

**THE  
AMERICAN LIBRARY  
IN PARIS  
1920-1956**



**129 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris 8e**  
Branches  
**Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble, Nantes**

## AMERICAN BOOKS AS AMBASSADORS OF FRIENDSHIP

Better understanding of the United States by the people of France grows in importance in to-day's complex world situation.

The American Library in Paris performs a vital service in interpreting to our French friends America's philosophy of life, her customs and her culture.

### Beginnings

The 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 American Expeditionary Force Library.

Its growth has been steady and continuous.

In World War II, during the German occupation it was probably the only spot in occupied Europe where books in English could be freely read.

### Formation of Branches

In 1951 and the years following the Library opened six branches with funds granted by the American Government Information Services.

Over 146,000 persons visited these branches in 1955 to use the reading rooms or to obtain books for home reading. The demand for new branches in other parts of France is steadily increasing.

### Branches

These are located as follows and include material of special interest to the region:

#### ROUBAIX

Textiles

#### MONTPELLIER

Medicine  
Public Health

#### TOULOUSE

Aviation

#### GRENOBLE

Hydro-Electric Power  
Paper Making

#### RENNES

University Subjects

#### NANTES

Engineering  
Petroleum Refining  
Food Canning



## Main Library

In 1953 the Main Library moved to new and larger quarters at 129 Avenue des Champs Elysées. Its collection now numbers some 80,000 books and 300 magazines regularly received. The use of its facilities has increased greatly in its new home. The circulation in 1955 was 133,602. The subscribing members include government ministers, industrial and commercial firms, researchers, students and readers in many walks of life.

## Reference Service

This is one of the most important functions of the Library. 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 general readers outside Paris.



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

Stocks of books are sent to local libraries in French provincial cities. Long-term loans of books and magazines have also been made to various institutions.

## Service for the Blind

The first collection of books in English Braille on the continent of Europe was made available to blind readers in October 1955, with the cooperation of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. Already requests for the catalogue (also in Braille) and for books have been received from several European countries.

## 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 in the United States send books and magazines.

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

## Director and Staff

The director of the Library, Dr. Ian Forbes Fraser is assisted by 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 at 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.

## May We Have Your Support?

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

### WE NEED \$100,000 FOR 1956

Funds are needed to prevent a deficit.

Funds are needed to enlarge an endowment which is not adequate.

Funds are needed to permit expansion.

Sustaining Membership (annual)	\$100
Contributing Membership (annual)	\$ 25
Annual Membership	\$ 10
Donation	..

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

### Form of Bequest:

I give and bequeath to the American Library in Paris, a corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware in the year 1920, for its corporate uses and purposes, the sum of.....dollars (\$.....)

## There Is Always A Need

### for More Books and Magazines

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Please mail direct to the Main Library in Paris. Apply to U. S. Headquarters for special labels. 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 13¢ a pound.

### THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC. National Committee in the United States

Mr. Elliott H. Lee, *Chairman*

Mr. Frank Altschul	Mr. Philip Hofer
Hon. Barry Bingham	Mr. Arthur A. Houghton
Hon. & Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss	Mr. Meyer Kestnbaum
Mr. Douglas W. Bryant	Mr. Milton E. Lord
Mr. Huntington Cairns	Mr. Clark H. Minor
Mr. Curtis Wolsey Cate	Mr. Theodore Rousseau
Hon. & Mrs. Charles S. Dewey	Mr. George C. Sharp
Mr. Douglas H. Gordon	Mr. Robert N. Stevens
Hon. Joseph Clark Grew	Mr. Paul Felix Warburg

Judge Eliot Watrous

### AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr.

159 East 63rd Street, New York 21, N. Y.

**THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC.**

**HONORARY OFFICERS**

The American Ambassador to France  
The French Ambassador to the United States

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Robert H. Blake, President  
Mr. James Nolan  
1st Vice-President  
Mr. Henri Jégu  
2nd Vice-President  
Mr. Karl S. Cate, Treasurer  
Mr. Parmely W. Herrick  
Assistant Treasurer  
Mrs. Johnson Garrett, Secretary  
Ian Forbes Fraser, Ph.D., Director

**TRUSTEES**

The American Ambassador to France  
Mr. Tupper Barrett  
Mrs. Margaret Thompson Biddle  
Mr. Robert H. Blake  
Mr. Julien Cain  
Mrs. Bernard S. Carter  
Mr. Karl S. Cate  
Miss Eva Drexel Dahlgren  
Hon. Lewis Einstein  
Dr. Luther H. Evans  
Mrs. Johnson Garrett  
Mr. Harvey S. Gerry  
Mr. Parmely W. Herrick  
Mr. John J. Hutchins  
Mr. Henri Jégu  
Miss Isabelle Kemp  
Madame André Lévy-Despas  
Mr. James Nolan  
The Very Rev. Sturgis L. Riddle  
Comte A. de Saint-Phalle  
Mr. William H. Wise

**HONORARY TRUSTEES**

Mr. Frank Altschul  
Mr. Alan V. Arragon  
Mme. Draper Boncompagni  
Hon. Henri Bonnet  
Mr. Welles Bosworth  
Mr. Bernard S. Carter  
Mr. Malcolm W. Davis  
Mr. James Jerome Hill  
Mr. James Hazen Hyde  
Mr. Milton E. Lord  
Mr. Joseph Verner Reed  
Mr. George C. Sharp  
Mr. Max Shoop  
Mr. André Siegfried  
Mr. Robert N. Stevens  
Mr. Paul Felix Warburg