



FEBRUARY - MARCH 1996

# EX LIBRIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

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WE WISH TO THANK  
THE OFFICIAL SPONSORS  
OF OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION HELD AT  
THE CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES  
ON OCTOBER 26TH, 1995.

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*The proposed remodeled entry of the American Library in Paris. The new glass-walled entry will feature display cases and will lead patrons directly to the information and circulation desks.  
(Philippe Jonathas, Architect)*

## CAMPAIGN 2000 : A Plan to Meet the Needs of the 21st Century

As the American Library in Paris approaches the year 2000, it remains a vital gathering place for families, students, our French and American neighbors, leaders in business and education, literary giants, and struggling young writers. Our collection and membership continue to grow. In a continuing effort to provide the best service to our members we have initiated **CAMPAIGN 2000**, an ambitious plan to improve our facility and strengthen our collections.

Recent surveys and conversations have shown that patrons place special emphasis on educational materials, children's and young adult services, and professional expertise. In response, we envision a renovated facility that will include improvements in the children's and young adult room, the reading room, our mezzanine, along with a new audiovisual facility and a multi-purpose meeting room. We are also planning upgrades to our on-line public access catalogs as well as the installation of a public Internet access terminal.

To accomplish these and other goals, a Development Committee for **CAMPAIGN 2000**, headed by Trustees Tom Rose and Robert Pigeon has begun to explore all aspects of this initiative. An estimated one million dollars will be needed for the renovation of our current space. In addition, they estimate that two million dollars is

needed to increase the library's endowment to the level needed to carry out improvements to our collection and computer system. Included in this figure are estimates for additional staffing needed to accomplish our goals.

**CAMPAIGN 2000** is a unique opportunity for everyone to participate in the creation of a strong and dynamic library designed to meet the challenges of the next century. We encourage you to come in and spend some time looking at the architect's model currently on display in the lobby. We will be happy to give anyone interested in this effort a tour and a more detailed summary of our plans for the American Library in Paris. Please call Kay Rader, Director, for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

■ **1995 attendance at the Weekly Children's Story Hour** totaled almost 1,000 children.

■ **The Sunday edition of the *New York Times*** is available on Monday at the Circulation Desk.

■ **Thanks to a gift of the *International Herald Tribune***, we have daily issues of the *New York Times* on microfilm dating back to 1991.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Reference Services Update

A Sampling of New  
Reference Books  
Now Available

"Evenings with an Author"  
Series Schedule

Special Event:  
The Chemistry of Cheese

Children's Story Hour  
Upcoming Programs

A Memorial Fund for  
Paule Lafeuille

New Books

The ALP meets the WWW

How to Be a  
FRIEND OF CAMPAIGN 2000

Special Gifts

Join the ALP Volunteers

New Corporate  
Readership Program

Our Volunteer Detective

## SELECTED NEW NON-FICTION

*ABCs of Motherhood*  
**A MESSAGE Mother Support  
Group Publication, 3rd. ed.**  
Contains information relevant for  
mothers-to-be and useful in  
raising young children in Paris.

### **I.M. Pei : Mandarin of Modernism**

**Michael Cannell**  
Whether you love or hate Pei's  
Louvre pyramid, Cannell's biog-  
raphy of the enigmatic architect  
gives new insight into the man  
and his controversial buildings.

### **The Road Ahead** **Bill Gates**

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, better  
known as the richest man in  
America, presents his vision of the  
future of the world's information  
systems and how the coming  
changes will affect us.

### **The Middle East** **Bernard Lewis**

This new volume in the *History  
of Civilisation* series charts 2,000  
years of turmoil from the rise of  
Christianity to modern times. By  
the author of *Islam and the West*.

### **The Albanians** **Miranda Vickers**

Vickers presents the history of  
Albania—perhaps the least  
known nation in the world—  
from the Ottoman Empire to the  
multi-party elections of 1992.

### **Ambrose Bierce: Alone in Bad Company**

**Roy Morris, Jr.**  
In this insightful new biography,  
Morris gives a clear-eyed but  
sympathetic account of Bierce's  
harsh and unforgiving vision,  
and the high price he had  
to pay for it in loneliness  
and spiritual isolation.

### **Ian Fleming** **Andrew Lycett**

From Fleming's school days at  
Eton, through his rocky marriage  
and work in Naval Intelligence,  
to his seclusion in Jamaica,  
Lycett reveals a man much more  
complex and interesting than his  
famous creation, James Bond.

### **Hannab Arendt -- Martin Heidegger**

**Elzbieta Ettinger**  
Drawing on previously unknown  
correspondence, Ettinger tells  
the story of the passionate and  
secret love affair between two of  
the most prominent philosophers  
of the twentieth century.

## An Update on Reference Services

Since October 1995, the reference desk has  
been staffed fulltime by professional  
librarians. ALA/USIA Library Fellow Bonita  
C. Corliss and Reference Librarian Andrea  
Delumeau are currently working on a  
project to improve reference services and  
the reference collection.

The first steps in this process are an exten-  
sive weeding of the reference collection  
with the help of volunteer librarian Laure  
Levine and the establishment of a ready  
reference collection behind the reference  
desk.

If you need help in using the library and its  
resources or have any other questions,  
please don't hesitate to ask for assistance  
from the reference librarian on duty. If in  
your opinion there are other reference tools  
that the ALP should have, please fill out a  
suggestion form.

## Children's Story Hours in February, March and April

All Children's Story Hours are held on  
Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 until 3:30.

### **FEBRUARY**

Feb. 21st George Washington's Birthday  
Feb. 28th Dr. Seuss' Birthday

African-American Stories will be read  
throughout the month of February in  
celebration of "Black History Month."

### **MARCH**

Mar. 6th Old Favorites  
Mar. 13th St. Patrick's Day  
Mar. 20th First Day of Spring  
Mar. 27th April Fool's Day

### **APRIL**

April 3rd Easter

## The Chemistry of Cheese March 29th, 7:00 PM

Cheese is more than milk and know-how.  
Sister Noella Marcellino has been working  
for years on the relationship between the  
microscopic world and the cheeses we eat  
and has even been able to reproduce the  
qualities of a French Saint Nectaire at a  
dairy in Connecticut. Join us for a discussion  
of her research sponsored by the American  
Institute of Wine and Food (France).  
A cheese tasting is included. 80 FF for AIWF  
members, 120 FF for non-AIWF members.

## A Sampling of New Reference Books

The *New Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock  
& Roll*, completely revised and updated, is  
one of the definitive sourcebooks on the  
world's music makers - from the one-hit  
wonders to the megastars.

The *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Economics*  
offers a comprehensive, up-to-date overview  
of the entire field of economics, from the  
acceleration principle to zero population  
growth.

*International Jobs: where they are, how to  
get them* by **Eric Kocher** provides a wealth  
of information about job opportunities  
around the world, including the former  
Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

*Science Fiction: the illustrated encyclopedia*  
by **John Clute** presents a decade-by-decade  
overview of every aspect of SF, from books  
to comics and films to television.

*The Encyclopedia of Utopian Literature* by  
**Mary Ellen Snodgrass** is intended to  
guide the reader through utopian and anti-  
utopian titles from the 15th century B.C. to  
the present.

## Mark your calendars for an "Evening with an Author"

**Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 PM**  
**Maria Donovan — Is Humour Dead?**

Maria Donovan is a Hungarian-born  
journalist-writer-painter. Mrs. Donovan has  
written cooking-and-travel books and was  
a regular correspondent of *Gourmet*  
magazine until she got fed up with 3-star  
luxury and took up painting instead.  
She is the author of the recently republished  
*It's a Square World*.

**Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM**  
**Word for Word**

A professional theater company dedicated  
to bringing literature to its feet, Word For  
Word performs well-known works of short  
fiction in their entirety, using a theatrical  
approach in presenting the work as it is  
written, word for word. The evening's  
program includes *Berenice* by Edgar Allen  
Poe and *The Standard of Living* by Dorothy  
Parker.

**Wednesday, April 3, 8:00 PM**  
**Alice and Daniel Jouve**  
**Paris: Birthplace of the USA**

Authors of a recently published Paris  
walking guide for the American patriot will  
introduce you to the places in Paris where  
famous Americans such as Benjamin  
Franklin, John Adams, John Paul Jones and  
others, secured the independence of the  
American colonies.

## ALP creates Memorial Fund for author and playwright Paule Lafeuille

*A woman of singular importance to the  
American community died last fall at the  
age of 93. Paule Lafeuille was an author  
and playwright with remarkable insight into  
human nature and a French teacher who  
persevered in her work nearly to her dying  
day. It was her wish that those friends who  
wanted to remember her would do so in the  
form of support for the library. In keeping  
with that wish, we are creating the Paule  
Lafeuille Memorial Fund.*

*Up until very recently Mme Lafeuille walked  
the 10 blocks from her small apartment  
on the rue de l'Université to the Champ de  
Mars, stopping off at the library to give us  
books or to find a book she needed. She also  
donated her two novels to the library collec-  
tion. We will miss her.*

*We asked Emily Lodge, one of her students,  
and the author of numerous articles, speeches  
and documentaries, to contribute these  
comments to the newsletter:*

Paule Lafeuille left behind a rich legacy  
both in her written work and in the knowl-  
edge she imparted as a teacher and philo-  
sopher. I was her student for eight years:  
if you went to her to learn French, you  
stayed to learn about life. A formidable  
presence for her diminutive size, Paule was  
immensely dignified, witty, and an adroit  
observer of humankind. If the ultimate  
wisdom is kindness, the ultimate greatness  
is humility. Paule had this greatness and  
this wisdom.

Americans were her life: she loved their  
generosity of spirit, their eagerness to learn.  
Having begun teaching French to supple-  
ment her income as a writer at the end of  
World War II, Paule knew literally thousands  
of Americans. In addition to her two novels,  
the more successful of which was *La Révolte  
de Galatée*, she co-authored with Shirley  
Kessel six plays, one of which was per-  
formed last September in Long Island, N.Y.  
It is appropriate that this "Renaissance  
woman"—erudite enough to edit Nicolas  
Ségur's *History of European Literature*—  
would want a memorial fund created in a  
place dedicated to the pursuit of wisdom.

Actors, ambassadors, and other American  
friends of France were devoted to her.  
Her method of translating English classics  
line-by-line grew out of her experience  
teaching Kirk Douglas to speak French in  
six months. But as the confidant of American  
ambassadors—Douglas and Mrs. Dillon,  
"les Houghtons", among others—her fame  
grew and American firms such as IBM and  
Davis Polk began sending her their top  
executives. Her life-long ambition to be an  
actress played itself out in her spectacular  
reading of the plays. But ultimately, the  
greatest of her talents were her insights into  
*"la comédie humaine"*.

Reading Oscar Wilde's *The Ideal Husband*  
one day, the subject of whether people  
were inherently good or evil came up.  
She explained that the range of character is  
vast—from the purely good ("who can't see  
the bad") to the somewhat good to the  
mostly bad to the inherently evil. The evil  
she truly abhorred (and she spit out the  
words) was *la mesquinerie*, all that was mean  
and petty, particularly stinginess. Then a  
serene look came over her Garbo-like face  
and she said:

*"C'est drôle, tu sais, parce que très souvent  
quand je me trouve dans des situations  
comme ça, il y a une espèce de voix  
intérieur en moi qui me dit, "Don't judge,  
Be as you are and that's all" et c'est plus  
efficace que n'importe quoi."*



The code Lafeuille lived by was never to  
hurt anyone and to find humor in the absurd.  
She made you laugh. Perhaps it was the  
intensity of the discipline by which she  
lived that made the comedy of life emerge.  
Those she chose as her friends were  
sheathed in her goodness and driven by  
her inspiration. It is appropriate that an  
institution dedicated to perfect understanding  
be the repository of her memory.

*Ms. Lodge is currently working on two  
books, "La Sagesse de Paule Lafeuille" and  
"The Lodges of Massachusetts".*

## The ALP meets the WWW

Members and non-members alike can now  
get up-to-the-minute information on the  
American Library in Paris via the Internet  
by accessing the Library's Home Page at  
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/alp/> using any World Wide Web  
browser. You'll find the latest new book  
lists, the Library's schedule and special  
event listings, as well as membership  
information, the Library's history and our  
plans for the future.

If you stop by, be sure to let us know.  
Tell us what you liked and what you'd like  
to see added in the future. Our e-mail  
address is [100142.1066@compuserve.com](mailto:100142.1066@compuserve.com)

## JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING! MARCH 19TH, 6:30 PM

On March 19th, the Library will  
close at 6:00 p.m. for the Annual  
Meeting. Members are encour-  
aged to participate, to learn  
about the plans for the Library's  
future and to meet and get to  
know the staff and Trustees.

## GIFTS FROM SPECIAL FRIENDS

We are delighted to report that  
the following gifts have been  
received by the American  
Library in Paris:

- **Joan Palevsky** donated 24  
volumes in the Library of  
America series.
- **Pierre Le-Tan** designed and  
donated the art for our new  
color posters.
- **Mrs. Edgar Keresfedjian** of  
Bloomfield, Michigan continues  
to donate classic children's books.
- **Pete Seeger** donated the  
memoirs of his grandfather,  
Charles Seeger, one of the  
founders of the Library.

## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF CAMPAIGN 2000

As **CAMPAIGN 2000** gains  
momentum there will be many  
opportunities for volunteers:

We need volunteers for the  
Fundraising Events Committee.

We are also looking for people  
who would like to volunteer  
their time in the Development  
Office to work on a variety of  
projects including fundraising  
support, programs and publicity.

Please contact Director Kay  
Rader for more information on  
how you can become a  
**FRIEND OF CAMPAIGN 2000.**

## TAKE NOTE!

**"Evenings with an Author"  
programs 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 are posted in the Library  
and announced in Paris's  
anglophone press.

## BE AN ALP VOLUNTEER!

We need volunteers to help with the Library's popular program, "Evenings with an Author."

This is a great opportunity to meet authors and to participate in the literary activities of the Library. Please call Kay Rader, Director.

### Organization of the Annual Book Sale

will get under way very soon. Volunteers are needed to help with this annual event on Sunday, May 26th, 1996. Please call Andrea Zellner, Development Officer.

## VISIT THE ALP BRANCHES

The next time you're in Angers, Toulouse, Montpellier or Nancy, remember that your ALP membership allows you to visit and use these branch libraries.

## ALP IS SUBJECT OF ALA COVER STORY

The ALP is proud to be featured on the cover of the February 1996 *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association. A copy has been posted in the circulation desk area.



10, RUE DU GÉNÉRAL CAMOU  
75007 PARIS

## Library introduces new Corporate Readership Program

The American Library in Paris has created a special introductory membership to corporations for all employees and their immediate families. The new program gives employees and their families personalized membership cards for six months.

**The Corporate Readership Program** entitles members to borrowing privileges, access to over 90,000 books, including children's materials, reference books, and an excellent adult collection which covers all subjects. Families with children are invited to attend the Library's weekly Story Hour and Holiday Celebration on Wednesday afternoons.

In addition, members will be able to use over 350 periodical subscriptions in the library's state-of-the-art Research Center. Professional reference librarians are always on hand to assist our members.

Corporate employees may take advantage of this program with a corporate donation of 5.000FF to the American Library in Paris. There is no limit to the number of employees who may use the program within six months of the company's donation.

Employees are asked to bring a letter of identification stating that they are associated with the company. They will also need to

bring a current photograph and proof of address in the form of a bill from France Télécom or EDF/GDF.

For additional information on the Corporate Readership Program, please contact Andrea Zellner, Development Officer.

## Volunteer Detective searches through ALP archives

Catharine P. Reynolds is on the prowl, wandering the stacks of the American Library in Paris in search of the Library's own history. Armed with a notebook computer, she delves through the Library's basement archives, juxtaposing the letters and minutes there against photographs and events in the wider world in an effort to amplify the record of the Library's past and chronicle those associated with it.

Mrs. Reynolds, a contributing editor of *Gourmet* magazine who has devoted most of her professional career to wading through dusty archives, is to be heard crowing and chortling as she pieces together our momentous history. She would heartily appreciate any insights members can offer, either exhumed from their own memories or uncovered in their reading.

Contact Mrs. Reynolds through the Library's administrative office at 45.51.76.84.

## OPENING HOURS

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 10 AM - 7 PM.  
CLOSED SUNDAYS, MONDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

### EXCEPTIONAL HOURS

THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE AT 6 PM ON MARCH 19TH FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING  
CLOSED APRIL 8TH, EASTER MONDAY