

## REPORT - 1948

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, Inc.

9, Rue de Téhéran - PARIS (8<sup>e</sup>)

### A FEW WORDS OF HISTORY

The American Library in Paris grew out of the World War I A. E. F. library of the American Library Association, which gave its books and an endowment to a group of American residents of Paris in 1920. The library expanded rapidly during the 1920s and even operated a typical American library school. The depression forced curtailment of activity, but the library never interrupted its service to the public. During occupation, the library functioned as an open window on the free world, perhaps the only spot in occupied Europe where books in English could be freely read. Completely reorganized since liberation, the library now plays a more important part than ever in interpreting the Anglo-Saxon world to thousands of French readers.



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## MEMBERSHIP

At the end of December 1948, the American Library in Paris had 3,354 subscribing members borrowing books and magazines for home reading, an increase of 1,205 in a year. About two out of three members are French. Government ministries and numerous French industrial and commercial concerns are members. Hundreds of non-members use the free reading and reference rooms each month.

## CIRCULATION

The circulation of books and magazines was 135,632 for 1948, as against 103,984 for 1947, an increase of 30 per cent. Magazine circulation alone totalled 24,064. Approximately 90,000 books and magazines in English went into French homes from the American Library during 1948 as our contribution to a better understanding of the Anglo-Saxon world.

## OUT-OF-TOWN SERVICE

Planned to serve members on vacation, the Out-of-Town Service now has many permanent users in all parts of France. Subscribers receiving books by mail include professors and students, industrial concerns, and general readers. During 1948, 1,853 books and magazines were sent by mail without a single loss. Lists of books in many fields guide subscribers in their reading.

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## REFERENCE SERVICE

The Library's well-equipped reference room under a trained librarian is used by hundreds of students and researchers. Questions asked in person, by telephone, and by mail cover all subjects, many requiring extensive research. Translators of American books frequently obtain help with the nuances of the American language.

## LEFT BANK BRANCH

The Left Bank Branch, opened January 15, 1948 in premises made available without cost by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has enrolled 742 members and has circulated 18,422 books and magazines. It contains one of the best collections of English and American literature in Paris and a special group of books on political science, as well as general books.

## ACQUISITION OF BOOKS

The Library's collection now numbers about 60,000 books and 400 magazines regularly received. Dollar resources in 1948 did not permit large-scale book-buying, but generous friends met most of the Library's needs. Money was given for purchases in special fields, publishers supplied outstanding new books, many authors sent their latest works, and numerous friends gave books and magazines. The great need is an adequate book fund in dollars to make possible a coherent buying program.

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## PROJECTED LOAN SERVICE TO FRENCH LIBRARIES

It is hoped that revolving loan collections can be sent during 1949 to a group of French provincial city libraries. Lots of 150 books will be lent for three months and replaced at the end of that period. This service will extend the influence of the Library far beyond its present bounds.

## THE ROLE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

The American Library in Paris is a private, non-profit-making institution which receives no government subsidies. The Library works to complement, rather than duplicate, the service of the Documentation Center of the U.S. Information Service. After 28 years of existence, the American Library occupies an honored place in the cultural life of Paris, serving thousands of people of all nationalities and walks of life.

**WILL YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE THIS IMPORTANT WORK ?**

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1948

## FRANC ACCOUNT

On hand 1-1-48 . . . . .	720,745	Salaries . . . . .	2,505,552
On hand (Bk. acct.) 1-1-48 . . . . .	55,618	Administration . . . . .	480,593
Subscriptions . . . . .	2,436,337	Building . . . . .	831,627
Fines . . . . .	527,826	Book purchases . . . . .	307,211
Miscellaneous income . . . . .	257,893	Balance 12-31-48 . . . . .	535,710
Payment for lost books, U.S. Army . . . . .	251,120	Balance (Bk. acct.) 12-31-48 . . . . .	43,228
Donations . . . . .	159,561		
Book account income . . . . .	294,821		
	<u>4,703,921</u>	Fcs. . . . .	<u>4,703,921</u>

## DOLLAR ACCOUNT

On hand 1-1-48 . . . . .	577.92	Paris Salaries . . . . .	14,000.04
Donations . . . . .	14,406.53	U. S. office . . . . .	3,299.13
Investment Income . . . . .	660.00	Book purchases . . . . .	2,155.77
Miscellaneous Income . . . . .	65.45	Insurance . . . . .	278.30
Deficit 12-31-48 . . . . .	4,023.34		
	<u>\$ 19,733.24</u>	Fcs. . . . .	<u>\$ 19,733.24</u>