



WINTER 1997

# EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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

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**OUR WARMEST THANKS TO  
THE OFFICIAL SPONSORS  
OF THE JUNE 4, 1996, DINNER  
IN HONOR OF WILLIAM STYRON  
AT THE  
U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.**

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
SEAGRAM GLOBAL BRANDS DIVISION  
FOR DONATING  
THE WINE AND CHAMPAGNE**

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## CAMPAIGN 2000 Hits the \$1,000,000 Mark!

In early December the Library's CAMPAIGN 2000 drive for renovation and increased endowment passed the \$1-million line. We are now one third of the way toward our \$3-million goal. We hope to begin the renovation in August, pending the receipt of additional gifts.

The five largest gifts, totaling \$762,500, have come from foundations, including some of the staunchest of the Library's traditional supporters: the Dillon Fund, the Scaler Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, and the Florence Gould Foundation. In addition, the American Library Association, one of the Library's original benefactors, has given \$100,000.

The Library is grateful to all the members and friends who have contributed to the fund. And many thanks to Robert Pigeon and Tom Rose, Co-Chairmen of the Development Committee, to Anne Lechartier, our new Development Officer, and to the other members of our Development Committee for the energy and enthusiasm they are bringing to the campaign.

The renovation will transform the Library into a more open, spacious, and comfortable place. At the entrance, a 15-foot glass arch and two sets of glass doors will brighten the reception area. The Reading Room will be expanded and electrical outlets provided for laptop computers. The Children's and Young Adults' area, too, will be larger and will have an adjacent soundproof activities room for the weekly Children's Story Hour and audiovisual presentations. The new U-shaped mezzanine will make almost all of the Library's books readily accessible in open stacks.

CAMPAIGN 2000 is a unique opportunity for everyone to help sustain the strength and dynamism of the Library and ready it to rise to the challenges of the next century. We urge everyone to come in, look at the architectural model on display near the front desk, and have a tour of the Library.

Please call Kay Rader, Library Director, or Anne Lechartier, Development Officer, for more information.

## A Generous Gift from the Annenberg Foundation

Thanks to the suggestion of Gregory Weingarten, Library Trustee and Member of the Advisory Board of the **Annenberg Foundation**, the Foundation donated \$50,000 for the book and multimedia collections. The gift made possible the purchase of *Grove's Dictionary of Art*, which has been described as the largest international collaboration in the history of art publishing. The 34-volume work, which covers every visual art since the Stone Age except movies, includes over 20,000 biographical entries, 15,000 illustrations, and an index of over 670,000 entries.

The **Annenberg Foundation** gift will enable the Library to develop its collection of books, audiocassettes, and CD-ROMs about American culture. This collection will cover American topics ranging from bluegrass music and jazz to Native American and Cajun cultures.

## Electronic Donations Brighten the New Year

### COMPUTERS FROM IBM-FRANCE

The Library can really celebrate the New Year with the arrival of five IBM Aptiva computers from **IBM-France**. The computers will be installed in the Development and Accounting Offices, allowing us to upgrade the fund-raising and accounting programs. Three computers will be used for CD-ROM reference tools and subscriptions such as the *International Herald Tribune*.

### CIGNA DONATES COMPUTERS

**CIGNA Insurance Company of Europe** has donated three personal computers to the Library. The computers will be used in the Research Center and in the staff offices. Thank you to Library Trustee Robert R. Pigeon, who is Managing Director of CIGNA Insurance Company of Europe, the Western Group.

## THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

Anne Dennery and Andrea Valerio are volunteers who help with the ALP's technical services and in the process get to admire all the new books coming into the Library.

Anne and Andrea's help enables us to get new books onto the shelves more quickly.

We want to thank all our volunteers for their help on the Welcome Desk, in the office, and throughout the Library.

## SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS SPRING PROGRAM

SCBWI invites you to an evening with a funny guy on Monday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Library. Marvin Terban will present "Who says English can't be fun?" or "Confessions of a Children's Book Author."

SCBWI and ALP members: 50 FF; non-members: 75 FF.

Monday, May 19, at the Library, author/illustrator Deborah Durland DeSaix will lead a workshop on "Breaking In: The U.S. Children's Book Market."

Pre-registration: SCBWI and ALP members 50 FF; non-members 100 FF.

At the door: SCBWI and ALP members 50 FF; non-members 100 FF.

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 01 42 73 33 75 to reserve.

## AIWF CONFERENCE SERIES

Friday evening, April 25, The American Institute of Wine and

Food invites you to attend "Rabelais: Conviviality of the Table," featuring Tim Tomasik, currently teaching at the

Université de Montpellier on an exchange program from the University of Minnesota.

Wine reception at 7:30 p.m.; program at 8:00 p.m.

AIWF and American Library members: 60 FF; non-members: 100 FF. Please reserve your place by contacting Sam Taub, 5, rue Marie-Daivy, 75014 Paris, or by e-mail: sam\_taub@sky.fr

## EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR A Library Tradition Since the 1930s

**Wednesday, February 26**  
**Madeleine Deschamps:**

**French Taste in the Time of Napoleon**  
Ms. Deschamps will give a slide lecture on the decorative arts and *art de vivre* in the early 19th century, a particularly lavish time in France, and the influence the Empire style had in the United States. Ms. Deschamps is the author of *Empire* (Abbeville Press, 1994), which was awarded the Grand Prix de la Fondation Napoléon.

**Wednesday, March 5**  
**Mavis Gallant: The Collected Stories**

The author will read from this rich and varied collection, which brings together stories from previous books written over four decades. Fran Lebowitz has said of Ms. Gallant: "The irrefutable master of the short story in English, Mavis Gallant has, among her colleagues, many admirers but no peer. She is the standout. She is the standard-bearer. She is the standard."

**Wednesday, March 26**  
**Thirza Vallois: Around and About Paris**

Thirza Vallois, an *agrégée* of the Sorbonne, has lived in Paris for over 30 years and knows Paris stone by stone. In her *Around and About Paris* trilogy she banishes old myths and clichés and offers the reader a true understanding of Paris and the French. Ms. Vallois will introduce the third volume of her trilogy, *New Horizons: Haussmann's Annexation (13 to 20th arrondissements)*. According to the author, this is an area that is often overlooked because of its remoteness from the heart of the city, yet which, for nearly 100 years was largely its center of action.

**Wednesday, April 2**  
**Adam Gopnik: Writing the "Paris Journal"**

Adam Gopnik, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* for more than ten years and its art critic until his move to Paris in the summer of 1995, has been writing *The New Yorker's* "Paris Journal." During his program he will discuss writing about France and the French at the end of the twentieth century.

## Happy Birthday, Sylvia Beach!

Erzsi Deak, Mr. and Mrs. John Baxter, and the American Library in Paris present a program of readings to celebrate the 110th birthday of Sylvia Beach, founder of the original Shakespeare & Co., the first English-language bookstore in Paris, and first publisher of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The Library will also put on display its collection on Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation. *Friday, March 14th, at 8:00 p.m., RSVP at 01.42.73.33.75.*

**Wednesday, April 9**  
**Adrienne Blue: On Kissing:**

**from the Metaphysical to the Erotic**  
A *Sunday Times* correspondent and visiting lecturer at City University in London, Ms. Blue offers remarkable insight into one of life's greatest pleasures and tells why the kiss is one of the most powerful and evocative gestures in Western culture. The love scenes of Garbo, the yearnings of Proust, and the sensuality of Colette are put into fascinating perspective in a book that maps scientific, artistic, and emotional terrain.



The cast of *Xingu*, to be performed by Word for Word May 14th, directed by Mary Coleman.

**Wednesday, May 14**  
**Word for Word:**

**San Francisco Theater Troupe**  
The troupe performs *Xingu*, Edith Wharton's comedy of manners. It is the tale of six women in a ladies' lunch club and their pretensions to erudition and elegance and how those pretensions are shattered with the much-anticipated appearance of formidable author Osric Dane. Word for Word stages literary works, using the authors' texts verbatim (including "he says" and "she says"). This program is made possible by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation and the support of Air France.

**Wednesday, May 21**  
**Carolyn Boyle-Turner: The Discovery of Brittany: Gauguin and the Pont-Aven Group**

In a lecture illustrated with slides, Caroline Boyle-Turner, the Director of the Pont-Aven School of Art, will discuss why artists went to Pont-Aven and what they did there. Ms. Boyle-Turner is Adjunct Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design.

**Wednesday, June 11**  
**Pharos: New Poetry and Prose from Paris**  
A group reading of poetry and fiction by contributors to the Paris literary magazine *Pharos*. Produced by the Creative Writing Workshop run at the British Institute in Paris by Alice Notley and Douglas Olivier, *Pharos* publishes both international and Paris-based writers.

Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public. Reception at 7:30 p.m. Programs begin at 8 p.m.

## Welcome to the new USA Foundation

The USA Foundation is the Library's American antenna, whose purpose is to make the Library better known in the United States and to help raise funds. We welcome five new members to the Board of Directors of the Foundation, all of whom have close ties to France and to libraries.

The new Chairman of the USA Foundation is Stephen Newton, who is no stranger to Paris. Mr. Newton, who was Managing Director at Russell Reynolds Associates in Paris for several years, now holds the same position at the firm's Houston office.



William Styron (right), Member of the Board of Directors of the USA Foundation, at the June 5th book signing in the Library, with Pheleas Kelley (center) and Trustee Berna Huebner (left).

William Styron, author of many books, including *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, *Sophie's Choice*, and *Darkness Visible*, has received many awards and honors, among them the 1968 Pulitzer Prize for *Nat Turner* and the 1980 National Book Award for *Sophie's Choice*. He is a member of the Académie Goncourt and a Commandeur de la Légion d'honneur. He has been an advisory editor at the *Paris Review* since 1952. Mr. Styron was the guest of honor at the Library's 1996 Spring Gala. He lives in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The other author-member of the USA Foundation is Mary Jo Salter, poet and author of children's books. Ms. Salter has spent a great deal of time in Paris and is a member of the Library. She is coeditor of the *Norton Anthology of Poetry*, a former Guggenheim Fellow in poetry, and winner of the Witter Bynner Prize for Poetry. She gave a reading of her poetry at the Library on January 22.

George B. Domblaser, Jr., is a managing director of Trainer, Wortham & Co., an investment counseling firm. A graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, he lives in Marion, Massachusetts, and New York City.

Dr. Paul Wasserman is Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the University of Maryland College of Library and Information Science. He is also former President of the International Federation of Library Associations.

## Visit the ALP Booth at the 1997 Salon du Livre!

After the Library's successful participation in the 1996 Salon du Livre, the ALP will again have a booth. The 1997 Salon du Livre will be held March 12-17 at the Porte de Versailles. This huge book fair, which last year attracted more than 200,000 visitors, is a perfect opportunity for the Library to make itself more widely known in the French literary community. The guest of honor this year will be Japan. Last year the United States was the special guest.

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

All Children's Story Hours are held Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for children 3 to 5 years old.

### FEBRUARY

February 19 George Washington's Birthday  
February 26 Dr. Seuss's Birthday

### MARCH

March 5 Princes and Princesses  
March 12 St. Patrick's Day  
March 19 End of Winter Sleep  
March 26 Easter

### APRIL

April 2 April Fool's Day  
April 9 Secrets in Names  
April 16 Earth Day  
April 23 Dog Days and Cat Naps

## ALP in Cyberspace

Were you aware that the media coverage of the U.S. presidential elections included the American Library in Paris? The ALP was featured on a special U.S. election Internet site sponsored by Microsoft France. The site offered information on the American voting system, the 1996 campaign, and, under the title *En Direct de Paris*, profiles of prominent American institutions and personalities in Paris. The Library's profile, done by the Associated Press, stressed the ALP's important role in providing information about American culture and current affairs to the French community and described how the Library helped students and journalists with assignments related to the elections.

We are also pleased to announce that the ALP's Montpellier branch now has a home page of its own, featuring the Statue of Liberty in a rocking chair that really rocks. (<http://members.aol.com/kevinlight>).

## GOURMET GIFT

Thank you to Catharine P. Reynolds for giving the Library a gift subscription to *Gourmet* magazine. (available in only one library in France: Bureau Interprofessionnel du Cognac.)

## NEW PERIODICALS AVAILABLE

As part of a review of the ALP's periodical collection over the past year, we have taken out the following new subscriptions:

**Wired** (available only at four other libraries in France, including the Bibliothèque Nationale and Paris IIIe)

**American Indian Quarterly** (available nowhere else in France)

**Amerasia Journal: The National Interdisciplinary Journal of Scholarship, Criticism, and Literature on Asian and Pacific Americans** (available only at the Bibliothèque Nationale)

**Americas Review: A Review of Hispanic Literature and Art of the USA** (available only at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme)

**Barron's National Business and Financial Weekly** (available only at the Bibliothèque Nationale and the INSEAD business school, plus three libraries elsewhere in France)

**Architectural Digest** (available only at four French libraries, three of them in Paris)

**Forbes** (available at nine other libraries in France, three of them in Paris)

**Home Office Computing** (available nowhere else in France)

**Première** (available only at the Bibliothèque Nationale)

The figures about availability in French libraries are based on *Myriade*, the national collective serials catalog on CD-ROM.

COMING SOON:  
A subscription to **The Economist**

If there are any other titles to which you think the Library should subscribe, please fill out a suggestion form, available at the Welcome Desk.

## HOURS

The American Library in Paris is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

No extended hours will be available on March 31 and May 19.

The Library will be closed on May 1 and 8.

The Library will close at 6 p.m. for Board of Trustee meetings on March 18 and June 17.

## VISIT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BRANCHES

### Angers

60, rue Boisnet

### Montpellier

11, rue Saint-Louis

### Nancy

34, Cours Léopold

### Toulouse

56, rue du Taur

## ALP Strengthens Ties with City of Paris Library System

After the June 13 visit of Mme Hélène Macé de Lépinay, Deputy Mayor of Paris for Cultural Affairs, the Library was contacted by M. Michel Sineux, Deputy Head of the city's Office of Libraries and the Book, who offered to organize visits for ALP staff to selected libraries and sections of the city's library system. On November 18, M. Yves Alix, head of Technical Services, gave staff members a behind-the-scenes view of the system's Technical Services unit. M. Alix said the Library could use the Technical Services' communication system to send information about ALP activities to all Paris library branches. On December 3, staff members visited the two municipal libraries in the 7th arrondissement. Mme Roselyne Menegon, Director of the Bibliothèque Amélie, and M. Michel Netzer, Director of the Bibliothèque St. Simon, gave very informative tours of their institutions and expressed an interest in working with the American Library in Paris.

## Join us at the Annual Meeting: March 18!

Circle March 18 in your datebook and join us for the Library's Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Reading Room. This is a chance for Members to participate with Staff and Trustees in shaping Library programs. The meeting will include an update on CAMPAIGN 2000 and description of the renovation plans to improve and expand the Library's facilities. The Library will close to non-Members at 6:00 p.m.

## Special Visitors from New York

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Scheine, from Pound Ridge, New York, came to the Library in November. It was Mrs. Scheine's brother, David Marlowe, who gave the Library the bust of World War I poet Alan Seeger that is now on display. Mr. Marlowe's great-grandmother, Mary Brush, sculpted the bust. The Scheines are friends of Pete Seeger, whose grandfather Charles L. Seeger helped found the ALP in memory of his poet-son, Alan, who was killed in 1916. The Scheines donated several items to the Library's growing archive of Seeger materials.



*The Library's Christmas Party, December 8th, 1996, was a huge success. Among the highlights were the Puppet Theatre, hosted by ALP Children's Librarian Armelle Aymonin (right) and Jacques Barot, and readings by Mary Jo Salter and Ernest Gaines.*

*Thank you to the Mona Bismarck Foundation; Library Trustees Lynn Kelley (Chair, Christmas Party Committee), Mary Beth Bebrent, Berna Huebner, Linda Emmet, Nancy Webster, Robert Gogel, and Paul Horne; friends, volunteers, and staff Emma de Courcel, Karen Deguise, Charlie Huebner, David Huebner, Phelps Kelley, Anne Lechartier, Barbara Mueller, Hervé and Kira Queneau, and Catharine Reynolds. Special thanks to Mimi Horne for playing the carols.*



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