



The American Library in Paris ANNUAL REPORT 2006

A message from the Chairman

This has been a challenging year for the American Library. While we have continued to offer a broad array of programs and services, a number of issues affecting the long term health of the ALP still require focused attention, particularly stagnant membership. The Board of Trustees has thus been faced with some difficult decisions, and has taken steps that will put the Library on a firmer footing for the future. This has involved significant change, which has often been difficult and unsettling.

As I step down as Chairman, I am pleased as I look back on the progress we have made. Five years ago our endowment was \$1.2 million, and it is now \$2.8 million, thanks in large part to the generosity of the Annenberg Foundation and Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, who shared the vision that I had for the American Library. We now have two endowed staff positions, one for the Director and one for the Children's Librarian. The Scaler Foundation, as well as other generous donors, including JP Morgan Chase, Sako and Bill Fisher, and the Woodward Foundation, responded when I asked them to contribute to our goals.

We have updated our technology capabilities, and installed a new cataloguing system. We have put into place term limits for Trustees, which will ensure new ideas, new energy, and strong participation from the community, and this year will see significant Board renewal. Plans for community outreach are underway. The Board has finally completed a Board policy manual, as well as a thorough review of the ALP by-laws, both of which have been works in progress for the last five years.

But there is still much to do. It is my hope that my successor will be as lucky as I was to have an incredibly dedicated and capable Executive Committee, and that they and the entire Board will address the issues that await resolution. With the excellent staff and strong group of volunteers that have worked so assiduously for the good of the Library, I am confident that the American Library's future is bright. It has been an honor for me to serve as Chairman, and I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all of you who gave so much to the American Library in Paris.

Charmaine Donnelly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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PROGRAMS

Throughout 2006 the Library hosted a diverse range of writers and others to stimulate our members and the general public by sharing their creativity and expertise in a convivial setting. Evening programs continue to be made possible by a grant from the Annenberg Foundation.

Among those who were guests of the Library were **Joanne Harris**, author of 'Chocolat' and 'Classe à Part,' **Don** and **Petie Kladstrup** discussing their book on Champagne, historian **Joan DeJean** on France's historic contributions



Amy Tan at the Word for Word reception

to fashion, food and glamour, **Bruce Rodgers** reading from his plays, **Eric Jager** and his story of crime and scandal in Medieval France, Episcopal priest **Rody Hall** on her spiritual pilgrimage, novelist **Mia de Laire** on the world of espionage, **Juanita Havill** on books for children

and young adults, Wellesley College professor **Michèle Respaut** on the literary context of medicine through the centuries, **Simon Marsden** on his 'Ghosthunter: A Journey Through Haunted France,' and a group of 'Baby Beat Poets' – **Thomas Rain Crowe**, **Philip Daughtry**, **David Moe**, **Ken Wainio**, **Roderick Iverson**, and **Kaye McDonough** – reading from their work.

The menu of evening programs also included a presentation by the college prep company **Kaplan** on 'Your MBA in the USA,' **Debra Healy** on the history of jewelry, **Zachary Miller**'s presentation of a lost film on Paul Robeson, *The Song of Freedom*, cultural historian **Carolyn Young** on memorable meals through the centuries, photographers **Meredith Mullins** and **Clotilde Noblet**, librarian and historian **Mary Niles Maack** on the dramatic story of the American Library in Paris during World War II, and Grammy-winning pianist **Paul Sullivan**'s celebration of American music.

Word for Word, the celebrated San Francisco performance troupe, returned for another standing-room-only program for the Library at the nearby Salle Adyar, this one a presentation of **Amy Tan**'s story 'Immortal Heart.'

New York Times columnist **Maureen Dowd** appeared at the Library in March before an enthusiastic audience. In May, at a Champagne lunch at the Marriott Champs-Elysees, **Mireille Guiliano**, president and CEO of Clicquot, Inc. , discussed her bestselling book, 'Why French Women Don't Get Fat.' Both of these events were organized as part of the Friends of the American Library in Paris initiative.

A high point of the year for the Library and its supporters was the annual gala at the Hotel Bristol. The honored guest and speaker was Lady **Antonia Fraser**, author of 'Marie Antoinette: The Journey.' The appearance coincided with the release of the Sofia Coppola film *Marie Antoinette* and drew an appreciative crowd for a memorable meal prepared by chef **Eric Frechon**.



Maureen Dowd (above) and Mireille Guiliano (below)



Lady Antonia Fraser at the Library Gala

The collection

Adult holdings

115 386 6 438 added in 2006

Young people's holdings

11 406 831 added in 2006

Audiovisual holdings

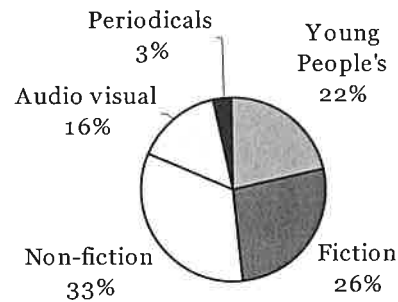
6 192 1 655 added in 2006

Periodical holdings

241 titles

Total additions to the collection 8 924

Circulation by category



Members by category

Individual

One-year 665
6 or 4 month 147

Family

One-year 348
6 or 4 month 57

Student

One-year 258
Institutional 401

Youth

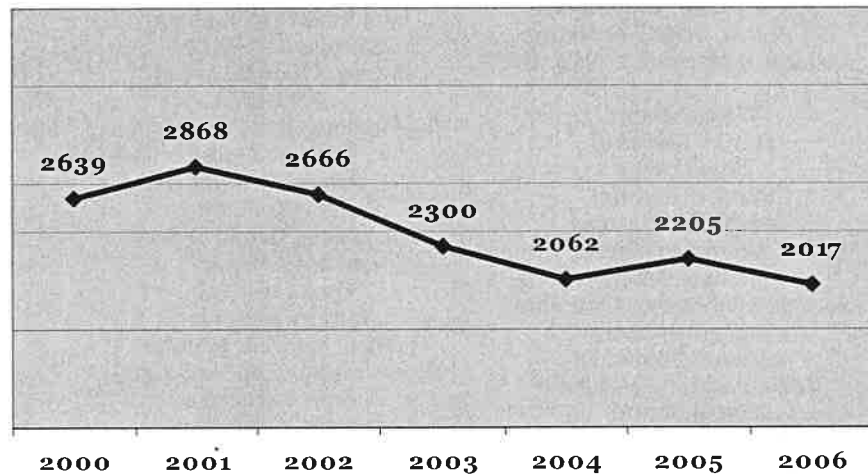
98

Other

43

LIBRARY DATA

Membership trends 2000-2006

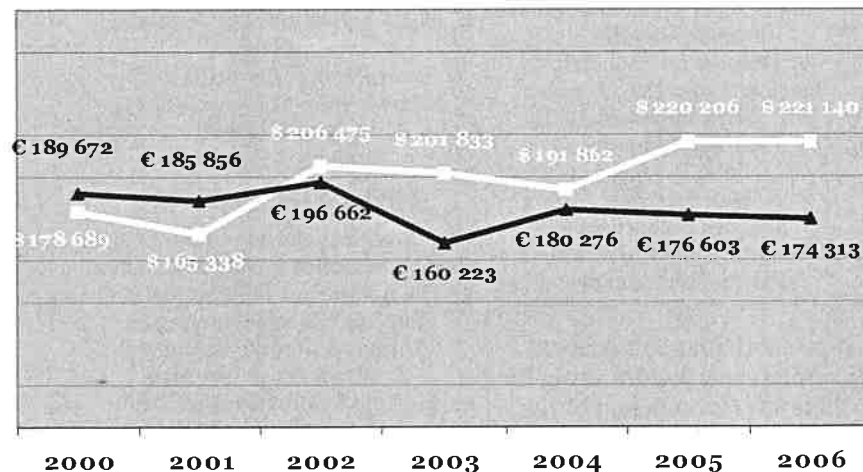


Where ALP members come from

United States	665
France	423
United Kingdom	111
Canada	46
Australia	34
India	32
South Korea	23
Ireland	19
Germany	15
New Zealand	9
Italy	9
Japan	8
Algeria	8
Belgium	7
Mexico	6
Switzerland	6

The remaining members hail from 44 other countries or list themselves as "bilingual."

Membership revenues 2000-2006



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Special thanks to Elizabeth Hochman and Sandra Craig for their efforts on behalf of the Friends of the American Library initiative.

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