



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUE, NOVEMBER, 1999

# EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION  
TO THE OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF  
"AN EVENING WITH GORE VIDAL"  
MAY 4, 1999

UNDER THE PATRONAGE  
OF THE AMBASSADOR OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND MRS. ROHATYN

THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

AT&T SOLUTIONS

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STURGE INSURANCE AGENCIES

AND TO

CHÂTEAU DE BOURSULT

AND

CHANEL

FOR THEIR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

## Refurbishment Begins ALP's 80th Anniversary Celebration

The American Library in Paris will celebrate 80 years of community service in the year 2000. In honor of this anniversary, the Library will undergo a refurbishment to include fresh paint, new carpet, safety and handicapped exits, and much more. The refurbishment project has been spearheaded by the Building Committee chaired by Trustee Nancy Webster.

**THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE FOR THIS PROJECT ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999, AND WILL REOPEN TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2000.**

Beginning Thursday, December 9, members will be able to check out four additional books (excluding the CAPES-Agrégation Collection). Books checked out prior to December 14 will be due January 14, 2000. The book drop will be closed and renewals by telephone may not be possible during the time the Library is closed.

No fines will be charged for books returned during the month of January. Take advantage of this opportunity to bring in all those long overdue books.

If you need to contact the Library during the time we are closed, please call: 01 53 59 12 62 or 01 53 59 12 65.

Thank you for your understanding.

### WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE:

THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION  
THE FLORENCE GOULD FOUNDATION  
THE DILLON FUND  
IRVING BERLIN CHARITABLE TRUST  
JP MORGAN  
THE SCALER FOUNDATION  
THE FRENCH AMERICAN CHARITABLE TRUST  
LINDA EMMET  
SARAH DE LENCQUESAING

SPECIAL GIFTS FOR THE  
CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT ROOM  
THE SUSSNER FAMILY  
(donation for new furniture)  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WIVES OF EUROPEANS  
(grant for new furniture)

## American Studies Collection Gift from the Annenberg Foundation

The Library's American Studies collection will be strengthened by a recent gift from the Annenberg Foundation. The gift will be used to purchase books and audio-visual materials on American history, literature, film, social studies, art, and popular culture.

THANK YOU  
TO THESE DONORS  
FOR RECENT GIFTS TO  
THE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

THE STARR FOUNDATION

THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

THE FELIX AND ELIZABETH ROHATYN  
FOUNDATION

## Coming Events

**Monday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.**

"Parents as First Teachers" featuring Ann Pleshett Murphy, editor-at-large of *Parents Magazine*, and editor of *The Parents Answer Book*. The program will include a presentation by Ms. Murphy, questions and answers, and a display of selected books on parenting available in the Library. Open to members and non-members. Families are welcome!

**Thursday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.**

The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, "Author to Editor: Query Letter - Secrets of the Pros" 50FF, SCBWI and ALP members; 100FF non-members

**Sunday, December 5,**

American Library in Paris Annual Holiday Party, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

at the American Church in Paris Refreshments, caroling, storytelling, games, and gift books for the children. 45FF per adult; 20FF per child. Please reserve by Wednesday, November 24.

"A ROOM  
WITHOUT BOOKS  
IS LIKE A BODY  
WITHOUT A SOUL."

-Cicero

SEE REVERSE FOR A SHORT HISTORY  
OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS.

# A Short History of the Library

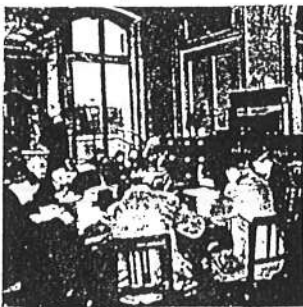
1917

The American Library Association establishes the Library War Service, sending books to France for the doughboys in the trenches.



1920

With community support and 30,000 books left from the Library War Service, the American Library Association founds the American Library in Paris, at 10 rue de l'Élysée.



1923-25

The Library publishes *Ex Libris*, an illustrated monthly review. Contributors include Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein.



1924

Inauguration of the Library's Reference Service on International Affairs, thanks to Carnegie Corporation and Laura Spelman Rockefeller grants.

1928

Publication of Stephen Vincent Benét's epic, *John Brown's Body*, written at the American Library in Paris.

1933

A writers' program is created, a forerunner of Evenings with Authors. It features writers such as André Gide, Henry Miller, Gertrude Stein, and Colette.



1936

Beset by financial problems during the Depression, the Library must find new premises. Its 60,000 volumes are moved in 2,000 cases to 9 rue de Téhéran, in the 17th district of Paris, in time for a Thanksgiving inauguration.

1939

The Library institutes free book service for French and British soldiers. There is heavy use by civilians due to the closing of French libraries. Curfew requires the Library to close at 5:00 p.m.

1940-41

Library Director Dorothy Reeder keeps the Library open. Books are secretly carried to Jewish members. Certain works by Hemingway, Steinbeck, and others are proscribed. Reeder is sent back to the U.S. in June 1941 for her own safety.

1948

A Left Bank Branch opens on Boulevard St. Germain, to close 6 years later, when branches begin to open in the provinces.

1950

The Library celebrates its 30th anniversary in the Mazarin Gallery of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

1951

Sylvia Beach closes Shakespeare & Co., and gives its circulating library to the American Library.

1952

The Library moves to spacious and elegant quarters at 129 ave. des Champs-Élysées.

1953

Senator Joe McCarthy sends Roy Cohn and David Schine to the Library to search for anti-American books. They are turned away at the door.

A benefit is held for the Library in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York: a Dior fashion show, attended by Christian Dior himself.



1955

The American Library makes available the first collection of Braille books in English on the European continent.

1960s and 70s

Library membership increases. Patrons include Richard Wright, Irwin Shaw, William Styron, and Mary McCarthy.

1964

After losing its lease on the Champs-Élysées locale (where Publicis then built *Le Drugstore*), the Library finally purchases its premises, at 10 rue du Général Camou.

1970

Ambassador C. Douglas Dillon attends the 50th anniversary gala. The Dillon Fund later finances construction of the Dillon Wing.

1989

The Library catalog is computerized.

1992

Construction of the Research Center and receipt of books from the estate of Marlene Dietrich.



1995

The Library celebrates its 75th anniversary with a gala at the Château de Versailles.

1998

Internet becomes available to patrons of the Library. Programs such as Evenings with Authors, Children's Story Hours, and the Kids' Summer Reading Program draw crowds.

2000

The Library celebrates its 80th anniversary.