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THE ALP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2003

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GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

Over the spring and summer, the Library has received grants from several foundations, as well as generous gifts from corporations and individuals. Several publishing companies donated a wide selection of outstanding reference materials to the collection.

Our deepest appreciation to the following generous supporters:

The Annenberg Foundation
The William and Sakurako Fisher Fund
The Irving Berlin Charitable Trust

The Woodward Foundation
Merchant/Ivory Productions

Fox Searchlight
Adelaide d'Eudeville
Jim and Lynne Pasquarette
Peter Ruffner
Robert and Sandra Gogel
The S. Prentiss Bailey Fund

Michelin Guides
Scarecrow Press
Columbia University Press

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Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You! Avant-Premiere of *Le Divorce* on September 30 Will Benefit the American Library in Paris

Members and friends of the American Library in Paris, as well as anyone interested in supporting ALP, are invited to attend the avant-premiere of the film *Le Divorce* (a Merchant/Ivory film), starring Kate Hudson, Naomi Watts, Leslie Caron, and Thierry Lhermite. The movie is based on the novel penned by Diane Johnson (a member of the Library Board of Trustees), who will be speaking about the experience of turning a successful novel into a viable film the following evening at the Library (see Evening Programs, p. 2).

This special presentation is a benefit for the Library, graciously donated by Fox Searchlight (the distributor) and Merchant/Ivory Productions. The film was released during the summer in the U.S., where it is enjoying great success at the box office; it will be released in France October 8.

Tuesday, September 30, 9:00 p.m.
(21.00 h) at UGC/Bercy
(2, cour St. Emilion, Paris 12e;
Metro: Cour St. Emilion)

Cost: 10 euros per ticket

Seats are limited, so please get your tickets early. Tickets will be mailed to purchasers until September 25; after that date, you must pick them up at the Library.

Your Library Needs You— Volunteer!

Do you have a talent to share? Do you like being around books? People? Do you have great marketing ideas? Can you draw? Maybe you like to sit quietly at a table and stuff envelopes—as long as you know your efforts are appreciated and you're really helping. We need you.

The Library exists because of the efforts of volunteers. In the distant past, the entire staff was composed of volunteers. More recently, major programs were under the direction of and were supported by volunteers. As we continue to grow and attract new members and try to expand our programs, we need to expand our volunteer force as well. From Circulation (checking books in and out, shelving) to writing creative marketing copy, newsletter articles, designing ad pieces, or assisting with

fundraising and stuffing envelopes, we have many volunteer opportunities. Please note: volunteers **must** be able to commit to a certain number of hours on a regular basis.

Please contact Adele Witt, Assistant Director, if you are able to help. We especially need volunteers to assist with checking books in and out.
(01 53 59 12 65), adwitt@noos.fr.

Members' Perceptions of ALP from the 2002 Survey

This is the second part of the report on the survey taken last fall from our members. Note that surveys were sent only to individuals (adults) and families; it was impossible to contact the many day users, and it was felt that responses from student users would be extremely low. The majority of the Library's operating funds come from individual adult patrons and families, thus, the staff and Board of Trustees have considered the responses seriously (and continue to do so). We would like to find ways to make ALP an even better Library and hope you will continue to provide us with input and helpful suggestions.

Atmosphere/Overall

What our members like:

- * The existence of an American Library in Paris. The simple fact that the Library exists and is available offers "peace of mind" and a significant "level of comfort" in an unfamiliar setting.
 - * Members indicated feeling at home when they are at the library.
 - * Renewing books over the phone and via Internet.
 - * Book lists, especially bestsellers and children's materials.
 - * Browsing the open stacks at ALP.
 - * Newsletters, message board, Web site and other communication materials are important to our readers, as long as they are timely and reader-friendly.
- *** **Staff response:** We are extremely happy that the Library is so well-regarded. We work hard to make it a welcoming place, and, when it's "rush hour" at the Circulation Desk, we ask for your patience.

Renewing books via phone and e-mail is a nice benefit, but we are trying to raise money now for a system that will display the catalog online and allow members with Internet access from

The Staff Is Reading...

The staff and interns all read a lot over the summer! Here is a short list of books we consumed (please note that, due to widely ranging tastes, there is no logical relationship among these books):

A Prayer for Owen Meany, John Irving F Ir82
America's Dream, Esmeralda Santiago F Sa591
Skinny Legs and All, Tom Robbins F R538
Life of Pi, Yann Martel, F M361
The Seven Ages of Paris, Alistair Horne 944.361 H783s
The Shape of Snakes, Minette Walters M WALTER (a sound recording is also available)
The Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown F BROWN (new fiction)
Angels and Demons, Dan Brown F BROWN (new fiction)
A Small Death in Lisbon, Robert Wilson M WILSON
Look at Me, Jennifer Egan (in cataloging)
Myra Breckinridge, Gore Vidal F V6671
Blood of Victory, Alan Furst F F983 (new fiction)
Courting Trouble, Lisa Scottoline M SCOTTO (stacks)
The Vendetta Defense, Lisa Scottoline M SCOTTO (mysteries)
Moment of Truth, Lisa Scottoline M SCOTTO (stacks)
Father and Son, Edmund Gosse B G695

Survey (continued from p. 1)

home to browse the catalog, reserve books, and renew online. It will also permit e-mail notification of membership expiration and items that are overdue. Demonstrations by vendors are underway now. We think this will benefit everyone!

Browsing the stacks is a great way to find related materials and sometimes

Survey (continued)

titles you didn't know you wanted. But please help us by *not* re-shelving your own books. We can manage our collection better if we know what is being used.

We appreciate comments about our Library communications. They are time-consuming, and we have a small staff. Please bear with us if we fall behind occasionally.

What our members would like to change or improve:

* Location. Many of the respondents find it difficult to reach ALP by public transportation.

* Parking also poses a problem for those members who drive from out-of-town.

* Longer opening hours, whether Sundays and Mondays or later one evening. Sundays are particularly important for working members, non-Parisians, and families with kids.

* There is some concern regarding the noise level, especially during children's story hours.

* There is a need for restored, refurbished restrooms.

* A coffee/drinks machine in the ALP would be a plus.

* A few readers would like to check out older issues of periodicals. "A comfortable reading area" with "cozy armchairs" for a relaxed reading experience.

* A public phone installation.

* The separation of AUP and ALP appears to be an issue for those members who frequent the library mainly for research purposes.

* A small number expressed their desire to bring their accompanying dogs. They'd like to see a waiting area established for pets.

* A book club. In addition, some members said they would like to have reading advice from ALP, as well as the list of book club picks posted at the Library.

*** Staff response: There are some great ideas here. The location issue has been raised often, ever since we moved here, but this is a major decision. The Board of Trustees continues to weigh and explore various options.

Parking is a Parisian problem, and we really can't help with that. There are many buses that do come practically to our door, however.

There have been many requests for longer opening hours. Our current contracts do not permit Sunday hours, but staying open late one evening could be done with some re-structuring. Would members be interested in longer hours one evening in return for the Library opening later one morning or closing earlier on another evening? We will have a sheet at Circulation for you to give us your opinions. Would any members stay as volunteers during those evenings?

To reduce the noise level from the Children's Room, we are looking into creating a plexiglass noise barrier (to keep the light and open feel), as well as adding higher bookcases to block some of the noise.

We are getting bids for new toilets.

Coffee is a great idea, but unfortunately we lack the space. The same is true for a "comfortable reading area."

We do check out some periodicals, but "older" issues could mean anything. Archival materials have research value and are often not replaceable.

We will ask France Telecom to install a pay phone outside the Library, but as there is one not too far up Avenue de la Bourdonnais, they very likely won't see the need. We can try.

ALP and the University are exploring ways to extend our cooperation. In addition to using the same remote storage facility, we are discussing interlibrary loan. Until we can assess the impact of such an arrangement on staff time, however, we can't promise to implement such a process.

The staff is partial to dogs, but we have many young children in the Library, and they are often afraid of dogs (hence, the "no dog" rule). If you must bring your pet, please check with the Circulation staff to see what solution we can offer.

We have posted a sign-up sheet for those who are interested in starting a Book Club (ask at the Reference Desk). A book club would have to meet during Library hours, or, if members preferred evening hours, it could be hosted at members' homes on a rotating basis. And the staff is always happy to assist with reading advice.

The Collection

There is an overall degree of satisfaction with the current collection, especially the periodicals, and collections on literature, literary criticism, and history. Our readers also love the mystery section and generally praise the overall fiction and general nonfiction collections. Many families remarked on the excellent materials for young children.

Library members are readers who are both dedicated and perceptive. Their suggestions for improvement are excellent, and we will try our best to implement them, within the constraints of our book budget.

Some suggestions were:

Carry all the bestsellers;

Update the collection in the areas of philosophy, general fiction and nonfiction, and the arts;

More materials (print and nonprint) for older children and teens;

Add to the audiovisual collection, especially DVDs;

A few readers suggested a thematic organization for new books (now organized by call number).

***Staff response: We try to buy essential reference materials and popular bestsellers and what we think will be significant nonfiction based on reviews in the professional literature. We also take suggestions from readers. Our book budget is very limited, because the cost of everything else (from insurance to periodical subscriptions) keeps rising. Generous members who participated in the "Adopt a Book" program last year helped us obtain many titles we ordinarily would not be able to afford. Please consider "Adopting a Book" (forms are available at the Circulation Desk. And please consider larger donations earmarked for book purchases.

We did receive a significant gift that allowed us to purchase materials for the Children's Room, and many of these books are for older children or teens. Also, many families who leave Paris donate their videos and DVDs, which helps build the audiovisual collection.

If you don't see a new title on the shelf, check the catalog and put a hold on it! Our new books circulate rapidly, so be sure your name gets onto the list.

Fall Programs for Children and Young Adults

For more information or to sign up, call 01.53.59.12.60, or e-mail Michelle Holder, Children's Librarian, at: mholder@noos.fr

Weekly Story Hours, Children 3 to 5 Years Old

No sign-up necessary.

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 or 2:30 to 3:30

A lively hour of fun, with stories, songs, rhymes, and books. Filmstrips, puppets, feltboard stories too!

September Themes:

24 Old Friends, New Friends

October Themes:

1 Looking in the Library

8 Cool Colors

15 Big, Bigger, Biggest

22 When I Grow Up

29 Halloween Fun*

*Wear your costume to Story Hour!

November Themes:

5 My House

12 Pigs a-Plenty

19 Native American Tales

26 Thanksgiving Stories

The Mother Goose Lap-Sit For Children Ages 1-3 Years

The first and last Thursday of the month 10:30-11:00 a.m. or 11:30-12:00 a.m.

Rhymes, songs, and stories in English. All toddlers must have an adult lap to sit in!

Sign up is necessary and space is limited!

Fall Schedule:

September 25

October 2

October 30

November 6

November 27

Please sign up with Michelle or at the Circulation Desk

Saturdays Are Special: Programs For Older Children

Sign-up is necessary!

Sept. 20: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Program End of Summer Celebration

For Reading Program Participants

Sept. 27: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Lost in the Library: Library Skills and Scavenger Hunt, for ages 9-12

Sept. 27: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

*Teen Talk: Making The Grade, for ages 13+

October Activities

Oct. 11: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

You're on the Air! Make your own Radio Show, with special guest Tony Daley, ages 8-12

Oct. 18: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Tales from the Pumpkin Patch, for ages 6-8

Oct. 18: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Write On: How to Take a Story and Run with It, with guest author Erzsi Deak, for ages 11-14

Oct. 25: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

*Teen Talk: Murder Mystery, for ages 13+

Halloween Activities

Thursday Oct. 30: 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

On a Dark and Stormy Night: Stories, Costume Contest, and Activities, for ages 9-12

Friday Oct. 31: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Halloween Hoopla: Stories, Games, and Treats, for ages 6-8

November Activities

November 8: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Native American Tales, ages 6-8

November 15: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

*Teen Talk: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? ages 13+

November 22: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Celebration: Stories and Activities, ages 6-8

Kids' Book Sale!

Saturday October 4, 2003

Beginning at 10 a.m. in the Children's Room.

New and used picture books, juvenile fiction, non-fiction, YA Books, videos and cassettes.

Great Prices! Many books for only 1 euro.

New Teen Programs

*Teen Talk: a program for ages 13+

A chance to meet others, discuss books and films, and have fun.

Don't forget the great snacks!

Sign up by phone or by e-mail.

Book WRMZ+ New for ages 9-11!

A Book Club for Kids with a Need to Read!

Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m.:

September 30 (First session)

October 7

October 14

October 21

We will be reading and discussing *Dear Mr.*

Henshaw, by Beverly Cleary, and exploring our love of authors and writing. Each participant will receive a copy of the book. Snacks will be available. Sign-up is required.

Check Out these Fabulous Fall Reads!

Ages 3-5

If You Take a Mouse To School, Laura Numeroff

Friends at School, Rochelle Bunnett

You're a Good Sport Miss Malarkey, Judy Finchler

Tree Trunk Traffic, Bianca Lavies (non-fiction)

Apples, Gail Gibbons (non-fiction)

Apples, Apples, Apples, Nancy Elizabeth Wallace (non-fiction)

Ages 9-12

How To Disappear Completely and Never Be Found, Sara Nickerson

Surviving the Applewhites, Stephanie S. Tolan

Maizon at Blue Hill, Jacqueline Woodson

Period Pieces: Stories For Girls, selected by

Erzsi Deak and Kristin Embry Litchman

Young Adult

The Lottery, Beth Goobie

Lirael, Garth Nix

Stormbreake, Anthony Horowitz

Fall Seminars on Child Development Sponsored by the Woodward Foundation

"Child Development in the 21st Century," lectures sponsored by the Woodward Foundation, are by recognized authorities on the emotional development of children. The series was inaugurated last spring with Dr. Julien Cohen-Solal and Dr. Bernard Golse respectively, who covered the emotional development of the child from infancy to three years of age, and from three to six.

On October 8, Dr. Bertrand Cramer of Geneva will talk about the school-age child from six to twelve. He will discuss school-related problems, as well as emotional problems and difficulties in adaptation, focusing on family-based solutions. Dr. Cramer is one of the foremost authorities worldwide on child psychology.

December 3, Philippe Jeammet, France's foremost authority on teens, will discuss the many issues related to adolescents. Both programs will be in English with a French précis available.

8 p.m. (20.00h) at the Library. These lectures are free and open to the public.

SCWBI Hosts Editor's Day

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCWBI) is sponsoring a conference of interest to writers of children's books. It's an opportunity to meet editors from major publishing houses to discover what they are currently publishing.

All day Saturday, 11 October 2003, at the International School of Paris.

Presentations by editorial directors from: Bloomsbury US; Macmillan UK; Simon and Schuster US; Simon and Schuster, UK; Penguin UK. Contact ajkordahl@aol.com for more information.

Evenings With an Author

Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

An evening sponsored by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
Visual Voice: The Space between the Words, with Janie Bynum

An evening celebrating the art and language of picture books.

*Please note that there is a charge for this event. ALP, SCBWI, and AAWE members: 5 euros; all others 10 euros. Call or e-mail with questions or for reservations:

Melissa@kidbookpros.com; 06 60 61 32 93.

Wednesday, October 1, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

Diane Johnson
LE DIVORCE, Book into Movie (see article)

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

Noreen Riols
World War II British Resistance in France (Churchill's Secret Army)

A riveting account of the complex network that coordinated intelligence and armed resistance. Much of the information related to this topic has just been declassified—sure to be a fascinating evening.

Friday, October 24, 2003, at 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Wellesley Club of Paris and the Vassar College Alumni Association

Paul Kane, "Emerson in Paris: The American Difference" AND Tina Kane, "Textile Restoration and Controversy."

Paul Kane is an award-winning scholar, critic, and poet; Tina Kane is an Associate Conservator in the Textile Conservation Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Her research specialty is tapestry.

Wednesday, November 5, 2003, at 8:00 p.m.

John Morris,
Get the Picture

Award-winning photojournalist Morris will discuss the reality of "going for the news," as well as the political realities of a

photojournalist's work. Adventure, danger—don't miss a riveting presentation. Slides.

Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 8:00 p.m.

Van Gogh's Ear

Poetry reading with poets published in Paris's new poetry magazine. New voices mingle with well-known poets for an artistic and eclectic evening.

Wednesday, November 26, 2003, at 8:00 p.m.

Ian Hardy

Singing Between Two Worlds: Learning Traditional Music in the Heart of Modern India

Documentary on a famous musical family carefully passing on its ancient musical tradition, from father to son. Hardy will discuss the culture and music of India, as well as some of the aspects of filming in a foreign country and culture.

Programs are sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation are free and open to the public. Events co-sponsored by another organization may have a nominal charge.

From the Director

Summer is the season for library meetings, and I was fortunate to be able to attend both the American Library Association (ALA) annual meeting in Toronto and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in Munich. The former is of course centered on American and Canadian library practice and generally attracts upwards of 16,000 participants. This year's turnout was a bit sparse due to the SARS scare, but most of the sessions took place as scheduled.

Highlights include the exhibits, where the newest books and latest technology are displayed over a vast expanse of convention hall. Well-known authors sign books and vendors showcase their offerings. Sessions on collection development, fundraising, programs for children and teens, budgets, intellectual freedom, online information retrieval, and other arcane library matters abound, and evenings blossom with awards presentations and vendor receptions.

Because IFLA concerns itself with the activities of national library associations, rather than with individual libraries, the broader scope includes a heavy emphasis on policy, international funding, and national programs. IFLA used to be seen almost as a European club of sorts; over the last 20 years it has emphasized and financially supported participation by Third World nations as well, and they certainly bring a different perspective to the proceedings.

Participating in these conferences is useful for learning about the latest systems and for finding out what other librarians are doing about specific problems—for example, all of us suffer budget constraints. Leaders in the field share their accumulated wisdom, and contacts with colleagues from around the world lead to further collaboration in a variety of ways. It is important for library professionals to maintain a strong connection with their association to understand how current library policy works (whether in the U.S. or in other countries). Discussions about the ethics of information—information sharing, copyright law, and intellectual property rights—are critical for understanding an area where legal principles are just emerging. Much of what I learned can be applied immediately to the Library's particular situation.

And not the least of the benefits are the free or half-price books we are able to obtain for the collection! —*Shirley Lambert*

Award Winning Author of *Le Divorce* to Speak at ALP

Diane Johnson, author, screenwriter, and critic, will detail the many issues involved in creating a viable screenplay from a successful novel, most especially a "comedy of manners," such as *Le Divorce*. Johnson has been a Pulitzer finalist twice and a National Book Award finalist twice. Her latest book, just published in the U.S., is *L'Affaire*. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Library.

8:00 p.m. (20.00h). An Evening With the Author sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation. Free and open to the public, but doors will be closed once capacity is reached.

Spring and Summer Interns

Every year the Library welcomes interns who create the CAPES and Agrégation dossiers. They compile the bibliographies, do the xeroxing, and binding of the dossiers. They also help with other Library activities, like shelving and shelf-reading. They receive nothing for their efforts except restaurant tickets and our everlasting appreciation.

We were very fortunate this past spring and summer to have nine talented young college students, both graduate and undergraduate. We will miss their cheerful smiles and invaluable assistance! They are:

Jack Coté, a two-week intern from Ecole Active Bilingue-JM, helped with shifting the periodical collection.

Rachael Bohn (grad student in Library and Information Science at the University of Washington). Rachael worked with Michelle Holder, the Children's Librarian, to strengthen the children's collection and also helped organize the first Teen Night discussion based on *The Matrix*.

Nancy Donnell (grad student in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University). Compiled a bibliography and dossier on *A Streetcar Named Desire* for the CAPES/Agrégation program and assisted Michelle Holder with the children's programs.

Teresa Ferguson (grad student in the Library and Information Science at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington). Teresa worked on the Reference Desk and created dossiers for this year's CAPES/Agrégation program.

Cynthia Levin (undergraduate in Liberal Arts, Princeton University). Cynthia compiled two bibliographies and dossiers for this year's CAPES/Agrégation program and began the work of repairing the dossier collection.

Juanita Nava (rising senior, Wellesley College). Juanita is from Fort Worth, Texas, majoring in Poli. Sci. and French. She compiled a list of potential corporate donors, using the Foundation Center database.

Alex Parker (undergraduate, Oberlin College). Alex is from Indiana and spent the month of June compiling a list of foundations who donate to organizations like ALP.

Meredythe Ryan (undergraduate in Liberal Arts, Princeton University). Meredythe is from Massachusetts. She compiled two bibliographies and dossiers for this year's CAPES/Agrégation program and a dossier on J.D. Salinger *Catcher in the Rye* for ALP's dossier collection.

Marriah Star (Ph.D. student, International Relations, Harvard University). Marriah's technical ability was put to good use in adding new design elements and a restructured architecture to the Library web site.