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THE ALP NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1996

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Jouve & Associés Presents John Peter: The Oral History of Modern Architecture

On September 18, Jouve & Associés is sponsoring An Evening with John Peter, author of The Oral History of Modern Architecture: Interviews with the Greatest Architects of the Twentieth Century, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 7 P.M., followed by Mr. Peter's presentation at 8 P.M. Madeleine Deschamps, correspondent in France for Abrams, will introduce the program, which will include slides and taped interviews.

The book, which includes a compact disk, tells the story of modern architecture in the words, pictures, and voices of the people who created it. "It is drawn from the recorded archive of interviews conducted over 40 years, with 60 of the world’s most prominent architects and engineers," Mr. Peter notes. "I did not set out to do a book, but I wanted to capture the voices, before more were lost, of the masters who created one of the great revolutions in the history of the arts."

The interviews, most of which were taped between 1953 and 1966, include extended conversations with Wright, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Niemeyer, Kahn, and Pei. Their articulate comments reflect the international scope of modern architecture and the extent to which many of its creators were influenced by modern painting and sculpture. The book is illustrated with photographs of the architects and their works.

Since serving as art director of the SHAEF Psychological Warfare Division in World War II, Mr. Peter has worked as an art director at Cowles Communications and McCauley, as an editor at Life and Look, and also as a reporter for NBC and CBS. His books include Design with Glass and Masters of Modern Architecture. Mr. Peter, who heads his own publications consulting firm in New York, was awarded the Vermeil Medal by the City of Paris for the poster "Le Jour se Lève," which originally decked the city during the Liberation in 1944 and was widely reproduced on the 50th anniversary. 7 P.M. cocktail; 8 P.M. program. RSVP: Veronica Yarzi, Jouve & Associés, Tel.: (1) 40 70 90 00

Abrams Gift Enriches Arts Collection

Paul Gottlieb, president of Harry N. Abrams, Inc., has given the American Library in Paris 300 Abrams art books, one of the richest gifts the Library has ever received. The titles, covering the entire history of art, from Slang ritual bronze to Christo, include reference books, complete works by individual artists, museum catalogues, and children’s books.

Harry N. Abrams, Inc., is the preeminent U.S. publisher of high-quality art and illustrated books. Founded in 1949, it was the first American publisher to specialize in art books. The firm is based in New York, with offices in Amsterdam and Tokyo. Abrams books are particularly well-distributed outside English-speaking countries.

Many of the gifts will be displayed during the evening with John Peter on September 18 (see above). Here is just a sampling of the books Abrams donated: History of Art for Young People; The Genius of Jacopo Bellini; The Complete Paintings and Drawings; Architecture: From Prehistory to Post-Modernism; and The Oldest Known Paintings in the World: Dawn of Art: The Chauvet Cave; Harlem Renaissance: Art of Black America.
CAPES/AGREGATION DOSSIERS READY

For more than 20 years the American Library in Paris has been compiling and distributing bibliographies and dossiers of periodical articles about authors and topics to support French students throughout the country in preparation for the English-language and American Studies Assessments. This year’s dossiers are available on the following links:

Paul Auster, Men in Darkness

News Brief

The Centre Georges Pompidou has asked the American Library in Paris to be the Greek Cultural Institute for its library magazine for the exhibition “Face à l’histoire,” opening December 1 and running through April 7, 1997, to celebrate next year’s 20th Anniversary of the Centre Pompidou.

Evenings with an Author: A Library Tradition since the 1930s

Wednesday, September 18
An Evening with John Peter
The Oral History of Modern Architecture: Interviews with the Greatest Architects of the Twentieth Century program includes slides and taped interviews. Cocktail reception, 7 P.M.; program, 8 P.M. Sponsored by CAPES/A. & A. (See cover story.)

Monday, October 7
Hugo Vickers
The Private World of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor
A slide-illustrated talk about the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Mr. Vickers’s book contains selections from a cache of 100 photographs belonging to the Duke and Duchess, many of which had never been seen before.

Wednesday, October 9
Sarah
New Poetry and Prose from Paris
A group reading of poetry and fiction by contributors to the Paris literary magazines Phobia, Product by the Creative Writing Workshop run at the British Institute in Paris by Alice Notley and Douglas Olick. Phobia publishes both international and Paris-focused writers.

Wednesday, October 16
Marionanne Bucur
Memories of a Berlin Childhood
Marionanne Bucur and her family left Berlin four days after Khrushchev in November 1958 and settled in Oregon. Her book is a personal account of the gradual breakdown of a life of comfort and predictability.

Wednesday, October 30
William Wharton
Housebound on the Seine: A Memoir
The sword-wielding, best-selling author of The Big Sleep has turned to his beloved Paris for his second memoir, an often hilarious saga of his misadventures as an expatriate American trying to make a home out of a leaky wooden houseboat.

Campaign 2000: Investing in the Future

The Library’s exciting plan for the future, Campaign 2000, is well under way. Campaign packets are available in the Library. Materials include the Campaign 2000 brochure, which covers Library history, activities and goals, and the renovation brochure, which describes plans to renovate and expand the Library for better as a variety of future growth in collections and membership. Please call Library Director Ray Rader if you would like to meet with her about the campaign or receive a campaign packet.

Officials Tour APL

On June 15, the Board of Trustees held a reception for Mrs. Hélène Mace de Laynion, Deputy Mayor of Paris for Cultural Affairs, and Michel Kollnich, Deputy to the Mayor of the 19th Arrondissement; and James Hogan, Cultural Affairs Attaché at the U.S. Embassy. The guests toured the Library with Trustees Catherine Coste, Nicole Gompel, Whitney of the Department of Literature and Chair of the Board John Riggs. The tour was followed by a reception and lively discussion about library issues and programs in France and the U.S.

Children’s Story Hours, September through December

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER
11 Back to School
18 Autumn is coming
25 Dinosaurs

OCTOBER
2 Feeling Better
9 Meet My Friend
16 My Family Just Got Bigger
23 Counting
30 Millennium Party

Special Story Hours in October:

1 Children from MESSAGE, 10:30-11:30 A.M.
24 About Ghouls, 4-5 P.M.

NOVEMBER
6 Native American Stories
13 Shhh...You’re in the Library!
20 Christmas: Native American Stories
27 Christmas

DECEMBER
4 Hundduk
11 Jungle Day
18 Christmas

(For more news about the APL Christmas Party)

Starr-Studded Gifts

Gregory Peck: Catalogue Arrives
Clearly, Gregory Peck, who visited in April, noticed that the Library owned only two volumes of The American Film Institute’s Catalog of Motion Pictures Produced in the United States. Recently, the actor shipped seven volumes of the catalogue as a gift to the Library. Upon its completion by the AFI, the catalogue will be reflected in the most comprehensive list ever compiled. The printed catalogue is available at the Library. Copies of the catalogue have been ordered from overseas libraries, including the British Film Institute, the Library of Congress, and the National Film Archive in Australia.

Sarah Smith: The Blood Tale

Books on Tape: Dianna Bond, a lawyer who lives in Cincinnati, has donated a copy of her book, now over 50 books on tape, including mysteries, popular fiction, and best sellers.

ALP Supports Campaign 2000

In July Trustee Nancy Webster and Library Director Ray Rader attended the American Library Association conference in New York City. At the ALA Council Meeting, Association President Betty J. Turkow presented a gift of $10,000 for Campaign 2000 to Mrs. Webster and Mr. Rader, in celebration of the Association’s role as founder of the Library.

Thanks from Sarah and Daniel

After living in Paris for a year and attending French schools, Sarah and Daniel币之 (of Birkat, N.Y.) were going home. But first they paid a visit to the Children’s Room to present some drawings they had made and to donate copies of their favorite books. Their tutor said she had been able to keep up their English skills thanks to the library’s collections. Both young ALP members promised to visit on their next trip to Paris.
Children's Writers, Illustrators Choose American Library in Paris as Base

The recently formed Paris chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) has chosen ALP as its home base for conferences and workshops, initiating an exciting cooperative relationship for the coming year.

SCBWI is the only international organization of its type, offering services and acting as an information network for people who write, illustrate, or otherwise have a vital interest in children’s books: editors, publishers, agents, librarians, educators, bookstore personnel, etc.

On Thursday, September 26, at 7:30 P.M., the group will hold a general meeting and logo/short story contest at The ALP.

To become a member of SCBWI, contact Erzsi Deak, 8, rue José-Maria-de-Hérédi, 75007 Paris, tel./fax: 42 73 33 75.

Tour of Bibliothèque l'Heure Joyeuse

ALP Director Kay Rader and Children's Services Librarian Amelle Aymonin recently toured France's oldest children's library, the Bibliothèque l'Heure Joyeuse (Joyous Hour).

Their guide, Head Librarian Viviane Ezratty, later visited the ALP with the head of l'Heure Joyeuse's rare book collection, Françoise Léveque, cementing ties of friendship between the two institutions.

l'Heure Joyeuse, in the Latin Quarter across from St. Séverin church, recently reopened after an extensive renovation for its 70th anniversary. Like the American Library in Paris, it grew up in the aftermath of World War I, following an initiative by the American Committee on Devastated Regions.

l'Heure Joyeuse was founded in 1924. It was the first library in France directed exclusively to children.

Opening Hours
Open Tuesday through Saturday 10 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays.

Extended Hours for Members Only, starting September 16
Sunday, 2-7 P.M.
Monday, 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., Tuesday and Thursday, to 10 P.M.

Early Closings
Wednesday, September 18, at 5 P.M., for an Evening with John Peter
Thursday, September 19, at 6 P.M., for the Board of Trustees meeting.