



Winter 1993

AMERICAN LIBRARY OBSERVES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The past year has been a particularly exciting year for African American writers. Terry McMillan's novel *Waiting to Exhale* has been on the best seller list for 33 weeks, two other prominent Black writers have published major novels -- Toni Morrison, with *Jazz*, and Alice Walker, with *Possessing the Secret of Joy*--and poet Maya Angelou, has read at President Bill Clinton's inauguration the poem she was invited to write in honor of the occasion. In the world of cinema, film writer/director Spike Lee has released his long awaited epic motion picture *Malcolm X*, depicting the life of the late African American revolutionary who was assassinated in 1965.

Certainly, interest in African American writers is no recent phenomenon in France. This country has long been a source of fascination for American Black writers, many of whom lived for some length of time in France. One such man was novelist Richard Wright, author of *Black Boy* and *Native Son*, who lived in Paris during the 1940s (and whose grandson Malcolm recently graduated from Ecole Active Bilingue, J.M., in Paris, where he sometimes visited the American Library). James Baldwin, long-time resident of France until his death in 1987 was another Black writer who made his home in France for many years. Baldwin's works such as *The Fire Next Time*, *Another Country*, and *Giovanni's Room*, remain classics in the ALP collection. Other major Black American writers with strong ties to France have included poets Countee Cullen, who found in France "what was denied my hungry heart at home," and Langston Hughes, who wrote in *The Big Sea*, "I will never forget the thrill of first understanding the French of de Maupassant."

Among African American writers living in Paris today is the historical novelist Barbara Chase-Riboud, author of *Sally Hemings* (1977), *Valide* (1986), *Portrait of a Woman as Cleopatra* (1987), and *Echo of Lions* (1989), all available in our collection.

Thus, it seems quite appropriate that this year on the occasion of Black History Month, celebrated each February in the United States, the American Library in Paris should highlight African American writers in a special way. For those who would like a general overview of African American history and life, a new ALP Research Guide entitled, *Introduction to African American History and Culture*, has been

prepared by volunteer Mary Grattan. A second bibliography, on Black fiction, is in the works. Furthermore, for those of you who have been inspired by Spike Lee's movie to read further about Malcolm X, Director Bob Grattan has compiled a list of ALP books on his life and works. Both of these new bibliographies are available at the Circulation Desk.

In addition, in observance of Black History Month, the Children's Room is featuring a special book display as well as a bulletin board, designed by ALP staff member Michèle Bodelin.

BOARD CITES LIBRARY'S PROGRESS AND OUTLINES OBJECTIVES FOR 1993

Though the year has commenced, it is not too late to wish you all an excellent 1993! For the Library, the year has begun with the returns from our annual fund-raising campaign for general purposes. The response has been enthusiastic and generous as always from the Library's friends and the more so this year as there is a general economic slump to be overcome. This is not to say that the Library has all the money it needs, unfortunately. So if you have not yet responded to our appeal, please do so. It is never too late and no amount is too small or too great! The Library is very grateful to those of you who have contributed and sincerely thanks you for your support.

That support is especially needed to ensure that the Library can maintain its program of advancement for 1993. With the opening of the new Research Center in April of 1992, the Library took an important step forward with the new premises and "state of the art" equipment towards becoming THE model of American library science it always aspires to be.

This program of advancement was greatly furthered when, in October of 1992, Trustee Brooke Sheldon, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Texas (Director Bob Grattan's alma mater!) came to Paris to make recommendations for the Library's goals and objectives. This was a follow-up to a study done under the auspices of the American Library Association in 1987 by Dr. Sheldon and Dr. Galvin. The follow-up

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Meet the ALP Trustees**Nancy Magaud and Jack Anderson Bring Crucial Skills to Board**

Nancy Willard Magaud has been a member of the American Library Board of Trustees since 1990, and a long-time member and supporter of the Library. Since joining the Board, she has served as Coordinator of the Library Christmas Party in 1992, and, as of September 1992, has assumed the responsibility of Assistant Secretary of the Board and member of the Executive Committee. In addition, Mme. Magaud has a special interest in fund raising in the French community, a project she is engaged in with Board member Patrick Pera.

Mme. Magaud brings to the Board a distinguished career in education. A native of Maine, she earned her B.A. at Wellesley College (in French) and her M.A. at Yale University (in the teaching of French), and she pursued doctoral studies at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Since coming to France 26 years ago, she has served in many professional positions within the field of education, the most recent being Director of the American Section at the Lycée Internationale (1983-1990). At present, she is Manager and Consultant, Europe Education Conseil.

In addition, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of WICE in Paris and serves as Chairperson of the WICE Program Review Committee. Over the years, she has also been regularly involved in musical activities, particularly with student productions. She is currently the Director of the WICE Singers, a group that performed at the ALP Christmas party in December.

Mme. Magaud and her husband Georges have three sons, all bilingual and all graduates of American Universities: Georges (Yale 1985), Daniel (Harvard, 1986), and Marc (Brown, 1990)--two with additional study at Sciences Pô in Paris.

Jack Anderson, a tax partner of HSD Ernst & Young International, has been a member of the American Library Board since 1990. To date, one of his primary responsibilities on the Board involves liaison with the American University of Paris. In this role, his legal, accounting, and business training have proved to be quite useful to the Library.

At Ernst & Young International, Mr. Anderson has overall responsibility for the firm's international expatriate practice in France. Since joining the firm in 1984, he has designed and developed tax-effective compensation programs for executives of multinational U.S. and European corporations. He has also been consultant to multinational corporations and their executives in making site planning and real estate decisions in coming to Europe.

He works with the French and U.S. administrations to encourage Franco-North American international business exchange. He heads a division of 25, including experienced French and U.S. lawyers and CPA's, to assist French and North American multinational corporations. His primary focus has been on solving income and social security tax issues and immigration problems and putting into action creative tax planning for executives and their corporations. In addition to his published articles, Mr. Anderson has developed many tax, financial planning and immigration brochures for use worldwide by the firm's clients.

Mr. Anderson is a U.S. and French lawyer with dual nationality, a CPA and a MBA, and has his doctorate in tax law from the New York University School of Law. He is co-chairman of the firm's European Expatriate Services Committee, a director of the Foundation Foch and the American Foundation in Europe, and a member of Le Cercle de l'Union Interalliée.

He has lived in France for eight years and is married to Dr. Sophie Giudicelli-Anderson. Their daughter Julia is a frequent visitor to the American Library and story telling hour.

IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Trustees, Staff, and Volunteer Corps of the American Library in Paris were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Reginald F. Lewis this January. Mr. Lewis was a generous benefactor of the Library, one of the first to give a significant sum--through the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation--to our Research Center campaign, and contributing as well to the general fund-raising campaign. Mr. Lewis was an American businessman whose company, TLC Holding, has interests across Europe.

The Library also benefited from Mr. Lewis' presence in France through his wife, Loida, who for several years has been an important part of the Library's Volunteer Corps, recently having served as co-coordinator. The entire Library community extends to Loida and their daughters, Leslie and Christina, its sincere sympathy.

FROM THE DIRECTOR**QUESTIONNAIRE TO SURVEY REFERENCE, VIDEO NEEDS OF ALP MEMBERS**

In her report, Michèle Gompel mentions some of the new services which are planned for the near future. In order to be certain that we are meeting the needs and, as closely as possible, the desires of our community, a user survey is currently being prepared by the staff.

Besides giving us a profile of our members, a major thrust of the questionnaire will be to learn the typical research and information needs of our public, and whether these needs are being met by our present resources. Equally, is the ALP staff able to give adequate help in using these resources and, if not, where do the weaknesses lie? Over the spring and summer months, on a time available basis, the professional staff will become more involved in reference service to help with and learn more about your information needs.

Another area to explore will be the need for a circulating video cassette collection. To set up a collection which will be effectively used, we need to know what type of video equipment our members have access to, and the cassette formats (SECAM, PAL, and NTSC) they are capable of using.

As this is a very important information gathering project, we urge you to take a few minutes to fill out a questionnaire the next time you come to the Library. They will be ready for distribution at the front entrance by the second half of February.

The Marlene Dietrich collection (details in our Fall 1992 newsletter) will be ready for use by the time this reaches you. A complete list of the some 500 cataloged items will be available in the ALP "New Book" area. Before looking for a particular title, it is important to check the OPAC terminal to determine the location and availability of each item as the collection is scattered throughout many call number ranges and locations. Books with inscriptions or with some special value will be listed in the location "Director's Office." These may be requested for consultation in the Library but they cannot be borrowed.

Bob Grattan
Library Director

FRENCH INTERNS BENEFIT LIBRARY

Three projects with French interns promise to benefit the American Library as well as the students themselves.

Lior Bitoun, an intern from the University of Paris I, is now working on the organization of the ALP archives as part of her Maîtrise in les Sciences de l'Information et Documentation. Her thesis will study the impact of American library methods on information management in France, and the role and impact of the library school which was created in 1921 as part of the ALP (10, rue de l'Elysée). As she carries out her research, she is bringing some long needed order to our scattered files of documents and photographs by arranging them in acid-free archival storage containers. An index to materials and their location will be developed as part of the project.

In the next month, another intern, **Aurélien Caddoux**, will prepare the ALP periodicals for entry on CCN (Catalogue Collective Nationale), a periodical data base accessible on Minitel. Ultimately, this will allow access to our periodicals holdings through Minitel.

This spring, **Joëlle Alperine**, a student at l'Ecole de Bibliothécaire-Documentaliste of Institut Catholique de Paris, will examine MARC records, periodicals automation, and the ALP Research Center as part of her project. Her observations will offer useful insight as we make plans for future expansion.

BOARD OBJECTIVES (Cont. from Page 1)

report recognized the great progress made by the American Library since then, citing automation of the ALP and AUP collections on a joint data base; regular, well-attended programs such as the "Evenings with Authors" series, and events, Open Houses and Book Sales, Children's Room activities and the Christmas Party; the establishment of an automated research center; the extended opening hours; and the improvement in the general physical layout.

Dr. Sheldon's recommendations include developing improvements in professional staff and patron contact, a regular reference service, user surveys to establish the needs and wishes of patrons in different areas and more cooperation with the AUP Library. You will hear more about all of this as progress is made.

There is no lack of exciting ideas for improvements. The Library would like to have a full-time reference librarian. The Library would like to have a circulating English-language video cassette collection. The Library would like to extend the Children's Room area, and the Library would like to renovate much of the premises. To do all this, we need a lot of extra support. Your gifts are part of that much needed support and through your gifts, you become an active participant in the Library's progress. Thank you.

Michèle Gompel
Chairman, Board of Trustees

BOOK SALE IS A GREAT SUCCESS

The ALP annual Book Sale and Open House on November 22 was by all measures a huge success. Isabelle Slinger, volunteer coordinator of the sale, reports that the sale attracted 658 customers and brought in 43,000 francs, a record income, that is being applied in its entirety to the purchase of new books.

An added treat this year was the serving of coffee all afternoon by Has-Beans, J.B. Loucks Gourmet Coffees and Teas, 131 rue du Cherche-Midi, 75015 Paris. Many thanks to J.B. Loucks for donating and personally serving his coffee at the sale.

As always, the project was very time consuming. Prior to the sale day, nine volunteers worked a total of 56 hours to sort the thousands of books into categories. The day before the sale, seven volunteers worked 38 hours setting up the tables and boxes of books. Twelve more workers contributed 51 hours to staff the sale itself. And finally, six workers contributed 12 hours putting the Library back in order.

The success of this year's sale is due in great part to the time and energy extended by coordinator, Isabelle Slinger. But she is the first to give credit as well to the many other volunteers and the staff members who played their own crucial roles.

Book Sale volunteers included Suzanne Barker, Janine Benveniste, Nicole Breedlove, Mary Brodbeck, Cobi Camberlein, Jerry Cloud, Pat Danahey, Ghislaine Elliott, Winnie Falcon, Gertrud Fridrich, Mary Grattan, Anne Herndon, Janet Jordan, Gloria Knight, Loy Knight, Erma Manoncourt, Patrick Mullen, Janet Pappani, John Parmenter Welty, Nicole Ravier, Susan Rivard-Perez, Kelly Roughton, Edgar Rubin, Barbara Schwarz, Birthe Stein, and Julie Winn.

Staff volunteers were Chris Daniels, Jean François Giraudeau, Bob Grattan, and Adele Witt.

LIBRARY NEWS BRIEFS

❖ Frederick Turner, author of *Beyond Geography*, of *Rediscovering America* (his biography of the American naturalist John Muir), and most recently of *A Border of Blue: Along the Gulf of Mexico from the Keys to the Yucatàn*, will speak at the Library at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18. His talk will be the second of 1993, following Herbert R. Lottman, who discussed his new book *The Fall of Paris, June 1940* on January 14.

❖ All members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Library in Paris on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m.

❖ The Library will close at 6 p.m. on March 23 because of the annual Board meeting. It will be closed all day on Saturdays, May 1 and May 8, and on Thursday, May 20, in observance of national holidays. And because of Spring Break at the American University of Paris, there will be no extended hours the week of February 20-28.

❖ In December, Daniel Dix, a journalism and history major at The American University in Washington, D.C., began a three-month position on our Circulation staff. He comes to us through the CIEE program and replaces Rachael Markowitz.

❖ Gift memberships to the American Library are now available. Please ask at the Circulation Desk.

❖ The Library needs additional volunteers to staff the Information Desk, a very important position, for it is the public's first view of the Library. We usually ask a 4-hour period, (10-2 or 2-6). Urgently needed is someone for Saturday afternoons. Contact Adele Witt.

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