



IN PARIS

October 1995

SPECIAL EVENTS MARK SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The American Library in Paris will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary during the week of October 18-26 with a variety of special events. The culminating occasion of the week will be a Gala dinner at the Château de Versailles, to be presided over by **Madame Jacques Chirac** and **Ambassador Pamela Harriman**.

Pre-gala festivities begin on October 18 with an exceptional program in the **Evening With an Author** series. The evening will feature American and English writers **John Baxter**, **Jerome Charyn**, **James A. Emanuel**, **Tana Hoban**, **Russell Hoban**, **Diane Johnson** and **Julian More**, who will be reading from the works of Colette, Ernest Hemingway, Alan Seeger, Thornton Wilder, and other famous names from the Library's history (*see page 3 for more details*).

For special friends of the Library, and those Gala guests arriving from the United States, an excursion to Giverny is planned. A guided tour of the **Musée d'Art Américain Giverny** and a visit to Claude Monet's house and gardens will be included. Following the tours, a private lunch will be hosted by Florence Van der Kemp who, with her husband Gerald, supervised the restoration of the site.

On October 24, Ambassador Pamela Harriman will welcome special Library guests for a tea hosted at the American Ambassador's Residence in Paris.

The **Galerie des Batailles** in the **Château de Versailles** will be the backdrop for the Gala to be held October 26. Madame Jacques Chirac will act as Honorary President for the event. The guests will be invited to tour the **Grands**

Appartements and the **Galerie des Glaces** (also known as the **Grande Galerie**) - among the most exquisite rooms of the Château. At the end of the tour, cocktails will be served in the foyer outside the **Galerie des Batailles** where the royal dinner will take place. This majestic gallery (almost 120 meters long) is adorned with immense paintings depicting the most significant battles of French history. Guests will be greeted by the members of the event's Honorary Committee.

Following dinner, remarks will be offered by Ambassador Harriman, A.L.P. Chairman John H. Riggs, Dr. Paul LeClerc, President of the New York Public Library and Voltaire scholar, and syndicated columnist Art Buchwald. A tour of the **Petits Appartements** will conclude the evening.

Transportation by bus is available from Paris leaving from Port Maillot. For ticket information (2,500 FF per person) please contact Susan Marro or Andrea Vittoz at the Library tel: 45.51.76.84.

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CAMPAIGN 2000 IS UNDERWAY!

With the 75th Anniversary celebration at Versailles designated as the official start of **Campaign 2000**, all efforts are now being turned to ensuring the success of this vital fund raising effort.

A leadership gift of \$400,000 has already been received from the Scaler Foundation of Houston, Texas. With this gift, and American Library Trustee gifts and pledges received to date, the Library has realized over \$500,000 of its \$3 million goal.

A successful campaign will provide for much-needed expansion of the Library's facilities and double the ALP's endowment, a main source of income. Renovation plans drawn up by Philippe Jonathan, architect of the Research Center built in 1991, reflect the growing needs of the Library's members while respecting the limitations of the Library's existing building. As with the Research Center, the renovations will be done with the highest quality design and constructed at the lowest possible cost. The plan provides for a larger children's and young adult area, an extended mezzanine with new shelf and reading space, an enhanced entry, and an enlarged reading room. Cost for internal expansion is estimated at \$1 million.

The Library's endowment is currently less than \$2 million. Campaign 2000's goal is to add an additional \$2 million. The endowment is critical to the healthy growth of the Library; its interest provides essential income that supports staff salaries, materials acquisition and conservation, and program support.

Opportunities for donors to name areas of the building or to contribute towards endowment funds that will support the various continuing needs of the Library will be specified as the campaign develops. Members or friends with an interest in knowing more about Campaign 2000 giving should contact Kay Rader or Andrea Vittoz at the Library.

All members will be invited during 1996 to make a special gift - in addition to their membership fee and annual contribution - to Campaign 2000.

At a board "mini-retreat" on September 30, an exciting five-year plan for the American Library in Paris was introduced in draft form for approval in November. Professional, visionary and exciting, the plan depends on a successful Campaign 2000.

We are confident that our goal will be achieved, and invite all members and friends to participate when asked.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

The staff of the American Library in Paris would like to thank all the loyal volunteers who have returned this fall. Your generous donation of time and energy help our staff in all areas of the Library's operation.

But... we urgently need new volunteers this fall, as many of our faithful workers have left Paris. There are various volunteer jobs: volunteers at the information/welcome desk check members' cards as they come in and give details about the Library to prospective members, volunteers can help at the Circulation Desk by checking in and shelving returned books, and some volunteers help in the office. If you would be willing to donate some spare time, please call Assistant Director Adele Witt at 45.51.76.84 for an appointment so we can discover how you can help us here at the Library.

"EVENING WITH AN AUTHOR" SERIES CELEBRATES SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HISTORY

Wednesday, October 18th - 8:00pm

In honor of the Library's anniversary, the first "Evening with an Author" this fall will present a number of authors - some of whom have already read from their own works at the Library - reading from the writings of authors from the Library's past. John Baxter (*Buñuel*), Jerome Charyn (*Little Angel Street*), James A. Emanuel (*The Broken Bowl*), Tana Hoban, Russell Hoban, Diane Johnson (*Lying Low*) and Julian More (*A Taste of Provence*) will read some of their favorite passages from the works of Colette, Ernest Hemingway, Alan Seeger, Thornton Wilder and others. The evening is being co-sponsored by the Paris Alumni/ae Network.

JAZZ AND POETRY! - Wednesday, November 8th - 8:00pm

An evening of poetry and music, featuring the jazz haiku of James A. Emmanuel and saxophone accompaniment by Chansse Evanns. An award-winning poet and literary historian, Mr. Emmanuel (*Black Man Abroad: the Toulouse Poems, Snowflakes and Steel: My Life as a Poet, Dark Symphony: Negro Literature in America*) is the creator of the genre **jazz haiku**. Chansse Evanns has based his style and rhythm on the African-American experience, and calls his style "an athenatic musical system."

SCIENCE-IN-FICTION IS NOT SCIENCE FICTION - IS IT AUTOBIOGRAPHY? - Wednesday, November 22nd - 8:00pm

Stanford University Professor Carl Djerassi (sometimes known as the "father of the birth control pill"), author of *Cantor's Dilemma* and *The Pill, Pygmy Chimps, and Degas' Horse*, will discuss the rarely-used genre of "science-in-fiction" as distinguished from science fiction, using as an illustration *The Bourbaki Gambit*, his recent novel about life among the scientific elite.

FABLES IN TWO LANGUAGES AND SIMILAR DIVERSIONS - Wednesday, November 29th - 8:00pm

New Hampshire-based poet Charles W. Pratt is also a translator and former teacher whose first book of poetry, *In the Orchard*, was selected for the American Library Association's Notable Books Award. Mr. Pratt will read from his book *Fables in Two Languages*, including well-known French poems by La Fontaine, Rimbaud, and Baudelaire as well as his own writings. He says of his work, "I've tried to use the two languages as tennis players on opposite sides of the net of meaning - the reader being the ball. The pleasure for the reader is in staying aloft while the rally lasts."

PANEL DISCUSSION: U.S. DEGREES IN FRANCE - Wednesday, December 6th - 7:30pm

A dialogue on recognition of American university degrees in France, co-sponsored by the Paris Alumni/ae Network. Panelists: former Princeton professor Senator André Maman, Solange de Serre, of the Ministère de l'Education Nationale, Geneviève Acker, Deputy Director of the Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange, and Constance Borde, English Professor at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION - Tuesday, January 16th - Wednesday, January 17th

A tribute to Martin Luther King, presented with the Harambé Association and organized by its director, Chansse Evanns. On Tuesday, January 16th at 8:00pm, an evening of documentary film and readings about Martin Luther King's life and work. On Wednesday, January 17th at 2:30pm, stories and film about Martin Luther King for young Library members.

All our "Evenings With an Author" evenings are free and open to members and non-members alike (it's the perfect way to introduce a friend to the Library). No reservations are necessary.

Details about future events will be posted in the Library and announced in Paris' anglophone press.

LIBRARY NEWS - SUMMER UPDATE

- On June 8th, 280 Library members and friends gathered at the residence of Ambassador Pamela Harriman for a gourmet feast organized by Trustee **Michèle Gompel**. The event was held in celebration of the American Library in Paris' Culinary Collection, the books on gastronomy, restaurants, travel and entertaining bequeathed to the Library by Gregory Usher, former head of La Varenne, Le Cordon Bleu and the Ritz-Escoffier cooking schools.
- On June 14th, the Library celebrated the publication of the second issue of *Pharos*, a new literary journal. The program featured readings of poetry and prose by writers living in Paris.
- At the annual American Library Association convention in Chicago (June 23-28), the Library received a special Resolution from the A.L.A. on the occasion of the Library's 75th anniversary, commemorating the Association's role in the founding of the A.L.P. The Resolution was read and presented at the Reception for International Visitors held at Loyola University's Lewis Library. The Reception was attended by library and information professionals from around the world. The Resolution is on display at the Circulation Desk - be sure to look for it on your next visit.
- The Library upgraded its VTLIS computer system over July 10-12 with the help of Jerry Waddy, a VTLIS information specialist from Virginia. Although most of the improvements in the latest version are "behind the scenes" and will affect only the staff, users may already have noticed one important change: the online help functions have been completely rewritten to be simpler and more informative.
- From August 16th to August 22nd, we carried out a limited refurbishment of the entry and children's room to improve the Library's appearance and organization. Circulation staff members Kira Queneau, Isabelle Luziau, and Circulation Department Supervisor Jean-François Giraudeau deserve special mention for helping with the logistical work involved with this project.

ALP WELCOMES ALA/USIA LIBRARY FELLOW

Bonita C. Corliss, our visiting American Librarian, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her six month American Library Association/United States Information Agency Library Fellowship. Bonita holds a BA and an MLS from the University of Washington in her hometown of Seattle, and has held a wide variety of professional positions during her career, most recently with the Seattle Public Library.

While here, Bonita will be visiting each of the Library's branches in Angers, Nancy, Toulouse and Montpellier, and lending her professional experience to advise us on improving library services, particularly access to reference help.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

NEW BOOKS: Thanks to a generous donation from the **Annenberg Foundation**, the Library has been able to purchase some much-needed art books for children, including *Looking at Paintings* from Hyperion Books for Children, a series designed to present many different painters' views of a single subject, *Eyewitness Art* published by Dorling Kindersley, a series which analyzes every aspect of art in depth and builds into an invaluable reference library, and *First Impressions: Looking at Art* from Abrams, a series which examines the life and work of individual artists.

HALLOWEEN PARTY - Wednesday, October 25th at 2:30pm: Children are invited to try out their Halloween costumes a few days early... and enjoy a special Spooky Story-Time.

STORY-TIME & FILMSTRIPS continue in the Library every Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

STAFF NEWS

When **André Lardinat** retires at the end of October, the American Library in Paris will be losing a part of its history. André started work with us in 1952, and has worked with seven different directors in three different locations of the Library.

As a young employee, he helped pack up the entire collection when the Library moved from 9, rue de Téhéran to 129, avenue des Champs-Élysées. That was not the first or last move for the ALP's collection; the Library moved to its present location in 1965, and André was there to help again.

In his 43-years career, André has worked in most of the Library's departments, but has spent the majority of his time in the Library's periodicals section, where he became involved in the annual compilation of bibliographies for the CAPES and Agrégation programs. Over the last 20 years, André has assembled over 200 dossiers, working closely with French professors of American studies. He has also been responsible for answering the reference queries received by mail.

For his well-deserved retirement, he will be spending a lot of time at his home in the Midi enjoying his garden and the sunshine and may, from time to time, come back to the Paris region during the rainy fall to look for mushrooms and, hopefully, visit his friends here.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Armelle Aymonin : Children's and Young Adult Services Coordinator

Armelle has a BA and an MA from New York University, and has held several internships at the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Armelle has worked as a teacher in New York, Paris, and in the Czech Republic.

Andrea Delumeau : Reference and Information Services Librarian

Andrea is a former Fulbright Scholar and has an MLS from Florida State University. She has worked at libraries in St. Petersburg, Bucharest, and in Germany, and will be responsible for managing and improving the Library's reference services and collections.

Kira Queneau : Library Associate

Kira has a BA from Barnard College with a major in art history. She has worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Andrea Vittoz : Development Assistant

Andrea holds a Masters in International Management-AGSIM (Thunderbird) and a B.A. in Political Science, SUNY-Albany. Andrea has previously worked in marketing.

Monique Bidinger : Accountant

Monique has over 30 years experience at Compagnie Maritime des Chargeurs Réunis, Services Europe Atlantique Sud, and Compagnie Général Maritime.

INTERNSHIPS

- **Charles de Courcel** and **Camille de Peretti** each completed a two-week internship in June, working in the circulation and periodical departments.
- Smith College intern **Caroline Thomas** worked for two months this summer, during which she helped organize the CAPES/Agrégation collection for the 1995-96 academic year. She has since returned to the States to begin graduate work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- **Karen Atkinson** from the University of Rhode Island will be fulfilling the field work requirement for her professional library degree by working in the Library for two months. Karen will be working in the Research Center, compiling research bibliographies on often-requested topics on American culture and society, and will help write user guides for the Library's CD-ROM workstations.
- **JoAnne McIntosh** from Florida State University completed a two-month internship at the American Library to fulfill a field work requirement for her professional library degree. While working at the Library she helped at the reference desk and also worked on drawing up a new inter-library loan policy.

NOW AVAILABLE

FICTION

- **Pat Conroy's** *Beach Music* - his first novel in nearly ten years - has finally arrived, and if you enjoyed the haunting humor of *The Prince of Tides*, this new book is a must-read. A man who has fled to Rome with his young daughter to escape his family and his memories must confront both when he returns home to see his dying mother.
- **Carl Hiaasen** inflicts a devastating hurricane on his beloved Florida in *Stormy Weather*. Fans of *Native Tongue* will welcome the return of some familiar faces.
- **Patricia Cornwell** delivers the latest adventures of Dr. Kay Scarpetta with *From Potter's Field*.
- Private detective Kinsey Millhone returns in **Sue Grafton's** twelfth novel, "*L*" is for *Lawless*.
- **Rosamunde Pilcher** recounts the life of a young woman from boarding school to the Second World War in England in *Coming Home*.

NON-FICTION

- *High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never* by **Barbara Kingsolver** (*Pigs in Heaven*) collects twenty-five witty essays on assorted topics
- **Milan Kundera's** *Testaments Betrayed: an Essay in Nine Parts* continues Kundera's exploration of the craft of fiction begun in *The Art of the Novel*.
- Three new books examine the career of Bill Clinton: *Highwire: From the Backroads to the Beltway; the Education of Bill Clinton* by **John Brummett**, *The Dysfunctional President: Inside the Mind of Bill Clinton* by **Paul Fick**, and *First in his Class: a Biography of Bill Clinton* by **David Maraniss**.
- **David Sweetman's** *Paul Gauguin: a Complete Life* is a thorough and exhaustive biography of the post-Impressionist artist.

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS - FALL SCHEDULE

TUESDAY - SATURDAY: 10am - 7pm

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: Wednesday, November 1, 1995 & Saturday, November 11, 1995

Exceptionally, the Library will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, October 18, to set up the evening's program.

The American Library will close at 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 14, 1995.

Extended hours for ALP members with card

Monday: 10am - 7pm • Tuesday & Thursday: 7pm - 10pm • Sunday: 2pm - 7pm



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