assistant Director of the ALP, accompanied Mrs. Pilpoul on her most recent visit to assist with the last-minute arrangements before the contract was signed June 30 by our Board Chairman, **Mme. Michèle Gompel**.

The 350 square-meter facility will be situated in the center of town, where it will be easily accessible and open not only to students and professors, but to the general public as well. It will be staffed by a librarian and one assistant, and will be administered by l'Association Angevine de la Bibliothèque Américaine d'Angers.

The Angers library will replace our branch in Nantes, which closed in January 1992, and will become the fifth ALP branch operating outside of Paris. The others are located in Grenoble, Montpellier, Nancy, and Toulouse.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

In April, **Kathleen Finnegan** joined the Circulation Department for a three-month term, replacing **Daniel Dix**. Kathleen is a graduate of the University of Colorado, where she earned a B.A. in German/Central and Eastern European Studies. Both Kathleen and Daniel came to the Library through the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE). Replacing Kathleen in mid-July is another CIEE student, **Stéphanie Grenier**, who holds the Baccalauréat en Sciences Politiques from the University of Montreal and is currently pursuing a master's degree in library and information science there.

This spring three students from Ecole Active Bilingue, J.M., have served as volunteers/stagières at the Library. **Karim Elawar** has come regularly all year long to help in the Circulation Department. **Daniel Sussner** has assisted with shelving, computer input, and photocopying. **Sarah Singer** has served a two-week stage helping in the Circulation Department, working at the Information Desk, and assisting with Capes/Aggrégation dossiers. We would like to thank these young volunteers for their generous donation of time while they were completing a full scholastic program.

Two other stagières are at the Library this summer. Helping to prepare Capes/Aggrégation bibliographies for the 1993/94 program is **Solange de Crécy**, a French library student at l'Ecole de Bibliothécaires Documentalistes of the Institut Catholique de Paris. Planning to spend the month of July at the American Library is **Idrissa Ibn Yilla-KaiKai**, who attends the Institute of Library and Information Studies, University of Sierra Leone. He has come to France to learn French and to gain library experience in Europe so that he might "enlarge his outlook on library service in developing countries."

LIBRARY NEWS BRIEFS

◆ Reserve the evening of October 19 for the first "Evening with Authors" of the 1993/94 season. Guest speaker will be **Mr. Daniel Shanahan**, author of *Toward a Genealogy of Individualism*, a study of the history of the development of individualism in the Western tradition, recently published by the University of Massachusetts Press. An Associate Professor and Coordinator of the English Department at Groupe HEC, Mr. Shanahan has taught and lectured widely in Eastern Europe and has authored numerous publications in *Partisan Review*, *The Social Science Journal*, *The Journal of American Culture*, and elsewhere.

◆ The ALP periodicals are now available on MINITEL (3617 CCN) through the *Catalogue Collectif National des publications en série*. This is a database of 207,500 periodicals available in France in 2,750 libraries. By dialing MINITEL, you can search for a periodical by title, subject, country of origin, language, publisher, or ISSN. You can narrow your selection by region, department, or city. The screen will indicate whether your periodical is on the database and, if so, where it is located, listing the libraries, their addresses, and the time periods for which issues are available.

◆ Flannel board stories, a new feature for children aged 3-5, was introduced this spring at the American Library in Paris by Circulation Staff member and free-lance artist, **Ms. Michèle Bodelin**. The session will continue through the summer, with the next presentation set for Wednesday, July 21, at 3 PM (after the 2:30 story hour).

"Colorful flannel boards are a great aid in stimulating the imagination and improving the quality of oral language of pre-school children," she explains. "At each session, children have an opportunity to become active participants by being in the story."

**AMERICAN
LIBRARY
IN PARIS**

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