

**The**  
**AMERICAN**  
**LIBRARY**  
**IN PARIS**

**1920-1955**



**129 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris 8e**

**Branches**

**Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble, Nantes**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1954

On January 1, 1954 the American Library in Paris had on hand:

In Main Library account.....	\$22,973.61
In Provincial Branches account.....	11,507.06
	<u>\$34,480.67</u>
Earned income (from subscriptions, book rentals, investments, fees for management of the branches, sale of Christmas cards, etc.) .....	\$57,175.14
Income from donations and benefits .....	<u>31,015.52</u>
Total income .....	\$88,190.66
Expenses (salaries, administration, purchase and binding of books and magazines, etc.) .....	<u>80,117.19</u>
Excess of income over expenditures .....	8,073.47
	<u>\$42,554.14</u>
We have transferred to the Endowment Fund .....	19,704.39
Balance carried over to 1955 as of December 31, 1954 .....	<u>\$22,849.75</u>

1) Funds in French francs are included in these totals and have been converted at the rate of Fcs. 350 = \$1.00.

2) Cost price of securities and cash on hand held by J. P. Morgan & Co. Inc. for the Endowment Fund were \$85,001.43 as of December 31, 1954. During 1953 and 1954, the Trustees have transferred \$26,804.39 from general funds to the Endowment Fund in the belief that only through an adequate endowment can the future of the Library be assured. Special gifts and legacies for the Endowment Fund would be deeply appreciated.

# THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

For thirty-five years American books as ambassadors of friendship have carried the story of the Anglo-Saxon world to the people of France through The American Library in Paris.

Better understanding of the United States by the people of France grows in importance in the complex world situation of today. The Library performs a vital service in interpreting to our French friends the American philosophy of life, American customs and American culture.

## 1920-1955

The American Library was founded in 1920 by American residents in Paris with an endowment from the American Library Association and a gift of books from the A. E. F. Library.

During the 1920's and the 1930's the Library gained in importance and expanded its services. It weathered the depression, World War II and the German occupation when it was probably the only spot in occupied Europe where books in English could be freely read.

At the end of 1953 the Main Library moved from the Rue de Téhéran to 129 Avenue des Champs Elysées where it now has over 3,000 subscribing members including Government ministries, industrial and commercial firms, researchers, students and other readers in many walks of life.

From 1951 onward, with funds made available under contract with the American Government Information Services, the Library opened branches at Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble, and Nantes. 3,145 members are now enrolled at these branches which have brought American reading rooms and documentation centers to regions that have never before had such services. 151,027 persons visited the branches in 1954; 156,155 books and magazines were circulated for home reading.

The demand for new branches in other parts of France is steadily increasing.

A forthcoming study of American cultural re-

sources in Europe prepared by Professor Sigmund Skard of the University of Oslo refers to the Library as "one of the most important specialized American collections in Europe."

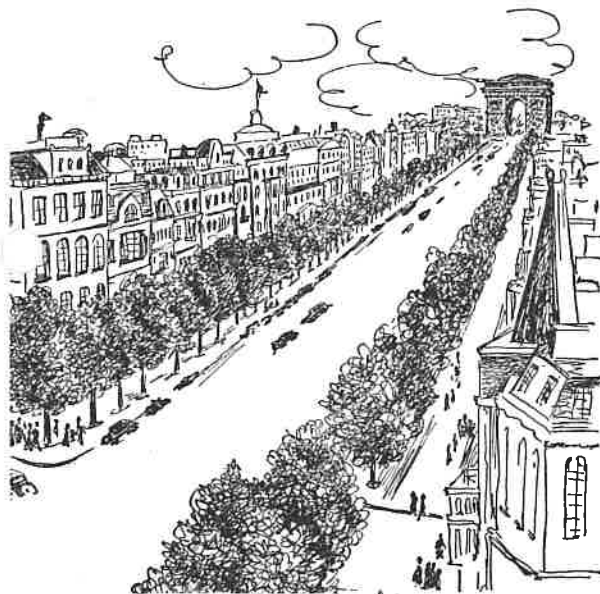
## Circulation of Books and Magazines

1954 circulation in the libraries:

Main Library, Paris .....	127,838
Left Bank Branch, Paris.....	10,087*
Roubaix .....	25,700
Toulouse .....	26,109
Rennes .....	33,543
Montpellier .....	24,058
Grenoble .....	27,080
Nantes .....	19,665
	<hr/>
	294,080

\*figures for 7 months. This branch closed temporarily.

In addition thousands of persons visited the Libraries' reading rooms.



The Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris. The Main Library is at No. 129, to the left, near the Etoile.

## Reference Service

Trained librarians in a well-equipped reference room at the Main Library assist researchers and students from all parts of Europe.

An extensive mail service provides information for persons in the provinces and in the colonies. Books are sent to industrial concerns, to professors, students and readers in general outside Paris.

Lists of books in many fields are provided to guide subscribers in their reading.

Stocks of books are sent to local libraries; Rouen, Le Havre, Rennes and other cities have received such loans.

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.

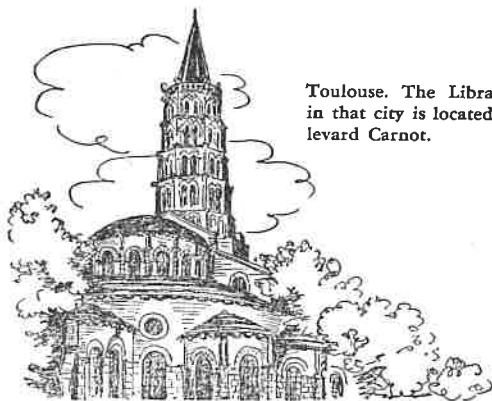
## Sources of Book Supply

Publishers supply outstanding new books. Many authors send their latest works.

Donations of money are received for purchases in special fields.

Numerous friends in France and the United States send books and magazines.

A portion of the annual budget is set aside for the purchase of technical books and replacements.



Toulouse. The Library's branch in that city is located at 75 Boulevard Carnot.



Outline map of France, showing locations of The American Library in Paris and its branches.

The Main Library collection now numbers some 80,000 books and 250 magazines regularly received.

There is always a need for more books and more magazines: Send these to the Main Library in Paris. Special labels for this purpose are furnished at the U.S. Headquarters. 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 ozs. Postage is 23¢ a pound.

## Director and Staff

The director of the Library, Dr. Ian Forbes Fraser, is assisted by an American librarian, Miss Joann Karges and an able staff of 17. All librarians at the branches have received training at the Main Library.

Dr. Fraser makes an annual lecture tour in the United States to give a first-hand report on activities of the Library.

### Headquarters in the United States

Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., is the American Representative of the Library at 159 East 63rd Street, New York 21. She keeps the people in America informed of the progress of the Library and its plans for the future. Under her direction groups of "Friends of the American Library in Paris" are being formed in many cities.

### We need Your Help!

The American Library in Paris is a private, non-profit institution. Its income is principally derived from memberships and donations.

We must have your support to continue and expand the work of the Library which is of such vital service to the free world.

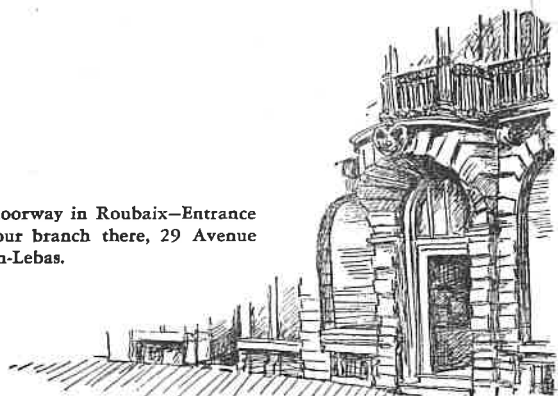
### We need \$80,000 for 1955

Please send us your donation now or enroll as a member:

Donation .....	\$
Sustaining Membership (annual) ..	100.00
Contributing Membership (annual)	25.00
Annual Membership .....	10.00

All contributions are deductible from Federal and State Income Taxes. Please make checks payable to American Library in Paris, Inc., and send to Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., 159 East 63rd Street, New York 21, N. Y.

A doorway in Roubaix—Entrance to our branch there, 29 Avenue Jean-Lebas.



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