

WHAT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS NEEDS

The interest which the French people are showing in the United States as proved by their use of the American Library is vital to both countries at this time when it is of paramount importance to tell our story abroad. American books can serve as AMBASSADORS OF GOOD-WILL. The largest source in France is the American Library in Paris and its branches. Already there is a demand for new branches to be opened in other parts of France. There is always a need for more books. It is one thing to dream and hope. Another to do. Won't you get behind this exciting project in Franco-American relations and help the Library to go forward in its ambassadorship of good-will? As the Herald Tribune so aptly wrote: "This is the sort of work that deserves backing, for it attains results that can be measured in terms of better understanding and in the friendship of one great people for another."

HOW YOU CAN SERVE

The French people want to know the truth about the United States. Let us give it to them by expanding the services and the branches of the American Library in Paris—by books that can serve as *your* ambassadors of good-will!

Become a member *now* of the American Library in Paris.

Life Membership \$1,000

Sustaining Membership (annual) \$ 100

Contributing Membership (annual) \$ 25

Annual Membership \$ 10

Donations in any amount are most welcome.

Please make checks payable to the American Library in Paris, Incorporated. Mail to: Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., 159 East 63rd Street, New York 21, N. Y. Contributions are deductible for Federal and State Tax purposes.

The American Library in Paris is a privately supported, non-profit-making institution.

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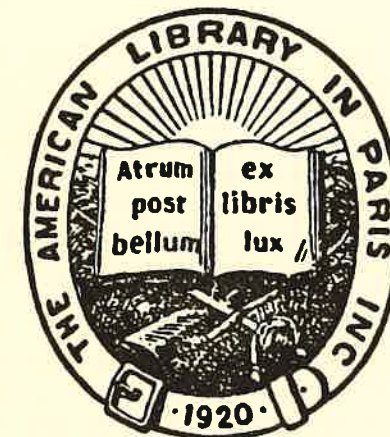
ADVISORS

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AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr.
159 East 63rd Street
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BOOKS AS AMBASSADORS



REPORT

1953

For thirty-four years, the American Library in Paris, and more recently its six branches in provincial cities, have contributed greatly in creating better understanding of the United States by the people of France.

It is imperative that this important cultural link between France and America be continued and expanded.

You can join with other Americans in making this possible.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS INCORPORATED

129, Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris

Left Bank Branch:—173, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris

BRANCHES AT

Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble, Nantes

A FEW WORDS OF HISTORY 1920 - 1954

The American Library in Paris grew out of the World War I A.E.F. library of the American Library Association, which gave its books and an endowment to a group of American residents of Paris in 1920. The Library expanded rapidly during the 1920s and a typical American library school operated in the same building. The depression forced curtailment of activity, but the Library never interrupted its service to the public. During occupation the Library was perhaps the only spot in occupied Europe where books in English could be freely read. Completely reorganized since Liberation and now installed in a handsome new building on the Champs-Élysées, the Library plays a more important part than ever in interpreting the Anglo-Saxon world to thousands of French readers.

MEMBERSHIP IN PARIS

At the end of December 1953, the American Library in Paris had 3,448 subscribing members borrowing books and magazines for home reading. Government ministries and numerous French industrial and commercial concerns are members. Hundreds of non-members use the free reading and reference rooms each month.

LEFT BANK BRANCH

The Left Bank Branch, opened January 15, 1948 in premises made available by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has 670 members and circulated 21,218 books and magazines during 1953. It contains one of the best collections of English and American literature in Paris and a special group of books on political science, as well as general books.

BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCES

At the end of 1950, funds were made available for the opening of branches in provincial cities. Since March 1951, branches have been created in Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble and Nantes. During the year 1953, these branches received 142,344 visitors and circulated for home reading 159,754 books and magazines. At the end of the

year, 3879 borrowing members were enrolled in the six branches. Thousands of readers who are not subscribing members use the free reading room facilities of the branches. This extension of the Library's service has brought American reading rooms and documentation centers to regions of France that have never before had such service.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

The following table shows the circulation of books and magazines for the eight libraries in the system during 1953:

Main Library, Paris	108,208
Left Bank Branch, Paris	21,218
Roubaix	31,482
Toulouse	27,942
Rennes	32,812
Montpellier	28,993
Grenoble	29,354
Nantes (opened May 30, 1953).....	9,161
Total:	289,170

Approximately 80% of these books and magazines went into French homes as the Library's contribution to a better understanding of the Anglo-Saxon world. This figure does not include the tens of thousands of books and magazines read in the libraries during the year.

OUT-OF-TOWN SERVICE

Planned to serve users in all parts of France. Subscribers receiving books by mail include professors and students, industrial concerns, and general readers. During 1953, 2229 books and magazines were sent by mail without a single loss. Lists of books in many fields guide subscribers in their reading.

REFERENCE SERVICE

The Library's well equipped reference room under trained librarians is used by hundreds of students and researchers from all parts of France. Questions asked in person, by telephone, and by mail cover all subjects, many requiring extensive research. Translators of American books frequently obtain help with the nuances of the English language.

ACQUISITION OF BOOKS

The Main Library's collection now numbers about 80,000 books and 220 magazines regularly received. Dollar resources in 1953 did not permit large-scale book-buying. However, money was donated for purchases in special fields, publishers supplied outstanding new books, many authors sent their latest works, and numerous friends gave books and magazines. Of the 4106 volumes added to the collection as new books or replacements of worn-out or lost books, 1142 were bought by the Library. The remaining 2964 volumes were received as gifts from friends in France and the United States.

LOAN SERVICE TO FRENCH LIBRARIES

The plan to send loan collections of books and magazines to French provincial libraries has been put in operation. Already some 800 books and important stocks of magazines have been sent to libraries in Rouen, Le Havre and Reims. Long-term loans of books and magazines have also been made to the American Community School of Paris, to the Foyer International des Etudiantes, Paris, to the Dependents' School, U. S. Air Forces, Fontainebleau, and to the Collège de l'Europe Libre en Exil, Strasbourg.

HEADQUARTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., is the American Representative of the Library. Under her direction groups of "Friends of the American Library in Paris" are being formed in many cities in the United States, in collaboration with those interested in promoting the work of the Library.

Dr. Ian Forbes Fraser, director of the Library, makes an annual lecture tour in the United States to keep the people in America informed of the purposes of the American Library in Paris and of its plans for the future.

American books and magazines are being sent direct to the Library in Paris under special labels. Please write to Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., 159 East 63rd Street, New York 21, N. Y., and ask for these. Books and magazines can be mailed in packages or strong manila clasp envelopes marked "Book Post". Parcels may not weigh more than 6 lbs. 9 oz. Postage is 14¢ a pound.