

1920

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS
celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year

1960

WHEN the first World War was over, there was in France a large collection of books which the American Library Association had supplied to the American Expeditionary Forces . . . American books which it seemed pointless to send back to the United States. And so, it was suggested they be left behind to start an American Library in Paris.

With the gift of these books and a modest endowment from the American Library Association, a committee of American residents founded the independent, non-profit American Library in Paris.

In 1920 the Library first opened its doors—doors which have never been closed. Even during the Nazi occupation, the American Library continued to provide the people of Paris with English and American books.

Today the Library is located near the Arc de Triomphe, 129, Avenue des Champs-Élysées—an impressive cultural institution and spokesman for America.

81% of the American Library's members are French and altogether it serves some 40 nationalities!



TO ADULTS



STUDENTS



CHILDREN



THE BLIND



AND THOSE FAR AWAY

The Library is an ambassador without portfolio

How quickly misunderstandings and prejudices are banished when we can project an honest picture of our life to peoples of other countries. And that is what the American Library does.

For, as a Frenchman reads our fiction and non-fiction, our magazines, he is hearing an American tell him about our country, that our hurts and joys are much like his, that our way of life is not perfect . . . but free.

Although some governments may spend more money to tell him their story, they lack the credibility of the American Library. For he knows the Library is independent—with no censorship, no government control. That is why one communist cell leader comes each day to read our newspapers. Only from them, he grudgingly admits, can he get unbiased news.



Adults seeking the truth about America find it easily in the Library's open shelves. Open shelves so common to Americans, are rare in France.



A special children's reading room and 4000 books help win friends among French youngsters, whose opinions are still forming.

Through the Library, the French learn about America as it really is.

It tells the story of American life with quiet impact...

Its special services reach beyond France to all of Europe...

In 1955 the Library found an increased need for Braille and talking books in English. It started to build a collection which today serves blind members in Europe, North Africa, the Near East and Japan.



To expand its services even further, the Library has revolving collections which it sends to libraries and schools both in and out of France. Corporations, too, borrow these books for their employees.

The Library also lends books by mail. And, now, a new photostat and microfilm service makes every item available to far-off readers. Films are being sent all over Europe, even behind the Iron Curtain!





Most of the books in the branches are translations into French. As the Library has found the French anxious to learn English, it conducts classes.

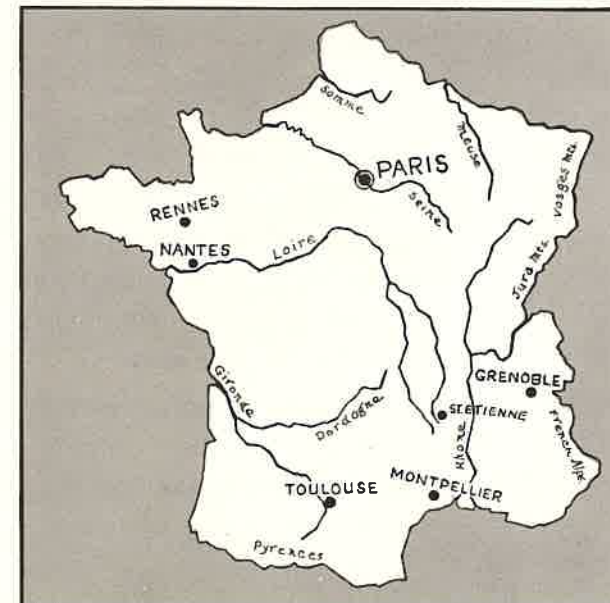
It serves thousands more in
France with six branches . . .



The Rennes branch is an American voice in a Communist stronghold. Here, each afternoon, the reading room is filled with young people, many of them party members. These young communists come regularly to read the books they cannot take out, for their leaders discourage their joining the Library.



Branch libraries keep special collections of American trade magazines and books that apply to the industries in their area, such as the coal and steel journals for St. Etienne. One of these collections, American Labor Relations Journals, is especially popular with workers, even in areas where the Communist party is strong!



In 1951 the Library opened its first branch. Soon the number grew to 7, each started at the request of the community it serves, and operated under contract with the U. S. Information Service. This year, with pride, the Library closed its Roubaix branch. The people of Roubaix decided to assume the responsibility for their own library. And so they established one and patterned it after the American Library branch they had grown to admire.

and its job is growing bigger . . .
so much *bigger* it needs

The American Library is a proud representative of American culture and a vast storehouse of information about our country maintained almost entirely by memberships and donations. It has a well-trained staff of professional librarians to help both casual readers and students.

The Library needs \$100,000 this year

Last year the Library's circulation reached the 300,000 mark and it is still growing. That is why, more than ever before, it needs your help.

To stay a vital force

The American Library has always been a success because it meets the needs and interests of its readers. To continue to do this, the Library must enlarge, in size and scope, its 80,000 book collection.

To expand its sphere of influence

In 1959, the Library furnished over 600 European libraries and research organizations with its American Periodical Collection

catalogue. This catalogue is bringing requests for microfilm and photostatic reproductions. Although a small charge is made, additional funds are needed to handle these requests quickly and efficiently.

**To increase its service
to the blind**

The American Library's collection of Braille and talking books in English is the first such collection in Europe. There are now more than 100 blind members, and as word of this collection spreads, this number will increase.

To build endowment

As the Library grows, so must its endowment. All money raised in excess of current operating expenses will be used to increase the Endowment Fund, a fund now far too small for the Library's needs.

Only through donations can the American Library in Paris continue free and independent and hold the respect and trust of people the world

your help!

over. Won't you help maintain this important witness for America by sending your contribution today?

All contributions are deductible from Federal and State Income Taxes. Please make checks payable to The American Library in Paris, Inc., and mail to the American Representative, Mrs. William B. Olmsted, Jr., 159 East 63rd Street, New York 21, N.Y. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed.



Every year the Library receives gift books from American publishers and authors, and from friends in France and in the United States. Won't you, too, donate books and magazines?

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Please mail direct to the Main Library in Paris. Apply to U. S. Headquarters for special labels which will speed your books through customs. 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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