

THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY
IN PARIS
1920-1958



129, Avenue des Champs-Elysées, Paris 8^e
Branches
Roubaix, Toulouse, Rennes, Montpellier, Grenoble,
Nantes, St. Etienne

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS INTERPRETS 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.

During World War II, it was probably the only spot in Nazi-occupied Europe where books in English could be freely read.

Progress

The Library is one of the outstanding American educational institutions in Europe. Two of its special collections are unique: The American Historical Collection, providing research opportunities for European scholars interested in American studies, and the American Periodical Collection, with over 450 titles and 10,000 volumes, which is the most readily available source in Europe for the rich store of American periodical literature of the 19th and 20th centuries. Trained librarians serve as consultants and guides to the thousand people a month who seek information from the Library. At the same time, the Library offers general reading to a wide Parisian and provincial public.

Main Library

The Main Library has been located at 129, Avenue des Champs-Élysées, a step from the Arc de Triomphe, since 1953. Its collection now numbers some 80,000 books and 350 magazines regularly received. The use of its facilities has increased greatly in its new home. The circulation in 1957 was 142,985, a new record. Subscribers include government ministries, industrial and commercial firms, students and readers in many walks of life.

Books by Mail

Through an extensive mail service, books and magazines are sent to many parts of France and the French Union and to other European countries. Photostats and microfilms of periodical articles are provided at cost for scholars in many parts of the Eastern hemisphere, including countries behind the Iron Curtain.

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

Extension Service

Revolving loan collections are sent at regular intervals to French libraries and educational institutions. Since 1956, many corporations have requested these collections of American books for their staff rooms for the use of their employees.

Branches

Since 1951, the Library has opened seven branches in provincial cities under contract to the United States Information Agency.



In 1957, some 150,541 people came to the provincial branches to use the free reading rooms or to borrow books and magazines for home reading. Branch circulation was 144,707 in 1957.

Service for the Blind

The first collection of books in Braille in English on the European continent was made available to blind readers in October 1955, with the cooperation of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. In 1956 a collection of talking books (books on long-playing records) was added. This service now extends to most countries in Europe, Africa and Asia.

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.

OUR GOAL IS \$100,000 FOR 1958

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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