



SUMMER 1996

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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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William Styron to be Honored at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence

William Styron, eminent man of letters, will be honored at an American Library in Paris dinner on June 4, 1996, at the residence of Pamela Harriman, the U.S. Ambassador to France.

The American Library in Paris takes special pleasure in paying tribute to Mr. Styron since he has a particular fondness for libraries. In fact, Mr. Styron's literary habits were nurtured and encouraged within a library. "The United States Marine Corps introduced me to the glories of the library," he says. "The library became my hangout, my private club, my sanctuary, the place of my salvation," he adds. Because at 17 Styron was too young to be sent into combat, he was assigned to the V-12 program at Duke University, "which then as now possessed one of the great college libraries in America," he points out.

Having grown up in Virginia, Mr. Styron is rightly considered to be a southern writer. Many see him as William Faulkner's successor. He draws on the local ambiance and paints with words memorable characters that propel his storytelling. From slavery to Nazism, his works grapple with the problems of evil and guilt and how to reshape and continue living as these become the inevitable basis of human existence.

William Styron was awarded the Rome Prize in Literature for his first novel, *Lie Down in Darkness* (1951). He garnered the

Pulitzer Prize for *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) and the National Book Award for *Sophie's Choice* (1979). These modern classics were followed by *Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness* (1990) and *Tidewater Morning* (1993). Mr. Styron is a co-founder of *The Paris Review* and an honorary member of the Prix Goncourt jury.

An avid supporter of the library as an institution, he explains, "during the many months I was at Duke, I felt that when I was reading in the library I was sheltered from the world and from the evil winds of the future; no harm could come to me there.... It was doubtless an escape of sorts," he admits, "but it also brought me immeasurable enrichment."

"God bless libraries," he proclaims. The American Library in Paris is pleased to have the opportunity to honor this distinguished writer who happens to be a friend of libraries.

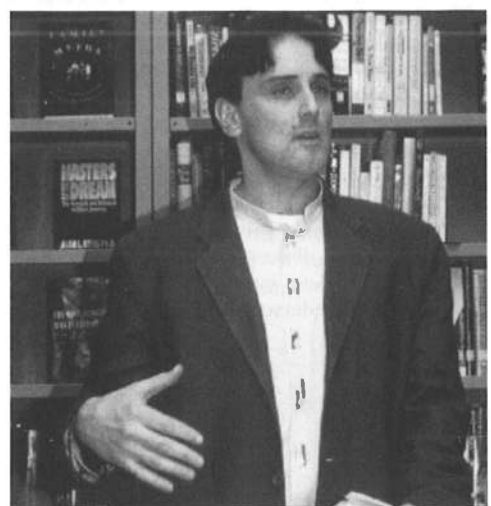
This dinner is made possible by the generosity and support of: Aon, AT&T France, Bank of America, Booz Allen & Hamilton Inc., CIGNA International, Hôtel de Crillon, Delta Air Lines, Laboratoires Merck Sharp & Dohme-Chibret, Russell Reynolds Associates, Seagram Global Brands Division, and Siemens Nixdorf.

The Trustees of the American Library in Paris express their warmest thanks to these sponsors.

Best-selling Author at ALP

As part of the "Evenings with an Author" series, the American Library in Paris, together with Editions du Seuil, was pleased to present David Guterson, best-selling author of *Snow Falling on Cedars* on the occasion of the publication of his book in French on March 19, 1996.

An overflow crowd flocked to the Library to hear him introduce his book and then read a key chapter. After an animated question-and-answer period, individuals chatted with the author over champagne and had him sign their copies.



SELECTED NEW NON-FICTION

Paul Gauguin: a Life
David Sweetman

This new biography describes a life filled with unexpected twists and turns from a childhood in Peru and wartime naval service to the adventures of a financial speculator in Paris before Gauguin plunged into his itinerant artistic career. It also provides a portrait of the age of the Impressionists.

Gardens of Revelation: Environments by Visionary Artists
John Beardsley

This book tells the story of 25 "visionary environments" created by individuals. The author situates the works in a larger context of traditional garden design, religious architecture, environmental sculpture, and folk art.

Building your Mutual Fund Portfolio: A Passport to Low-Risk, High-Return Investing
Albert J. Fredman & Russ Wiles

This do-it-yourself investment guide shows readers how to select a winning portfolio, reduce expenses and taxes, and avoid mistakes. It features sample portfolios and profiles of portfolio managers and includes an appendix of investment information.

A History of Fascism, 1914-1945
Stanley G. Payne

This history encompasses all the major Fascist movements in Europe and elsewhere in the world between the wars. Interpreting Fascism as a form of revolutionary ultranationalism, the author traces this phenomenon through the history of ideas, previous political movements, and the events of World War I.

The Essential Heart Book for Women
Morris Notelovitz & Diana Tonnessen

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the U.S. Based on the latest medical research, this book shows women how to prevent and treat heart disease and provides a complete, easy-to-follow lifestyle-based diet.

A New Collection of Art Books, Courtesy of Abrams

While Paul Gottlieb, CEO of Abrams, the well-known American publisher of art books, was in Paris in March for the Salon du Livre, he visited the ALP to hear David Guterson read from his *Snow Falling on Cedars*. During this visit, Mr. Gottlieb arranged to give the Library 300 volumes.

Simon Gallo, the Catalogue Librarian, will have the happy task of selecting them. Soon Library members will have a still broader range of fine, high-quality art books from which to choose.

The Paul Goodman Collection

Dr. Paul Goodman, professor of history at the University of California-Davis, who had willed his professional collection to the American Library in Paris, died last November. His collection includes important books published on American history during the past 40 years with special emphasis on early settlements, the Civil War, and political history. He discovered the American Library in Paris through a friend and faithful member while visiting French colleagues and recognized what a valuable resource it represents for French scholars of American studies. He felt that his collection would be a valuable addition to our already fine collection in this field. To quote a letter from Dr. Goodman, "As an incurable Francophile, it will give me great pleasure to help American studies in France."

The 5,000 volumes arrived recently from California, and the staff will gradually be making the books ready for circulation.

Visit of Count René de Chambrun

On February 6, 1996, the American Library in Paris celebrated the visit of Count René de Chambrun with a small champagne reception in his honor. His mother was Countess Clara de Chambrun, a Cincinnati native and sister of former speaker of the House of Representatives Nicholas Longworth. A Shakespeare scholar, she oversaw the Library after Dorothy Reeder, the then director, was forced to return to the States when America entered World War II.

The Count presented the Library with his mother's first edition of Alan Seeger's poems, which includes a dedication by Charles Seeger, the World War I author's father.

Gregory Peck Visits ALP!

ALP members, trustees, and staff were enchanted by Gregory Peck, who made a spontaneous visit to get to know our Library on Thursday, April 25.

Mr. Peck expressed enthusiasm for the American Library in Paris and was intrigued about our recent and upcoming programs. When he realized that we don't have the complete *American Film Institute Catalog of Motion Pictures Produced in the United States*, he generously offered to send it to us.

American Sixth- graders in Paris

Two sixth-graders from the Willard School in Sanford, Maine, recently visited the American Library in Paris. Morgan Donnelly and Steffan Morin won a trip to Paris for their entry in an essay and oration contest at their school.

The idea for the contest and the exchange trip with students from Paris came from ALP Trustee Nancy Willard Magaud, for whose parents the school is named. She wanted to give children from her hometown an opportunity to see another part of the world and experience a different culture.

Children's Story Hours in May, June, July, and August

All children's story hours are held Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 until 3:30.

MAY

May 15 Mother's Day
May 22 May in Paris
May 29 Creepy Crawlers

JUNE

June 5 Maurice Sendak's Birthday
June 12 Father's Day
June 19 The Arrival of Summer
June 26 Farm Animals

JULY

July 3 American Independence Day
July 10 Mice Adventures
July 17 Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears
July 24 Hop Aboard! (Transportation)
July 31 Beatrix Potter's Birthday

AUGUST

August 7 Ices and Berries
August 14 Favorite Tales
August 21 Going Fishing
August 28 Picnics

The American Library in Paris at the 16th Salon du Livre

As many of you might know, the 16th Salon du Livre, a huge French book fair featuring more than 1,000 publishing houses, 800 authors, and 250,000 books took place in Paris from March 22-27, 1996. This year the United States of America was the special guest of honor and was represented by about 80 publishers and 35 authors.

This offered a unique chance for the public to meet such distinguished writers as Richard Ford, Ernest Gaines, Joseph Heller, Barry Hannah, Art Spiegelman, Walter Mosley, James Salter, Tobias Wolff, Jerome Charyn, Sandra Cisneros, Ethan Canine, and many more. It also provided a unique opportunity for the American Library in Paris to increase its visibility in the French literary community with a booth at the Salon.

A press release announcing this event was sent to all major French magazines, television, and radio stations and resulted in at least one announcement about the Library on France 2's breakfast TV show.

The ALP booth was small (80 square feet) but in a central, corner location, not far from the large American section and right next to the Café Littéraire, a gathering place for the public to meet authors and editors informally. Our logo, mission statement, and the eye-catching library poster created by Pierre Le-Tan were displayed.

We also highlighted the early years of the ALP through old photographs and showcased our special collections, activities (especially the "Evenings with an Author" series), and branches through posters, flyers, and photographs.

An astounding number of people stopped by and were delighted to find out that there is indeed an American Library in Paris; most of them participated in our special Salon du Livre Lottery, which raffled annual memberships, book bags, and library posters. The ALP bookmarks, which had been especially created and donated by Print International for the Salon, also proved very popular. Library staff, trustees, and volunteers manned the booth. They found it was a great way to meet new people interested in the Library and its activities and to welcome members.

The American Library presence at the Salon du Livre enabled us to meet American authors and invite them to participate in our "Evenings with an Author" series. All the authors seemed thrilled at the possibility of becoming part of the ALP's literary tradition.



(Left to right) JoAnne Winter, John Balma, and Susan Harloe in Dorothy Parker's *The Standard of Living*, directed by Amy Freed

ALP Audience Enthusiastic about Word for Word

It was a full house on Wednesday, March 27, when the San Francisco Theater troop Word for Word, which stages literary works using each and every word the author wrote (including "he says," "she says"), entertained the audience with the witty *The Standard of Living* by Dorothy Parker and the twisted *Berenice* by Edgar Allan Poe. At the cocktail party after the show, members of the audience expressed appreciation and delight at the novel, professional performance. Funded by the Florence Gould Foundation, with travel sponsored by Air France, the five actors, John Balma, Delia MacDougall, Susan Harloe and JoAnne Winter, along with their director, Amy Freed, also took Word for Word to the ALP branch in Angers.

ALP Member completes her Doctoral Dissertation

Jamileh Talebizadeh, an ALP member since 1983, recently defended her doctoral dissertation. She is a student at the Université de Jussieu, Paris VII-Institut Charles V. The jury voted unanimously to accept her thesis entitled *A Posthumous Wound, The Garden of Eden, The Manuscript of Ernest Hemingway* with Very Honorable Mention. Her study compares the original manuscript of *The Garden of Eden* and the drastically cut version published in 1986. Three houses have offered to publish her work.

The American Library in Paris, with the cooperation of Mr. Stephen Plotkin of the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, MA, was able to obtain copies of a great number of Hemingway manuscripts, which she used in preparing her thesis.

Currently she is working on James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* and a translation of Persian poems by Hafez for Seuil, the Paris publisher.

DON'T FORGET!

The Annual Book Sale at the American Library in Paris will be on Sunday, May 26, 1996. After a special preview for members only from noon - 1:00, the sale will be open to the public from 1:00 - 6:00.

Stock up for the summer on some real finds and bargains — everything from hardbacks to magazines to children's books and more.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR "EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR"

Wednesday, May 29, 1996,
8:00 P.M.

Writers at Work

Paris-based writers including Polly Platt (*Friend or Foe*), Hilary Kaiser (*Veteran Recall - Americans in France Remember the War*), Alexandra Grabbe (*French Graffiti*), Régine Lussan (*Itinéraire d'un esthète, Pier Luigi Pizzi*), and Esther Gasperoni (*Orange sur le lac*) will discuss how to write a book and get it published. They will also read from their works and sign books. The American Library in Paris is co-sponsoring this evening with the Paris Alumni Network.

Wednesday, June 5, 1996,
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

William Styron —

Book-Signing Party

William Styron, the Pulitzer Prize-winning American author, will be signing his books, which will be on sale at the party. Alternatively, guests may bring their own copies for dedication.

Wednesday, June 19, 1996,
8:00 P.M.

Nancy du Plessis — Notes

From the Moroccan Journals

Nancy du Plessis is an American-born artist who specializes in staging solo interpretations of her texts. In this evening's program she will speak and sing a prose-poem based on journals that she kept while visiting a group of traditional Moroccan musicians.

SELECTED NEW REFERENCE BOOKS

The Encyclopedia of Herbs and their Uses by the **Herb Society of America** combines more than 1,500 photographs with descriptions of over 1,000 species, varieties, hybrids, and cultivars. It also covers the history of herb cultivation, myth, and folklore and the contribution of herbs to the advancement of medicine.

The New A to Z of Women's Health by **Christine Ammer** provides clear and concise information on all aspects of a woman's well-being from birth to old age. It explains the latest medical discoveries and treatments on topics as varied as HIV, gene therapy, prenatal tests, and alternative medicine.

Jerry M. Rosenberg's Dictionary of Marketing & Advertising presents authoritative, comprehensive, and up-to-date definitions of marketing, advertising, sales, merchandising, and consumer behavior terms.

The Internet Complete Reference, Second Edition, by **Harley Hahn** contains everything one needs to know about the Internet: what hardware and software to use to connect, how to use the Web, Usenet, gopher, and anonymous ftp, and how to communicate with people all over the world using e-mail, Web chat rooms, IRC, muds, and more.

ALP Welcomes Three New Trustees

The American Library in Paris held its Annual Meeting on March 19, 1996. At that time we said farewell to longtime trustees Kandice Vettier and Brenda Harper Vandamme and saluted their dedication. Three new trustees were voted in.

We are delighted to welcome:

ARTHUR MARCHET is a professional with a leading American insurance brokerage group. He used the ALP as a university student and has been a collector of American first editions for 20 years. "It is a pleasure and a privilege," he says, "to be a French member of the Board of Trustees of the ALP. I will be delighted to share my love of books." He promises to "support actively the ALP's expansion plans."

HENRY DE MONTEBELLO has 15 years of experience with Russell Reynolds Associates in Paris and New York. He works with U.S. and international clients in consumer products and general industry. Earlier he was with Cresap, McCormick & Paget, Inc., in London. He is a graduate of Harvard and the Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. About his appointment, he says, "I am excited at the prospect of participating in the further development of this great institution in France."

GREGORY WALTER WEINGARTEN is an artist based in Paris. A native of California and a graduate of Stanford University, Mr. Weingarten moved to Paris seven years ago. He has studied painting at Parsons and at the Beaux-Arts. He is on the advisory committee of the Annenberg Foundation, a philanthropic institution dedicated to the support of education.

Staff Changes

We welcome Doreen Hamilton as a librarian. She holds a Master of Arts in French literature and economic history and a postgraduate diploma in librarianship. Doreen has worked at the British Council Library, Université of Paris IX (Dauphine), and at Carnegie International in London. She will be working the extended hours in the Circulation Department and will assist at the reference desk and in the research center. Stop by and meet her on your next visit to the Library.

Chris Daniels, who has worked in the Library for the last four years, has resigned to pursue a career as a computer programmer with a Paris-based firm. Having started with us as a volunteer, he was subsequently hired to cover the extended hours and work on the computer system.

OPENING HOURS

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 10 AM - 7 PM.
CLOSED SUNDAYS, MONDAYS, AND HOLIDAYS.

EXCEPTIONAL CLOSING HOURS

MAY: SATURDAY, MAY 25, AT 5 PM; WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, AT 6 PM
JUNE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, AT 5 PM; TUESDAY, JUNE 18, AT 6 PM;
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, AT 6 PM
CLOSED THURSDAY, AUGUST 15



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