

THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY
IN PARIS
1920-1957



129 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris 8e

Branches

Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble, Nantes,
Clermont-Ferrand, St. Etienne

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BRINGS AMERICA TO FRANCE

Beginnings

The Library, a private, non-profit institution, 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.

Progress

The Library has become one of the most outstanding American educational organizations in Europe. In Paris students flock to its shelves to find material unavailable elsewhere.

With the largest collection of American periodicals on the Continent (numbering over 400 titles and including over 8,000 volumes) and the newly established American Historical Collection, the Library has become a research center serving scholars in the whole of Western Europe. Trained librarians are available as consultants. The Library maintains at the same time its function of providing recreational and general reading in Paris and in the provinces.

Branches

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

Some 148,000 persons in 1956 used the reading rooms or obtained books for home reading. The demand for new branches in other parts of France is steadily increasing. Two additional branches opened in the Spring of 1957 at Clermont-Ferrand and St. Etienne. Branches at Cannes and at St. Denis are under consideration.



Main Library

In 1953 the Main Library moved from the Rue de Téhéran 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 1956 was 141,311, a new record. Subscribers include government ministries, industrial and commercial firms, students and readers in many walks of life.

Mail Service

An extensive mail service sends books to persons not only in Paris, in the provinces and in the colonies but also in other European countries. Books are sent to industrial concerns, to professors, to students and general readers.

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

Loans to Local Libraries

Stocks of books are sent to Municipal Libraries at Le Havre, Reims, Rouen and elsewhere in France.

Books and magazines are also lent to various other institutions.

A New Service established in 1957

Long-term loans of books and magazines are made to numerous Franco-American corporations in the Paris area for the use of their staffs.

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. Requests for the catalogue (also in Braille) and for books have been received from many European, Asian and African 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.

Director and Staff

The director of the Library, Dr. Ian Forbes Fraser is assisted by Mr. Harry Goldberg and an able staff of 17. All librarians at the branches receive training in the main Library.

Dr. Fraser makes an annual lecture tour in the United States to give a first-hand report on the work 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, N.Y.

MAY WE HAVE YOUR SUPPORT?

The Library's income is derived principally from donations and bequests.

WE NEED \$100,000 FOR 1957

To prevent a deficit.

To enlarge an endowment which is not adequate.

To permit expansion.

All contributions are deductible from Federal and State Income Taxes. Please make checks payable to The American Library in Paris, Inc., and mail to 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.

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