

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.

Paris  
Rennes  
Toulouse  
Roubaix  
Montpellier

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ANNUAL REPORT

November, 1945—October, 1946

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## THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, Inc.

420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Telephone MOhawk 4-8141-4

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### THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.

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## THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.

### ANNUAL REPORT

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*To the Members of the American Library in Paris, Inc.:*

"During the German occupation" in the words of Ambassador Bonnet, the American Library "remained as an open window on the free world."

Today, two years after the liberation of Paris, the Library is the, or one of the, most important and effective cultural links between the American and the French people. With its organization, book collection, traditions and contacts built up over the past 26 years it is filling a most useful and needed function in bringing to the French people means of securing information about America and Americans.

**CIRCULATION:** During the past year circulation increased steadily. In addition to books and periodicals consulted in the Library's reading rooms, over 8,500 books and nearly 1,500 periodicals, on the average, are being withdrawn by subscribers each month. This represents a monthly "turnover" of about 17% of the Library's total book collection!

The most popular fields are fiction, general literature, biography and history. Most frequently requested magazines are those dealing with radio, motion picture and photography and sports.

Many requests are also received for material, whether in book or periodical form, on aeronautics, antiques, art, archeology, banking, engineering, mathematics, medicine, psychiatry and psychology, to mention a few of the subjects most frequently in demand.

**SUBSCRIBERS:** Approximately 80% of our subscribers are of French nationality, the balance being American, British and persons of some 29 other nationalities. Apart from "military" sub-

scribers who are diminishing in number as our troops leave Paris, the number of subscribers has shown a marked increase each month in 1946 over the corresponding month in 1945. New civilian subscriptions and renewals average over 250 per month whereas in the comparable period of 1945 the average was approximately 190. Subscription rates are nominal in order to encourage wide use of the Library.

**NEW BOOKS:** Important additions were made during the past year to our book collection which, of course, during the war years could not be kept up-to-date. In addition to periodicals, more than 3,000 new books have been purchased in the United States of a value of about \$13,000. Approximately 2,000 new books and hundreds of periodicals having a value of approximately \$5,000 have been donated to the Library.

The largest purchases of books were made in the fields of languages and literature, technology, history, reference and bibliography and in sociology.

Several memorial funds were received for the purchase of books in designated fields:

In memory of her father, William Franklin Draper, by Madame Draper Boncampagni, for the purchase of books on engineering.

In memory of her husband, Mrs. Spencer Eddy, for the purchase of recently published books.

In memory of Pilot Officer Guy Carlet, by his mother, Madame Jacqueline Levy-Despas for the purchase of books on political science and economics.

In memory of Richard Herrick Myers of the R. A. F., by Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Myers, for the purchase of aeronautical books and periodicals.

In memory of Dagny Enid Nissen, a former member of the American Library staff, by her friends, for the purchase of books on international relations, biography, travel and fine arts.

Mr. J. Jerome Hill also made a donation of cash for operational expenses, in memory of his grandfather, James J. Hill.

Special donations for the replenishment of books worn out by use during the war years and current fiction published since May, 1946 were made by Mrs. Truxton Beale and Mrs. Alice Cochery.

The books donated to the Library were given by authors, who responded particularly generously, other individuals, publishing companies and institutions, among them the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Boston Public Library, Brown University, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cleveland Public Library, Department of State, Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, Institute of International Education, International General Electric Company, Library of Congress, Medical and Surgical Relief Commission, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Pantheon Books, Inc., Pierpont Morgan Library, Museum of Modern Art, New York Public Library, Smithsonian Institution, Whitney Museum of Art, etcetera.

Mention should also be made of the fact that the Bureau Technique des Oeuvres has, in recent months, been handling the shipment of our books, without charge.

Notwithstanding these important additions to the Library's collection substantial numbers of additional books, particularly books published during and since the war, are needed and will be acquired as the Library's finances permit.

A great demand exists for up-to-date books in special scientific fields. With the advice and help of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Library, accordingly, purchased a number of books on engineering to serve as a nucleus for a well balanced collection on that subject. It is hoped that this collection can be enlarged and that similar collections in other fields can be made available through the Library to French people who are interested in such special subjects.

**INVENTORY AND REORGANIZATION:** The Library was closed during August, 1946 for purposes of inventory and reorganization. Out of date and worthless books and periodicals, as well as those worn out by use, were eliminated. The remaining books were regrouped and made more accessible. Books and periodicals

not needed for the Library but which are still in good condition were turned over to American Aid to France, American Friends of France, various sanatoria and hospitals, etc. The Library now has approximately 39,000 titles estimated to represent 50,000 books.

In addition, the various departments of the library—the Cataloging Department, the Circulation Desk, the Periodical Department and the Reference Department—were completely reorganized with resultant greatly increased efficiency.

The Reference Department which was moribund during the war is now one of the most useful and popular activities in the Library. During September 1946, 183 reference questions were answered. The variety and character of inquiries made indicates the intense interest of the French in all phases of American life.

EXHIBITS, ETC.: Among other special activities, exhibits of books, posters and maps on special subjects have stimulated great interest. These exhibits included special material on Washington and Lincoln in February, American cook books, American humor, children's books, garden books, American music, information on America for French brides of G.I.'s, art books donated by the Modern Museum of Art, Treasure Chests given by American children through the courtesy of Ninon Tallon, etc.

The Library frequently receives visits from various organizations such as groups of school children, members of French librarian's associations, etc.

Numerous inquiries are also made by French students for information about American Universities. The Library has some 500 American school catalogues and more are en route. It welcomes the opportunity it has to assist in the exchange of students.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS: The American Embassy has been helpful to the Library in a variety of ways. Close cooperation continues with the U. S. I. S. Documentation Center and U. S. I. B. A. to the latter of which the Library temporarily loaned the space generously provided by the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace for the purposes of a Student Branch of the Library.

STUDENT BRANCH: That space, in the Foundation's building on the Boulevard St. Germain (near the Sorbonne and the Institut des Sciences Politiques) was expected to be used by the Library as a branch, especially for use by French professors and students. Unfortunately the opening of this branch has had to be postponed as the financial condition of the Library has not as yet permitted its opening.

AMERICAN AID TO FRANCE: The American Aid to France which is conducting a campaign for funds in the United States includes in its program the promotion of cultural relations between the United States and France. The Library is in a position to give assistance to this program and negotiations are under way to this end. This may involve, among other things, the Library assisting in the establishment by the American Aid to France of small libraries in four different cities in provincial France. While this plan is contingent upon the success of the campaign of American Aid to France for funds, if successful, it promises to give to the Library an expanded sphere of influence and usefulness as well as some financial help.

MANAGEMENT: The staff of the Library consists of Mr. Frederic W. Stewart, Director, Miss Elizabeth C. Madden, Librarian and Miss Edith A. Wright, Bibliographer, all Americans, in addition to a French staff of 15. One of these, Mr. Boris Netchaeff, Chief of Circulation has just completed his 20th year with the Library. It was due to the faithfulness of our French staff, under the devoted direction of Countess Aldebert de Chambrun (née Longworth), together with the financial support given in Paris, by the French Information Center, that the Library was able to remain open throughout the occupation. This report would not be complete if tribute were not also paid to Mr. Edward A. Sumner, your Chairman of the Board and former President, for his untiring and successful efforts in the United States to keep the Library a living force during the war years.

To Mr. Stewart with the assistance of Miss Madden and Miss Wright and the loyal service of our French staff is due the credit for the splendid work accomplished by the Library in the past year.

Unfortunately Mr. Stewart and Miss Madden, for personal reasons, both having been abroad for extended periods with the O. W. I. prior to their connection with the Library, have indicated their desire to return to the United States within the next few months. Their loss will be keenly felt.

To take Mr. Stewart's place as Director, we have been fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Ian Forbes Fraser, of the Department of French at Columbia University and formerly Commandant of the U. S. Army University Center in Paris. It is expected that he will leave for Paris early in February.

A Ladies Committee, of which Mrs. Caffery is Honorary Chairman and Mrs. Spencer Eddy is Executive Secretary, has, during the past year, been formed in Paris and is actively supporting the Library. To raise funds it is organizing a "gala" for the previews of an American film.

There has also been formed within the past year, upon the initiative of M. Bizardel, a committee of eminent Frenchmen called "Les Amis de la Bibliotheque Americaine" under the Honorary Presidency of Mr. Eduoard Herriot.

The trustees and officers of the Library in pre-war years were Americans mostly resident in France. During and since the war, the seat of executive responsibility has, perforce, been here. It is hoped, however, that, within the near future, Americans in Paris will again take over.

**FINANCIAL:** The Library is supported almost entirely by private gifts. Last year in July, a quiet campaign was begun in the United States to raise \$90,000 which it was hoped would cover operations for one year. During the period July 1, 1945 to October 31, 1946, 1139 gifts were received in the aggregate amount of \$68,255.81.

Mrs. Myers was in charge of the fund raising campaign and great credit is due to her for her most valuable work. While the amount received has fallen short of our needs, it is extremely gratifying to see how many persons contributed and to see that they included residents of thirty states. The largest contributions were, perhaps naturally, received from the New York area. In addition, however, particularly good results were obtained by committees in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and in Worcester and

Wellesley, Massachusetts. Residents of Boston and Washington, D. C., where no formal committees were organized, also responded most generously to letter appeals. Americans in Paris also generously contributed. Included in these gifts were the special memorial donations for books in designated fields, above referred to, but the important donations of books in kind are not included.

Failure to receive the total amount projected has unfortunately curtailed the activities of the Library, required postponement of the opening of the proposed Student Branch and left the Library at present with depleted resources. This has also been due in part to general rising costs from the effect of which the Library has not been immune.

Messrs. Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. who had audited the books of the Library—generously giving their services or charging purely nominal fees—for many years prior to the war are now in the process of auditing the books for the period since the beginning of the war.

The unaudited balance sheet of the Library as at September 30, 1946 and a summary statement of income and expenses for the period October 1, 1945 to September 30, 1946, all subject to audit, are appended.

From these figures it will be noted that the Library's present cash position needs prompt replenishment. Net expenses, even without the Student Branch and other desirable activities, continue at about \$4,400 per month (after taking into account Library receipts from subscriptions, etc. of about \$800 per month) so that the need for additional funds is very apparent. The Library needs both dollars and francs. Gifts to the Library are deductible to the extent permitted by our income tax laws.

To raise these funds those who have given in the past will be asked to renew their contributions. It is hoped that from these persons, and all others who may have an interest in aiding the Library to continue its useful work, the funds needed for the Library for next year can be provided; and that the continued support of these friends of the Library can be counted upon to permit it to carry on at least until normal conditions are re-established in France and other and more permanent ways are found to assure the continued existence of the Library.

In conclusion, it is my pleasing duty to express appreciation for the time and attention which your trustees and officers have generously given to the Library and for the help and advice which they have given to me during my term as President.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE C. SHARP  
President.

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.

BALANCE SHEET, SEPTEMBER 30, 1946

ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Part I. Investments

Pooled Endowment and Reserve Fund Investments . . . . .	\$32,990.73	Endowments:	
		Alan Seegar . . . . .	\$ 3,500.00
		Howard Burchard Lines . . . . .	1,500.00
Mildred Aldrich Fund Investments	2,530.00	Ira C. Copley Fund . . . . .	2,500.00
		Sidney B. Veit . . . . .	1,000.00
			<hr/>
			\$ 8,500.00
		Reserve for A.L.A. Endowment . . . . .	24,490.73
		Mildred Aldrich Fund . . . . .	2,530.00
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	\$35,520.73		\$35,520.73

Part II. Other Funds in the United States

National City Bank.	\$ 279.26	Balance . . . . .	\$ 279.26
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Part III. Funds in Paris

Cash—in Francs . . . . .	\$ 1,192.21	Subscribers Depos- its . . . . .	\$ 1,764.90
—\$ at Embassy	1,300.00	Balance—Net . . . . .	727.31
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$ 2,492.21		\$ 2,492.21

Total expendable  
balance excluding  
investment funds. \$ 1,006.57

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, OCTOBER 1, 1945 to  
SEPTEMBER 30, 1946

*Income*

Library Income (Subscriptions, etc.) .....	\$10,795.62
Donations .....	54,236.81
Investment Income .....	889.14
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Total Income .....	\$65,921.57

*Expenditures*

Library Salary and Expense .....	\$37,872.12
Books and Periodicals .....	9,245.85
U. S. Offices .....	13,040.38
Corporate Miscellaneous .....	1,114.76
	<hr/>
Total Expense .....	\$61,273.11
Excess of Income .....	\$ 4,648.46