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 $10,000.

The Library is grateful to all the members and friends who have contributed to the fund. And many thanks to Robert Pingeon 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 bibliographical 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. Pingeon, who is Managing Director of CIGNA Insurance Company of Europe, the Western Group.
ENIWINGS WITH AN AUTHOR
A Library Tradition Since the 1930s

Wednesday, February 26
Madeline 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 (Alveville Press, 1994), which was awarded the Grand Prix du Livre Historique Napoleon.

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. Franz Krzewitz has said of Ms. Gallant: "The irresistible master of the short story in English, Mavis Gallant has, among her colleagues, many admirers but no peer. She is the standard. She is the standard-bearer. She is the standard."

Wednesday, March 26
Thirza Vaillos: Around and About Paris
Thirza Vaillos, an agronomist of the Normandy, has lived in Paris for over 30 years and knows Paris stone by stone. In her Around and About Paris trilogy she banishes old clichés and clichés and offers the reader a true understanding of Paris and the French. Ms. Vaillos will introduce the third volume of her trilogy, New Horizons: Faunismianz Association (3.2 to 20arrondissements).

Welcome to the new USA Foundation
The USA Foundation is the Library’s Americandy Part in the salute to literature, 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 Chair of the USA Foundation is Stephen Newman, who runs a large Parisian bookstore. Mr. Newman, who was Managing Director at Russell Reynolds Associates in Paris for several years, now holds the same position at the firm’s Houston office.

Visit the ALP Booth at the 1997 Salon du Livre!
After the Library’s successful participation in last year’s 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. Last year’s booth attracted more than 200,000 visitors, a perfect opportunity for the Library to make itself known in the French literary community. The guest of honor this year will be Japan. Last year the United States was the special guest.

William Storrs (right), member of the Board of Directors of the USA Foundation, and actress 5th book signing in the Library, with Philip Kelley (center) and Therese Isabelle Hennin (left). William Storrs was the founder of the USA Foundation, including The Confessions of Nat Turner, Sophie’s Choice, and Darkness Visible, has received many awards and honors, among them the 1958 Pulitzer Prize for Nat Turner and the 1980 National Book Award for Sophie’s Choice. The Library has also given a literary award to the Académie Goncourt and a Commander de la Légion d’honneur. He has been an advisory editor at the Paris Review since 1952. Mr. Storrs 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 Foun- dation is Mary Jo Saller, poet and author of children’s books. Mr. Saller has spent a great deal of time in Paris and is a member of the Library. She is coordinator 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.

Brock D. Olds, a managing director of Frenchem, Wortham & Co., is an important figure in providing information about American culture and current affairs to the French community and describes how the Library helped students and journalists with assignments related to the election.

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 rocks on a web page.
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 Meneccon, 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 Ayronin (right) and Jacques Barot, and readings by Mary Jo Salter and Ernst Gaines.

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