

**THE AMERICAN
LIBRARY
◦ IN PARIS ◦**



**2022
Annual Report**

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Cover illustration: Façade of the American Library in Paris, 1952–1964 at 129, avenue des Champs-Élysées. This illustration appeared on Library letterhead in the 1950s. In reintroducing this image in 2022, we updated the street number to reflect 10, rue du Général Camou, the Library's home since 1964.

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Browsing art books in the Florence Gould Reading Room. Photo © Julien LB

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Executive Director Audrey Chapuis. Photo © Krystal Kenney

Dear members of the American Library in Paris,

In these pages you'll discover the broad range of activities that the Library and its growing community undertook in 2022, a year marked by the excitement of reconnecting in person as well as the launch of new partnerships and initiatives.

Membership at the Library reached a significant milestone, surpassing 5,000 members in December with the addition of 2,500 new patrons from one hundred countries (p. 33). Throughout 2022 those members actively engaged with the Library and its robust resources. Statistics on book borrowing and electronic resource use (p. 32) reflect a continued love of print materials and the embrace of digital offerings.

The Library's cultural programs brought readers of all ages who joined us for author talks, book groups, writing workshops, and much more (p. 17). We also connected with new audiences outside our walls, in Paris and beyond, through cultural outreach initiatives such as On the Road (p. 14), and partnership programs (p. 17).

As part of a rich ecosystem of fellow international institutions in Paris, we are proud to foster partnerships with over fifty-five organizations, including universities, nonprofits, embassies, and other cultural organizations that enrich our conversations and allow us to expand the scope and depth of our offerings.

The generous support of our donors, grant-makers, and volunteers also played a pivotal role in our success throughout 2022. We were grateful to welcome 160 new donors to the Library. And our dedicated donors expanded their support in significant ways. The programs and activities that their contributions enable are also outlined in the pages of this report.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Library team, we thank each and every one of you for the ways that you uphold the institution in its second century of service.

Sincerely,



Audrey Chapuis
Executive Director



Forrest Alogna
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

2022 GALA

On 19 May, the eve of the Library's 102nd birthday, the Library community gathered at the Automobile Club de France. We spent the evening celebrating Library supporters and staff, Franco-American luminaries, and, of course, literature!

We heard from US Ambassador to France and Monaco Denise Campbell Bauer, Damon Austin for the American Library Association, Visiting Fellow Ian Williams, and the incomparable author and bookseller Ann Patchett, our 2022 Gala honoree.

Our Gala attendees and sponsors directly contribute to our mission. Their generosity allows us to present over 300 events for readers of all ages, circulate 170,000 books, and serve a community of close to 5,000 members from 100 countries.

2022 GALA SPONSORS

Forrest Alogna and Sandrine Poisson
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Chairman of the Board of Trustees Forrest Alogna
Photo © Krystal Kenney



2022 Gala Honoree Ann Patchett (left) with Visiting Fellow Ian Williams. Photo © Krystal Kenney

“

A book says, ‘There is a safe place inside of you where stories exist, where you exist. A place where you can imagine a world in which things are ok...’

— Ann Patchett at the 2022 Gala

”

THE 2022 GALA



Executive Director Audrey Chapuis



Gala Honoree Ann Patchett



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Charlie Trueheart and
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Ambassador Denise Bauer



Visiting Fellow Ian Williams

BOOK AWARD

The 2022 Jury

Charles Trueheart (chair), journalist and former Library Director

Thomas Chatterton Williams, writer

Alexandra Schwartz, journalist

Historian **Graham Robb** accepted the 2022 prize for *France: An Adventure History* at the tenth annual American Library in Paris Book Award Ceremony. The book is an original, surprising, and fun survey of French history, from the Roman occupation in the first century, BCE, all the way through to modern times. Robb includes new historical research and his own personal discoveries from three decades of exploring France, often by bicycle.

Robb is also the author of *The Discovery of France*, *Parisians*, and other works about France, the British Isles, and their history and peoples. He was born in Manchester, attended Exeter College, Oxford, and currently lives in the UK.

The winner was announced before an audience of Library supporters on 3 November at the George C. Marshall Center in the Hôtel de Talleyrand on the Place de la Concorde.



Left to right: Rachel Donadio, Graham Robb, Audrey Chapuis, and Thomas Chatterton Williams. Photo © Krystal Kenney

This exceptional work of history and exploration showcases the virtuosity and erudition of an author already renowned for his understanding of France's character. Here Graham Robb beckons us along a two-millennia odyssey through an unexpected country, from the primitive mists that led pilgrims to a legendary tree to the complex latter-day national bonding of the Tour de France. The jury is proud to recognize *France: An Adventure History* for its enterprise, its originality, and its eloquence.

— The Book Award jury
on *France: An Adventure History*

The American Library's \$5,000 literary prize, which celebrated its tenth year in 2022, is given to a title originally published in English that best realizes new and intellectually significant ideas about France, the French people, or encounters with French culture.

A screening committee chaired by Rachel Donadio, the award administrator, selected the shortlist from fifty-nine submissions. The jury chose the winning book. Thank you to our screeners: Abigail Altman, Michael Duffy, Jeanne Fellowes, Adele Kudish, Brian Manning, Ann Morrison, Don Morrison, Elliot Rambach, and Usha Viswanathan.

A special thank you to the U.S. Embassy, France and Counselor for Cultural Affairs Michael Turner for hosting the evening. Thanks also to Picador, an imprint of Pan Macmillan, for donating copies of the winning title.

The Library is grateful to the prize's generous Patrons: Mary Duncan, Jeanne Fellowes, Clydetta de Groot, Suzanne G. Justen, and Usha Viswanathan.

The Book Award is supported by a grant from the **Florence Gould Foundation**, which will sustain the Book Award for many years to come.

The 2022 Shortlist

The Caretakers: A Novel
by Amanda Bestor-Siegal

City of Incurable Women
by Maud Casey

France: An Adventure History
by Graham Robb

*The French Mind:
400 Years of Romance,
Revolution and Renewal*
by Peter Watson

*In the Forest of No Joy:
The Congo-Océan Railroad
and the Tragedy of
French Colonialism*
by J.P. Daughton

*Coups de Cœur: Books of special merit
from among the contenders*

Half-Blown Rose
by Leesa Cross-Smith

Hostages of Empire
by Sarah Ann Frank

*The Man Who
Invented Motion Pictures*
by Paul Fischer

Soundscapes of Liberation
by Celeste Day Moore

*Sprinting Through
No Man's Land*
by Adin Dobkin

A Waiter in Paris
by Edward Chisholm

ON THE ROAD



Illustration by artist Marine Belkebir



On the Road in Sarcelles. Photo © Alfonso Sjogreen

On 27 June 2022, we launched the Library's ten-month On the Road outreach tour. Over the course of the tour, a dedicated team of twenty-two Library staff members and volunteers embarked on eleven transformative trips, accompanied by fourteen journalists and writers and partnering with over sixteen host institutions.

Our mission was to bring the full spectrum of the Library's offerings to new audiences in diverse locations while strengthening Franco-American ties. From children's Story Hour to author conferences on women's rights, from expert talks on climate change to writing workshops for teens, we sought to share the Library's treasures far and wide. And we had the privilege of introducing more than 1,250 participants to the Library and its resources.

Along the way, the American Library team was fortunate to discover the cultural riches of France as well. Among many unforgettable moments, a few highlights: In Amiens Métropole, we held in our hands the travel journals of Jules Verne. In the ville de Sarcelles, we danced to the extraordinary voice of Samira Brahmia. And in Évry-Courcouronnes, we discovered La Fabrik', a hotbed of entrepreneurial innovation.

This project was made possible by On the Road's sponsor, the U.S. Embassy & Consulates in France, along with the support of the Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France regions and the patronage of Rachid Santaki.

Special thanks to the cities and mayoral offices of Saint-Omer, Le Blanc-Mesnil, Savigny-Le-Temple, Évry-Courcouronnes, Lille, Amiens, Airion, Chauny, Sarcelles, and Douai; and our partner institutions: Bibliothèque d'agglomération du Pays de Saint-Omer, Médiathèque Edouard Glissant, Médiathèque des Cités Unies, Collège des Pyramides, Lycée international de Montebello, Bibliothèque Louis Aragon, Lycée agricole de l'Oise, Maison de quartier des Vignes Blanches, Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Lycée privé Robert Schuman, La Fabrik', Lycée Biotech Douai—Campus Wagnonville.

Thanks for the time and invaluable expertise of the journalists, writers, and specialists who went on the road with us: Juan Pablo Arellano, Samira Brahmia, Charlotte Force, Yanique Francis, Faïza Guène, Jess McHugh, Jacqueline Ngo Mpii, Amy Plum, Andrew Saidy, Rachid Santaki (Project Sponsor), Madeleine Schwartz, Cole Stangler, Clarence Tokley, Nita Wiggins, Naïma Yahi, David Zikovit. We also thank the Library staff, interns, and volunteers who made On the Road possible: Abigail Altman, Emilie Biggs, Nathalie Cousin, Carolyn Dubol, Veronica Ferrie, Maisie Fieschi, Claire Hargreaves, Jason Hazard, Bojan Kupirović, Alice McCrum, Kirsty McCulloch Reid, Pallas-Amenah Morgan, Daphné Renard-Martin, Celeste Rhoads, Erin Roughan, Alfonso Sjogreen, Mayanne Wright, and Morgan Wurzbarger.

VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF NOTE

The Visiting Fellowship Program, established in 2013, awards a \$5,000 stipend to a writer or a scholar, allowing them to deepen their research during a month-long stay in Paris. During this time, Visiting Fellows speak to Library audiences, conduct workshops, consult with Library staff about its collections, and engage in the life of the Library community.

The Fellowship is made possible thanks to the generous support of The de Groot Foundation.



Kate Kirkpatrick. Photo © John Cairns

Kate Kirkpatrick, a philosopher based at Regent's Park College, Oxford, is the author of several books and articles on French philosophy and the internationally acclaimed biography of Simone de Beauvoir, *Becoming Beauvoir: A Life*. Kirkpatrick visited the Library in April 2023 to work on her current book, *The Second Sex: A Philosophical Commentary*.



Adrienne Raphel. Photo © Nina Subin

Adrienne Raphel, writer, teacher, and poet, is the author of *Thinking Inside the Box: Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can't Live Without Them*. Her writing appears in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. While at the Library in June 2023, Raphel will work on her current book, *Department Story*.

Due to the exceptional quality of the applications to the 2022–2023 Fellowship, the selection committee chose three additional writers for a new distinction: Scholar of Note. The **2022–2023 Scholars of Note** were:

Ladee Hubbard, the author of the novels *The Talented Ribkins* and *The Rib King*, and the short story collection *The Last Suspicious Holdout*.

Mark Mayer, the author of the novel *Aerialists*. His stories have been published in *American Short Fiction*, *Kenyon Review*, *Guernica*, and the *Iowa Review*.

Jen Silverman, a screenwriter, playwright, and the author of the novel *We Play Ourselves*, the story collection *The Island Dwellers*, and the poetry chapbook *Bath*. Her work has appeared in *Vogue*, the *Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, the *Sun*, *Literary Hub*, and *Yale Review*.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING



From left: Viet Thanh Nguyen, Programs Manager Alice McCrum, and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah at the Library on 21 September 2022, speaking at an Evenings with an Author event sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg, and co-presented with Festival America. Pulitzer Prize-winner Viet Thanh Nguyen was the 2018 Writer-in-Residence at the Library, under a program supported by The de Groot Foundation.

Partnering with cultural institutions, magazines, festivals, bookshops, universities, and fellow libraries from around the world allowed us to broaden the reach of our conversations. In 2022 we partnered with mk2 Bibliothèque, the London Review Bookshop, the London Library, Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the Institute for Ideas and Imagination, Little Africa Paris, the Overseas Press Club, the Centre Culturel Irlandais, as well as with Festival America, The American University of Paris, and Shakespeare and Company.

Our *Entre Nous* series with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination (now in its fifth season) enabled us to hear from scholars such as Kaiama L. Glover, Roosevelt Montás, Anuk Arudpragasam, and Christia Mercer. Our Critical Conversations series returned for a fourth season with *Analog Sea's* Jonathan Simons. In-person-only by design, participants explored the liberation of offline living.

We also partnered with Festival America in September to host Pulitzer Prize-winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and author Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah at the Library, as well as Jonathan Franzen, Brandon Taylor, and Marcial Gala, among others, on local stages in Vincennes. Another Pulitzer Prize-winner for fiction, Joshua Cohen, spoke with Professor Daniel Medin at the Library in January thanks to our work with the Center for Writers and Translators and the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at The American University of Paris.

We celebrated two major literary anniversaries: on Bloomsday (16 June), we partnered with Shakespeare and Company to honor the centenary of James Joyce's *Ulysses*; while for the centenary of T.S. Eliot's epic poem "The Waste Land," we sponsored a live reading at the Centre Culturel Irlandais with support from the T.S. Eliot Foundation.

The U.S. Embassy in Jordan and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Library worked with us on several events in 2022, notably on a lively online discussion about disinformation. We co-hosted conversations at mk2 Bibliothèque, including a very special event with Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. We worked, too, with the London Review Bookshop to produce a discussion of Simone de Beauvoir's newly-discovered novel *The Inseparables*, as well as with colleagues at the London Library to explore academic Emma Smith's *Portable Magic*.

Partnering with Patrick Banks, The Californien Agency, and Little Africa Paris, the Library marked Black History Month in February through conversations with emerging and established Black writers, journalists, filmmakers, historians, and scholars to seek out not only new ways of thinking about Black history, but new ways of teaching it: in museums, films, creative nonfiction, graphic novels, and, above all, open dialogue.

BOOK GROUPS

12 groups / 64 meetings

**The Art of Writing:
Mademoiselle Highsmith**
led by Precious Brown

**Modern Ideas
in Human Culture**
led by Maury Lanman
and Laurie Calvet

**The American Library
in Paris Book Award**
led by Connie Scuderi

**The Art of Reading:
Norse, Nin & Friends**
led by Precious Brown

**Prize-Winning American
and British Plays**
led by Hilary Kaiser

**Explorations at the
Limits of our Knowledge**
led by Maury Lanman
and Laurie Calvet

French and American Encounters
led by Sharon Golec

Strangers in a Strange Land
led by Mary Harries Magnusson
and Gulseren Kozak-Isik

Mystery Book Group
led by Maureen Paget
and Marcia Lèbre

Memoir Book Group
led by Clydette de Groot
and Leslie de Galbert

Contemporary French Fiction
led by Helen Stanton

This is America
led by Edward Turner,
Marjorie Bernstein-Szafir,
and Pamela Combastet



Lily Thébaut at the On the Road launch event on 27 June 2022.
Photo © Julien LB

EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR SPONSORED BY GROW @ ANNENBERG

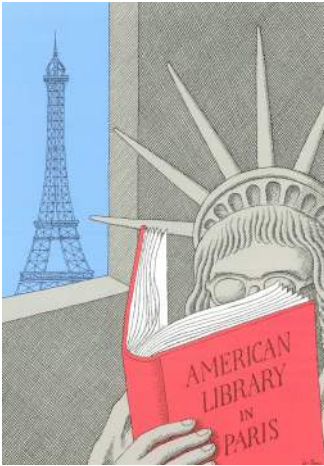


Illustration by Pierre Le-Tan, 1995

GROW@
ANNENBERG

In 2022 the Library's Evenings with an Author series sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg presented over one hundred events with more than 5,400 audience members both in person and online. We welcomed authors Colm Tóibín, Deborah Levy, Joshua Cohen, Lan Samantha Chang, and Viet Thanh Nguyen, scholars Gayatri Spivak, Pap Ndiaye, Stephen Greenblatt, and Maboula Soumahoro, just as we hosted journalists Elizabeth Kolbert, Luke Mogelson, George Packer, and Michael Moss.

We explored many topics, from the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, and the rise of the Internet, to feminist futures, turbulent presents, and prejudiced pasts. We heard from filmmakers, economists, translators, anthropologists, philosophers of science and philosophers of mind, historians, poets, psychologists, visual artists, and marine biologists.

“

Blackness is a way to take seriously the concept of universalism and to expand it beyond the boundaries of Europe.

— Historian Pap Ndiaye, now the French Minister of Education and Youth appeared at the Library on 1 February 2022

”



Writers (left to right) Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, and Grace Ly speak about diversity, representation, the mythology of the *parisienne*, and the lived experience of women in France on 12 October 2022.

EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR

JANUARY

Creating and inventing with Ayşegül Savaş
(on *White on White*)
Marc Petitjean on *Back to Japan: The Life and Art of Master Kimono Painter Kunihiro Moriguchi*
Claire Messud and Christopher Beha in conversation
about Messud's new novel, *A Dream Life*
Joshua Cohen and Daniel Medin in conversation about
Cohen's new novel, *The Netanyahus*
Elizabeth Kolbert on *Under a White Sky*
Robert Zaretsky on his new biography, *The Subversive Simone Weil*
Rebecca Hall on *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts*

FEBRUARY

Pap Ndiaye and Jake Lamar in conversation about Ndiaye's
career as head of the *Musée de l'histoire d'immigration*
Albena Azmanova and Lucas Chancel on Azmanova's
Capitalism on Edge
Maboula Soumahoro and Kaiama L. Glover on *Black is the Journey, Africana the Name*
Mikki Kendall and Kierstan Kaushal-Carter on *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women that a Movement Forgot*
Cassandra Lane on her book of creative nonfiction,
We Are Bridges
Screening of *Myth of a Colorblind France*, followed by a
discussion with the director and co-writer, Alan Govenar
Audrey Edwards and Ellen Wright-Hervé on Edwards' new
book, *American Runaway: Black and Free in Paris in the Trump Years*
Jonathan Bloom on *Genesis and Revision in Modern British and Irish Writers*
Elaine Sciolino and Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu on
Emily in Paris
Mame-Fatou Niang on *Mariannes Noires*

MARCH

Moshe Bar, author of *Mindwandering*, and Jillian Lavender,
author of *Why Meditate?*
Architecture for the future with Jack Self and
Mollie Claypool
Education of hand and heart with Satish Kumar

D.N. Rodowick and Samantha Rose Hill discuss
Hannah Arendt
Maggie Paxson on *The Plateau*
Maaza Mengiste on her best-selling novel, *The Shadow King Reading for the Planet* with Jennifer Wenzel
Alison Gopnik, Peter Godfrey-Smith, and Annie Murphy Paul
discuss consciousness and the mind
Megan Mayhew Bergman on *How Strange A Season*
Alan Riding and Diane Johnson on *Lorna Mott Comes Home*

APRIL

James Shapiro and Stephen Greenblatt in conversation about
William Shakespeare
Matthieu Aikins on *The Naked Don't Fear the Water*
Julia Frey and Beverly Held in conversation about Nolet's new
biography of Édouard Vuillard
Helen Lewis and Christia Mercer discuss feminism over
the years
How Forests Think with Eduardo Kohn
A panel of journalists (Vivienne Walt, Victor Mallet, Sarah
Paillou, and Nadia Pantel) discuss the outcome of the
French election.
Julia Cagé (*Le Prix de la démocratie*) on the relationship
between democracy, politics, and the media sector
Roosevelt Montás and Andrew Delbanco discuss Montás's
book, *Saving Socrates*

MAY

Last Best Hope with George Packer and Thomas Chatterton
Williams
Robin Wright, Serge Schmemmann, and Steven Erlanger on the
war in Ukraine
Robert McCrum on *Shakespearean: On Life & Language in Times of Disruption*
Patrick Hastings on *The Guide to James Joyce's Ulysses*
Racialization and disorientation with Ian Williams
The Inseparables with Lauren Elkin and Deborah Levy
Portable Magic with Emma Smith
Literature after *Ulysses* with Colm Tóibín
Speech and silence with Colm Tóibín and
Anuk Arudpragasam

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JUNE

Vanessa Onwuemezi and Daniel Medin on *Dark Neighbourhood*
 Alice McCrum, Adam Biles, Lex Paulson on James Joyce, *Ulysses*, and Bloomsday
 Souleymane Bachir Diagne on *Le Fagot de ma mémoire*
 Ruby Warrington on *Sober Curious*
 Jessica Nordell on *The End of Bias*
 Alexander Capdeville and Lan Samantha Chang on *The Family Chao*
 Estelle-Sarah Bulle and Julia Grawemeyer on *Where Dogs Bark With Their Tails*
 Jasmine Hemsley on *East by West*

JULY

David Chalmers on *Reality+*
 Rahim Danto Barry on *Portes d'Afrique*
 Lara Marlowe on *Love in a Time of War*

SEPTEMBER

Daniel Levin Becker on *What's Good: Notes on Rap and Language*
 Amor Towles on *Lincoln Highway*
 Anne Weber in conversation with translator Tess Lewis about *Epic Annette*
 Rob Nixon on environmental justice, *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*
 Andrew Curran on *Who's Black and Why? A Hidden Chapter from the Eighteenth-Century Invention of Race*
 Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (*Friday Black*) and Viet Thanh Nguyen (*The Committed*) on the contemporary scene of American literature
Politique de la littérature with Jonathan Franzen, Karl Marlantes, and Viet Thanh Nguyen
L'Empire des sens with Marcial Gala, Brandon Taylor, and Bryan Washington
 An evening with Joyce Maynard
 Peter Conradi and Vivienne Walt on *Who Lost Russia? How the World Entered a New Cold War*

OCTOBER

Deborah Levy and Colombe Schneck discuss swimming and writing
 An evening with Deborah Levy at the Library
 Journalists Matthieu Aikins and Luke Mogelson discuss writing long-form and covering war zones
 Peter Sokolowski on French and English over the years
 Lindsey Tramuta, Grace Ly, and Rohkaya Diallo in conversation about contemporary French stereotypes
 Michael Moss on *Hooked: Salt, Sugar, Fat*
 Olesya Khromeychuk, Sonya Bilocerkowycz, Irena Karpa, Artem Chapeye, Lyuba Yakimchuk on Writing Ukraine
 Stephen Clarke on Regis Envy, or why the French would secretly love a monarchy
 Hélène Périvier on *L'Economie féministe*
 Jeff Deutsch on *In Praise of Good Bookstores*

NOVEMBER

Justin Smith and Jonathan Simons on *The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is: A History, a Philosophy, a Warning*
 Lynnette Widder, João Pina, and Mila Turajlić on three archives in conversation
 Scholars Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim on religion and ecology
 Christopher Prendergast on *Living and Dying with Marcel Proust*
 Lauren Bastide and Madeleine Schwartz on *Futur.es*
 Boukary Sawadogo on *Africans in Harlem: An Untold New York Story*
The Kennedy Withdrawal by Marc Selterstone in conversation with Charles Trueheart
 Gayatri Spivak and Emily Apter in conversation about *Living Translation*
 Simon Critchley on *Question Everything*

DECEMBER

Azar Nafisi and Caroline Fourest on *Reading Lolita in Tehran*
 A Celebration of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land"
 Joanna Walsh and Summer Brennan on *My Life as a Godard Movie*

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Over fifty *lycées*, *collèges*, universities, embassies, and organizations in France benefit from discounted Library memberships tailored to the needs of each institution. We offer Library orientations to our partner members, led by a professional librarian. Orientation

topics include research skills, proper source citation, and Library history. For our younger institutional members, our Children's and Teens' Services team presents Story Hours and introductions to the Library.

AAWE (American Association of Women in Europe)
ACCENT (University of Southern California)
American Church in Paris
American Embassy in Paris
American School of Paris
American University of Paris
AIA (Association internationale des anciens de l'OECE et de l'OCDE)
Australian Embassy
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IESA (art&culture, école des métiers de la culture et du marché de l'art)
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Librarian Bojan Kupirović leading an orientation for university students.

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*42 onsite orientations
and school visits
reaching 672 students
from primary school
through university*

Pari-Grandir
Roaming Schoolhouse
Schiller International University
Sorbonne Université,
Le Département des Langues
de la Faculté des Sciences et
Ingénierie
Stanford University
University of Kent
University of London in Paris
L'Université Paris-Est Créteil,
Département d'Anglais

CHILDREN'S & TEENS SERVICES



Halloween 2022 © Julien LB

The Children's and Teens' Services department continues to be one of the Library's busiest corners, having hosted 2,635 attendees ages 0–18, at 212 programs. Popular programming for children included Toddler Times (ages 1–3), weekly Story Hours (ages 3–5), Saturday Series (ages 6–10), Sunday workshops (ages 9–12), the annual Halloween Extravaganza, and the Young Authors Fiction Festival. Members ages 12–18 joined us for Teen Nights, writing workshops, a public speaking program, the Teen Writing Group, the Teen Advisory Council, college essay writing workshops, the Master Shot Film Club, book clubs, and readings with published authors including Samira Ahmed, Jamika Ajalon, and Kwame Alexander.

Young readers can choose from over 20,000 print volumes, plus magazines, audiobooks, and a growing collection of digital resources.

Picture books, the I Can Read collections for emerging readers, juvenile fiction, and graphic novels and manga remain especially popular.

Two full-time certified librarians offered reading recommendations, curated book lists, and research help to children, teens, parents, and educators.

The department is supported by interns and a team of volunteers from around the world.

Young Authors Fiction Festival



Teen YAFF finalists receiving their awards from Kirsty McCulloch Reid (right) at the 2022 YAFF Celebration.

The Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) is the Library's annual short story writing contest for students ages 5–18. The festival is free to enter and open to young writers who live in the greater Paris area and write in English. In 2022 the Library received 685 original short story submissions, which were reviewed by over 100 judges participating from around the world. The volunteer judging team included educators, published authors, librarians, parents, community members, and Library staff.

Finalists were honored at the annual YAFF Celebration event and winning stories in each grade category were published in a booklet that is added to the Library's permanent collection.

Thanks to the British Council, Marymount International School, and Union School for sponsoring YAFF 2022.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Toddler Time

Twice monthly

Story Hours

Magical Tales
Seasons Change
The Questioners
Winged Wonders
Fairy Tales and Fables
Valentines
Classics & Favorites
True Stories
Diggers & Dump Trucks
Spring Days
St. Patrick's Day
Grammar Rules
Yummy Stories
Opposites
Surprises Galore
We Love Our Earth!
Pet Pals
Story Hour in The Park
Magical Friends
Wonderful Weather
Manners Matter
Worry Free
Here Come the Aliens
Animal Problems
Use Your Voice
Terrific and Terrifying Tigers
Rad Reptiles
Animals of the Safari
Daring and Dastardly Dragons
Scottish Tales
Back to School
We Love the Library
Shapes
Pirates Ahoy
Giggles Galore
Monster Mayhem
Pretty Pumpkins
Witches in the Air
Halloween Surprises
Wheels Go Round

Look Up, Look Around
Bears All Around
Thanksgiving
Friends Near and Far
Ships Ahoy!
Meals Together
Firefighters
Skeleton Inside You
Winter Weather Clothes
Blast Off!

Saturday Series

Art and Collage
Make Your Own Snow
Valentine's Day Cards
Game Time
Make Your Own Comic
Creating Characters
Treasure Map-Making
Exploring the Equinox
A City of Art
Paper Flowers Crafts
Talk Like Shakespeare
Plot Twists
Make Your Own Mini Book
Riddle Me This
Storm Science
Summer Crafts
Red, White, and Blue
Mythology Madness
Impressionists
Friendship Bracelets
Lego Creations
Autumn Crafts
Baby Gym
Creating Scary Stories
D.I.Y. Decorations
Ghost Stories
Spooky Creations
Game Day
Pajama Party
This is Not a Box

Sunday Workshops

Beginning Your Short Story
Editing and Revising
Poetry
Roald Dahl Book Club
Research Basics: Learning Research Skills
Paris Explorers
Library Explorers
Escape the Library

Author Events

The Worries Book Group with Jion Sheibani
Race Relations with Barbara Diggs
The Power of Music with Joan Koenig
Storytelling with Sylvie Mombo
Poetry with Scott Hobbs Bourne
How to Tell a Story with Charlotte Sebag-Montefiore
The Story Box with Anjali Morard
Grace the Giraffe in Paris with Oliver Gee and Lina Nordin Gee
Once a Pawn, a Knight... Learn to Play Chess with author Cate Shainker
Silly Songs with Matt Black

Bookworms Book Groups

Echo
The Last Cuentista

Seasonal Programs and Special Events

Winter Wonderland
Spring Eggstravaganza
Read-a-Thon Finale Party
YAFF Celebration
Summer Reading Kick-Off
Summer Singalong
Summer Reading Wrap Party
Summer Turns to Fall
Pumpkin Party
Halloween Tales
Halloween Extravaganza
Thanksgiving Pie Tasting

TEEN PROGRAMS



Halloween 2022. Photo © Julien LB

Clubs

Master Shot Film Club
The Teen Advisory Group
The Teen Writing Group
Youth Leadership Program

YA Author Showcases

Samira Ahmed on Fiction, Fantasy, and Books to Inspire Hope
Jamika Ajalon: 90s Underground London, Black Queer Artists, and Surveillance
Kwame Alexander on *The Crossover*

Teen Nights

Rock U Trivia Night with Matt Black
Photography with Angelica Brewster
Poetry Slam
10th Annual Literary Reaping
The Art of Performance
Cupcake Decorating
Capture the Flag
Writing from Your ♥ with Jane Mobbille: Throwback to the 70s
Werewolves and Sardines
Paper Cutting with Shalinee Laval
Monster Machines with David Zikovitz
Write Your Own Scary Story
Halloween Decorating Party
Creepy Campfire Tales
Flash Fiction with Jane Mobile
Scary Movie Night
Stuck in the Middle with Noah Weisz
Library Explorers Scavenger Hunt
Save Yourself from Trolls

Workshops

Paper Circuits Coding Workshop
Completing Your Short Story
Research is Key
Body Autonomy Workshop: Consent, Movement, Emotions through Body Language
Understanding the American University Application Process
Written in Ink with Jion Shebani
Scrap Poetry
Collaborative Collage
History of Paris Scavenger Hunt

Book Clubs

YA Fantasy Book Club: *Legendborn*
YA Fantasy Book Club: *The Lightning Thief*
YA Fantasy Book Club: *Throne of Glass*

Seasonal Programs

The Haunted Library

Top 10 Circulating Titles

Children

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal* by Jeff Kinney
2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever* by Jeff Kinney
3. *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
4. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling
5. *Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid* by Jeff Kinney
6. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney
7. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul* by Jeff Kinney
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School* by Jeff Kinney
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* by Jeff Kinney
10. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End* by Jeff Kinney

Teens

1. *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
2. *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera
3. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
4. *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo
5. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
6. *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo
7. *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
8. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
9. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
10. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan



Award-winning poet, educator, and best-selling author Kwame Alexander was interviewed by Children's and Teens' Services Manager Celeste Rhoads at the Library on 17 March 2022.

Curated Book Displays



Joan Didion
E.O. Wilson
Valentine's Day
"The Something's Something"
War in Ukraine
Ann Patchett
Making Sense of the World
Books with Utensils in the Title
French Election 2022
Les Pionnières
Novels about Novels
Book Award 2022 Submissions
Gay Pride 2022
Novels Translated from French
Summer Heatwave
Roe vs. Wade
Paris Summer Staycation
David McCullough
Booker Prize Past Winners
Jean-Jacques Sempé
Back to School
Salman Rushdie and Other
Persecuted Writers
Barbara Ehrenreich
Queen Elizabeth II

Banned Books Week 2022
Novels about Libraries
Hilary Mantel
Fall 2022 Events
Halloween: Scary Books to Movies
Books that Play with Time
Best Recent Politics Books
Still Life (art movement)
Les Choses Exhibition at the Louvre
Prix Goncourt Previous Winners
Staff Picks
Analog Sea
Cozy Autumnal Books
FIFA World Cup 2022
Historical Pageturners
Winter Weather
Last-Minute Reads
Mystery Books
Black History Month
Killer Thrillers
Teens with Dreams
Inspiration for Writers
Banned Books Week
New Fiction Books
The 10th Annual Literary Reaping

e-Libris Newsletter

11,533 subscribers

26% increase in subscribers

240,827 emails delivered

Instagram

2,100 new followers
in 2022

18% increase
over 2021



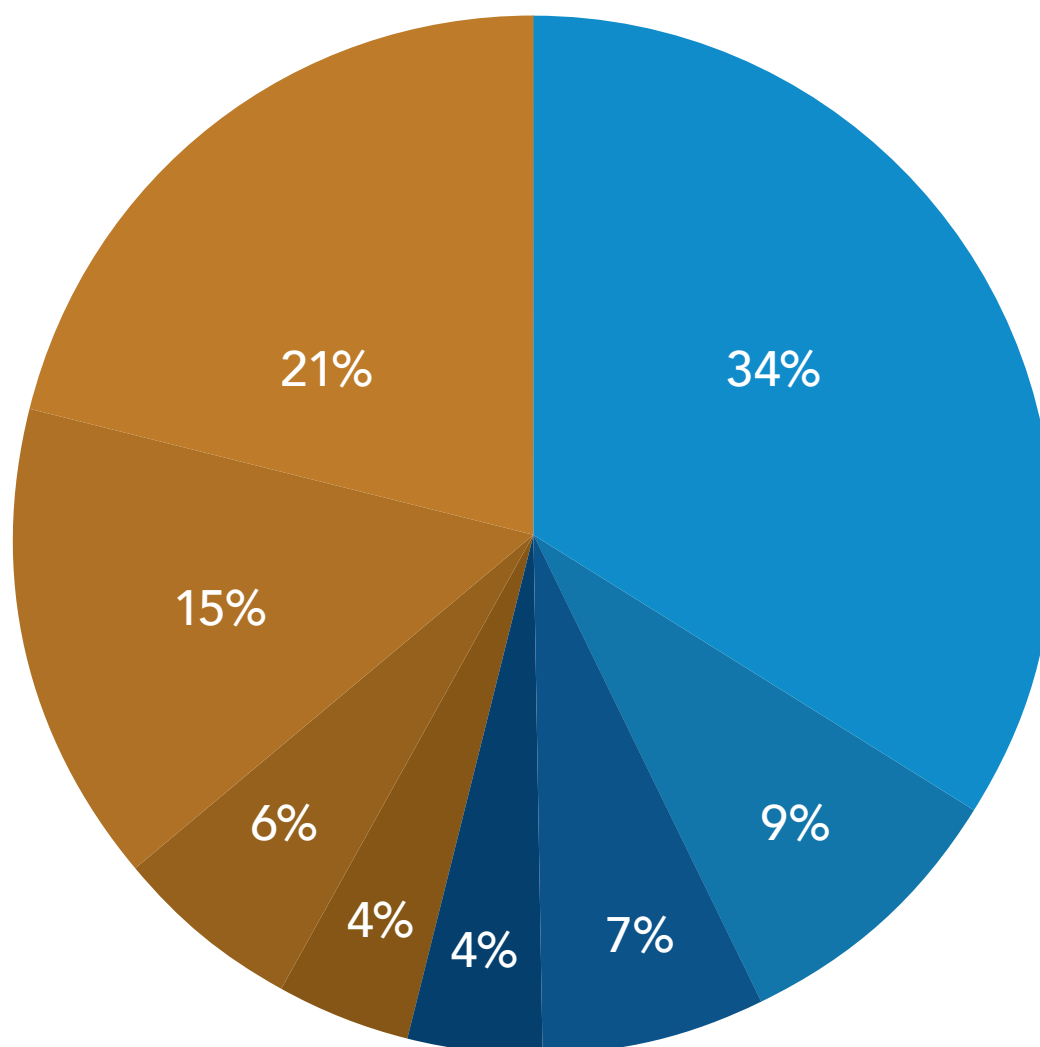
Emily in Paris actor Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu (right) in conversation with journalist Elaine Sciolino on 23 February 2022.
Photo © Krystal Kenney



Jeff Deusch (right) presents his book *In Praise of Good Bookstores* on 26 October 2022.

FINANCIAL DATA

American Library in Paris Inc.'s 2022 Income Breakdown



Earned Income

- 21% Membership Fees
- 15% Rental Income
- 6% Operating Income
- 4% Other Income

Contributions

- 34% Donations
- 9% Gala
- 7% USAF Operating Gift
- 4% On the Road Gift

Sources: Audited annual financial statements of the American Library in Paris, Inc. These statements, as well as those from the American Library in Paris USA Foundation (USAF), are available upon request. The American Library in Paris USA Foundation (an incorporated organization separate from ALP Inc.) oversees and manages a collection of endowed and designated funds; its total investment assets amounted to 4.6 M\$ at YE22.

Statement of 2022 Income and Expenses

REVENUES	2021	2022	EXPENSES	2021	2022
Membership Fees	290,548€	395,384€	Payroll ⁽³⁾	698,174€	767,429€
Operating Income	63,133€	106,781€	Building, Tax	205,362€	185,615€
Rental Income	287,408€	292,862€	Depreciation	223,443€	172,109€
ALP USA Foundation Operating Gift	0€	140,000€	Professional Fees	61,377€	129,230€
Gala	182,741€	176,460€	Books and Periodicals	110,202€	117,716€
Other Donations ⁽¹⁾	477,119€	739,499€	Development	86,902€	123,878€
Other Income ⁽²⁾	42,272€	78,682€	Office Expenses	91,160€	88,422€
			Other ⁽²⁾	9,193€	27,425€
Total	1,343,221€ \$1,589,702	1,929,668€ \$2,033,677	Total ⁽⁴⁾	1,485,803€ \$1,758,448	1,611,824€ \$1,698,701

⁽¹⁾ Including funds from the U.S. Embassy for On the Road in 2022

⁽²⁾ Mostly accounting impact of foreign exchange translation

⁽³⁾ Including payroll tax and payroll benefits

⁽⁴⁾ 61% of total expenditures were allocated to program-based services

The average exchange rate for 2022 was 1.0539 US\$ for 1€ (2021: 1.1835 US\$ for 1€)

2,503
new members

160
new donors

36%
increase in
membership revenue

401
tote bags sold

COLLECTION DATA

PRINT AND DIGITAL HOLDINGS

76,950

BOOKS FOR ADULTS

19,150

BOOKS FOR
CHILDREN AND TEENS

3,466*

OTHER HOLDINGS

167,158

CHECKOUTS

83

PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

88

TITLES IN PERIODICAL ARCHIVES

4,547

ONLINE PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

10

NUMBER OF DIGITAL DATABASES

29,402

E-BOOKS

14,176

E-SOURCE LOGINS

* Multimedia, circulating periodicals, and other items

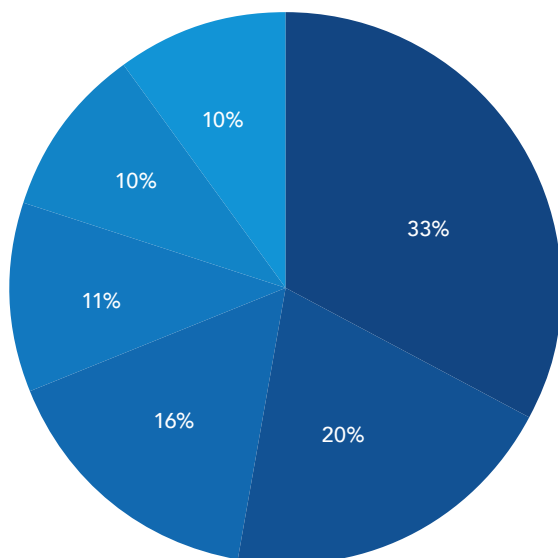
MEMBERSHIP

Active members

4,756

Nationalities represented

100



- 33% United States
- 20% Other single nationality
- 16% France
- 11% Unspecified
- 10% US/France dual (or triple) nationality
- 10% Other dual (or triple) nationality

LIBRARY OPERATIONS

Days open in 2022

290

Days open per week

6

Library visits

81,354

Average daily visits

281

Library transactions

262,133

Average daily transactions

904

Day passes sold

664

Week passes sold

36

Top Circulating Titles

Books

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
The Paris Library: A Novel by Janet Skeslien Charles

Magazines

<i>The New Yorker</i>	<i>The Writer</i>
<i>Good Housekeeping</i>	<i>Harvard Business Review</i>
<i>The Economist</i>	<i>Better Homes and Gardens</i>
<i>New Scientist</i>	<i>Bon Appétit</i>
<i>House Beautiful</i>	<i>TLS, The Times Literary Supplement</i>

E-books

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
Atomic Habits by James Clear
Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty
The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
Bewilderment by Richard Powers

Digital Magazines

<i>The Economist</i>	<i>Cook's Illustrated</i>
<i>The New Yorker</i>	<i>HELLO!</i>
<i>The New York Review of Books</i>	<i>Us Weekly</i>
<i>Paris Match</i>	<i>Woman's Weekly</i>
<i>Bon Appétit</i>	<i>Gourmet Traveller</i>

OUR SUPPORTERS

In 2022 the Library launched a new benefit program for donors who made a gift of 50€ or more. Benefits include an invitation to our annual Book Award Ceremony in November, as well as access to special events such as author talks with Diane Johnson (March) and Stephen Clarke (October). By the end of 2022, the number of Library donors had grown to nearly 400 individuals

and organizations (an increase of twenty-two percent over the previous year). One hundred and sixty supporters made their very first gift to the Library in 2022.

For more information about supporting the Library, please contact giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.



From left: Damon Austin, outgoing American Library Association Representative to the Board of Trustees; William Kelly, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Maria Richter Kelly at the the 2022 Gala. Photo © Krystal Kenney

DONORS

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DONORS

Folio Society (250€ – 1,999€) cont.

Tina M. Isaac	Genevieve and Oliver Murray	Nicole Siezien
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Margaret Keith	Tamrah O'Neil	Nicholas and Deyi Tcherdakoff
Russell and Lynn Kelley	Paris Wine Company	Kate Wallis Thweatt
Paul Kepp	Jean and Virginia Perrette	Betty Turock and Gus Friedrich
Pauline Lemasson	Virginie-Alvine Perrette	Union School
Leslie Lemons	Judith Pillsbury and William Waterfield	Susan Vehon
Carol Levy	George and Bonnie Pinkham	Roberta Vellve-Padden
James Lieber	Kathryn Portle	Suzy Wahba
John MacArthur and Renée Khatami	Peter Quint	Frederic Weissler
Ashley Maddox	Deborah Randall	Christine Wilkinson-Galinet
Georges Magaud	Benoit Rousseau	John and Isle Willems
and Nancy Willard Maguad	George Rowan	Sally Williams-Allen and
Marilee McClintock	Thomas and Georgina Russo	Willis S. DeLaCour, Jr.
Bruce McCoy and Gretel Furner	Timothy Safford	Eugene Wiskowski
Thomas McNally	Ann Salsbury	Adele Witt
Memoir Book Group	S. Prentiss Bailey Fund and	Catherine Woodman
Gil and Sandra Mercier	Mr. Robert Edgar	Vicky and Marcel Wormser
Molly Minton	Guy and Jeanine Saperstein	Rebecca Wurzbarger
Robert Murphy	Harold W. Schneikert	Zachary D. Wyman
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Marie Louise Ballon	Bessandra Elder	Everett Hutt
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Matthew Benz	Sylvie Esnault	Helene Kegreisz
Katherine Biard	Dominique Esnault	Catherine Keller
Dominique and Philippe Bona	Marianne Faure	Robert Kolar
Mark Braude	Cynthia Fields	Marjorie Lallemand
Robert Bruce	Donna and Zachary Fleetwood	Maurice Lanman
Carole Bumpus	Alice Gay	Damien and Katherine Lucas
Erica Bureau	Barbara Genevaz	Jon and Leslie Maksik
Audrey Carter	Robert and Joyce Glaser	Kathleen Marshall
Jean-Marc Chappat	Maggie Grainger	Valérie Mascitti
Cheryl Ching	Casper Harratt	Clare Mattok

Friends of the Library (50€ – 249€) cont.

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Stephen Moskey	Anne-Sophie Renauld	James Taylor
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Eugenie Oen	Patricia Roush	Deborah Thomas
Ray Oen	Martha Ruddy	John K. Thompson
Donna Osborne	Lily Rustandi	Winship Tower
Olga Ospina	Brigita and Viestarts Rutenbergs	Lily Tuck
Claire Ozorio	Jean-François and Sara Sautin	Brian and Heidi Van Reet
Mary Jo Padgett	Hannah Scaife	Larry and Maureen Weeks
Maureen Paget	Marcel Schneyder	Deborah Weiss
Robert Paxton and Sarah Plimpton	Terry Schooley	Elizabeth Wintersteen-Moussier
Barbara Pelter	Connie Scuderi	Alison Young
Kim Penny	John and Frances Seder	David and Jan Young
Rosemary Pinto	Evelyn Shaevel	



Former staff member Orlene McMahon volunteering at the 2022 Book Award Ceremony. Photo © Krystal Kenney

Grant-Makers



Amor Towles (left) with Executive Director Audrey Chapuis at Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg on 8 September 2022. Photo © Julien LB

THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR ART AND CULTURE announced in late 2022 that proceeds from the sale of its *hôtel particulier* will be donated to the Library to expand cultural activities and exchanges. The gift is contingent upon completion of the sale of property and regulatory processes. It will have immense anticipated benefits for the Library and the Parisian cultural landscape.

THE FLORENCE GOULD FOUNDATION has sustained the Book Award since its inauguration in 2013. In 2021 we announced that the Foundation had gifted the Library with \$500,000 to sustain the Book Award for many years to come.

Additionally, at the announcement of the American Center for Art and Culture's historic pledge, The Florence Gould Foundation extended a \$250,000 grant to the American Library for the transition period leading up to the donation of the proceeds of the sale of the American Center's property to the American Library. Pilot programs funded by this grant will provide a taste of future programming.

THE DE GROOT FOUNDATION supports the Library's Visiting Fellowship and Scholars of Note; and the Writers-in-Residence program.

GRoW @ ANNENBERG underwrites the Library's Evenings with an Author series. Their generous support means that most of our author talks, panels, and discussions are free and open to the public.

U.S. EMBASSY IN FRANCE generously sponsored the Library's year-long On the Road outreach program. Launched in June 2022, we visited sixteen host institutions across Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France.

The **SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP** program is generously sustained by an anonymous donor. Their 2022 gift allows us to offer Library memberships to refugees and their families from Ukraine and elsewhere.

IN-KIND DONORS

The Abbey Bookshop
American Children's Theatre
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Christy Devinat
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Tatiana Grytsiak
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Spencer Kehe
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Kate Woodman volunteering at Evenings with an Author on 8 September 2022. Photo © Julien LB.

FINDING FREDDIE

A Spy in the Stacks

By Abigail Altman,
Assistant Director



Fig. 1: Library staff portrait, 10 April 1940 © Harcourt. (ALP archive photo 5-17)

The Library has long been an intellectual home for writers, journalists, thinkers, and artists. However, a recent plunge into the archives unearthed an incredible discovery: a real-life spy recruited from our ranks.

Part of the Library's rich heritage is our collection of photographs of the institution from the past century. From Library War Service images of American soldiers relaxing in camp libraries to students reading shoulder to shoulder in the Dillon Wing in the 1970s, our photo archives are an invaluable resource for Library staff and researchers alike.

In order to better understand how the Library was equipped, stocked, and staffed since our founding in 1920, we've undertaken the task of dating photos of our five locations based on descriptions of the facilities printed in past annual reports and articles in the press.

More intriguing by far are the photographs in our archive that show anonymous staff members at their desks or in the stacks. Our work on identifying our predecessors has been aided by digitized archives, such as press and promotional photos at the American Library Association, passport photos

from the National Archives, and even newspaper, yearbook, and obituary photos online. Cross-referencing staff member names from old memos and payroll documents against these headshots has allowed us to identify a certain number. Once names have been matched to faces, we continue to hunt through the archives to piece together the stories of staff members who have been with us through the decades.

One of these enigmatic staff members, and one of the most exciting detective stories thus far, concerns young Freddie Hawkins.

Freddie first caught our eye in the haunting staff portrait taken by Harcourt Studios at the Library in April 1940, just two months before the German occupation of Paris. Of the nine Library employees present for the portrait (Fig. 1), Freddie (rear, far left) was the last person we were able to identify, after several years of research. He's labeled as Frederic Hawkins on the verso of one print, in Directrice Dorothy Reeder's distinctive spidery handwriting (front right). However, no Frédéric, Frederick, Fred, Freddy, or Freddie appears in staff reports from the pre-war period. He's visibly younger than

most of his colleagues, and he's the only one grinning. Why was he included in this solemn portrait but left out of internal documents? What role did he play at the Library?

The first lead was unearthed in a file of 1940s press clippings in our archives: a reference to a "young lad" named Freddie. He was volunteering in the Library's WWII "Soldiers Service." This program, which sent reading material to French and English soldiers, was put into place by Directrice Reeder just three days after war was declared on 3 September 1939. The service ended when Paris was occupied ten months later, by which time 100,000 books and magazines had been distributed to soldiers, free, upon request.

In our archived transcript of a February 1940 Paris-Mondial "Life in Paris" radio broadcast, Directrice Reeder is interviewed by journalist Marion Dix about the Soldiers Service. She introduces "Freddie Hawkins, one of our volunteer workers" as "our champion package wrapper." The transcript explains that he's preparing a parcel containing the magazines *Match*, *LIFE*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Readers' Digest* with a mystery novel and a collection of French short stories. Freddie proudly states he can wrap up the package in "one minute, thirty seconds."

His parcel-packing prowess is confirmed by a *Paris-Midi* newspaper article published earlier that month that we located in the Bibliothèque Nationale's digital collection (Fig. 2). Freddie isn't identified by name, but a photograph of a young man in a suit preparing a delivery is captioned "*Un paquet : une minute trente secondes.*" A print in our archive by famed photographer Rogi André (Fig. 3) shows the same young man in the attic space donated to the Soldiers Service program. The mansard windows are painted over for blackout regulations and two baskets on the floor of his workspace overflow with kraft- and string-wrapped parcels of reading material. The man's profile, haircut, and clothing are a match: these must both be photographs of Freddie.

These and other historic documents give us a vivid picture of how the Library prepared for the Occupation, but for many members of the wartime staff, scant personal information is available in our archives. The desire to learn more about our heroic predecessors pushed us to dig further. We'd already compiled detailed files for the eight other staff members who sat for the 1940 portrait (Fig. 1), sharing finds and leads with authors and scholars also interested in their individual stories.

However, Freddie's common name and a dearth of biographical data in our archive meant that he remained elusive. So, we rolled up our sleeves and continued to hunt.

Noting that Freddie's full first name was spelled *à la française* and lacking a final "K" on the photo caption and guessing he was born just after the close of the Great War, we focused our search on French sources. In the Paris archive's digitized *actes de naissances* we located a Frédéric Hawkins born on 24 June 1921 in Paris's 14^e arrondissement (Fig. 4). His father, Roderick Hawkins, is identified as a 33-year-old journalist, and, as his name rang distinctly non-French, we began to investigate a possible anglophone connection.

We learned that Roderick was the given name of Eric Hawkins, an Englishman who had been living in Paris since his teens and who was married to a Frenchwoman. Hawkins was the managing editor of the Paris *Herald* since 1924. He shepherded the last newspaper printed in Paris before the Occupation onto newsstands on 11 June 1940, describing this



Fig. 2: "Amica America: 12.000 Livres ont déjà été envoyés à nos soldats par la Bibliothèque américaine de Paris" Paris-Midi 16 February 1940 (via Gallica)

feat in his memoir, *Hawkins of the Paris Herald*. A quick search of the Library's catalog revealed that this book has been part of our circulating collection since its publication sixty years ago. We weren't surprised to find the title in the stacks, but we were amazed to discover details of Freddie's wartime experience in its pages.

In the chapter, "Closing the Paper in June 1940," Hawkins describes putting his 18-year-old son Freddie on a train to the family's property in southwestern France, five days before the Germans arrived in Paris: "He had reached military age and I wanted him out of the French mess, with the idea he should eventually go to England." Hawkins recounts that once in Bordeaux, "Freddie, completely bilingual, simply talked himself aboard [a ship to England]. It was to be many months before I would see him again."

When Hawkins finally made it safely to London in late 1941, he looked for Freddie at the *New York Times*' office, where Freddie had been working as a copy boy. Rather than finding

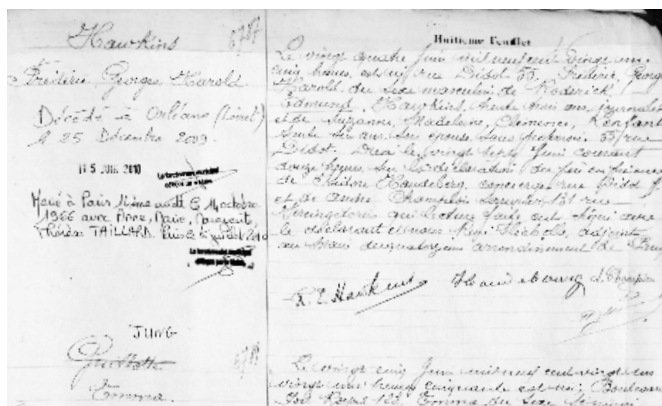


Fig. 4: Actes de naissances 6705-7057, cote 14N 607 (via Les Archives de Paris)

him at the newspaper, Hawkins discovers that Freddie, now 20 and engaged to be married, is undergoing "hush-hush training" in espionage at Winchester, "obviously because of his complete and unaccented command of the French language." Hawkins is shocked by this development, as were we. A spy in the stacks! Grinning Freddie, our champion packer, headed back to France undercover!

Armed with this new knowledge, we changed our research tactics and discovered that Freddie's Special Operations Executive (SOE) record is housed at the National Archives in the UK. Much to our dismay, the file, entitled "Frederic Georges HAWKINS aka Francois HORNE" was closed to the public until January 2023. Since the file was only to remain sealed for an additional eight months, we made a special request to the National Archives, which was granted, and soon received six digitized pages about Freddie's short-lived career as a British spy (Fig. 5). The SOE file confirms that Freddie worked as a volunteer at the Library, validating our hunch about his identity.

According to Eric Hawkins, Freddie "made several one-man boat incursions to France and elsewhere." After reading his SOE file, however, we were surprised Freddie was sent on even a single mission. Freddie might have had skills and potential, but he was apparently a lousy spy.

Freddie is described as "keen," "alert," "intelligent," "fit," and "plucky," but also as "undisciplined" and "impulsive." He can swim, ride, and drive both a car and a motorcycle. He's a good pistol shot, and even better with both explosives and a tommy gun. "With further training and experience [he] should prove a very useful man." However, Freddie's insufficient maturity



Fig. 3: Freddie Hawkins wrapping Soldiers Service packages, 1940 © Rogi André. (ALP archive photo 5-10)

F.G.	BRITISH	27C 27M 3
NAME	HAWKINS, Frederic Georges	
P.T.C.	15.3.41.	
N.R.A.	24.3.41.	
BORN	24th June, 1921. Paris	
OCCUPATION	Clerk with New York Times	
PARTICULARS	Father-English, worked as Man. Editor New York Herald, Paris. Mother French.	
ADDRESS	47, Palace Court, W.2.	
REMARKS	F.G. advised that Hawkins start ed training at S.T.S.5 31.3.41.	
ALIAS	HORNE, Francois	
	Going to S.T.S.5 11.2.42. with party 27M	
	<u>Sgt. Searle S.T.S.5 19.2.42.</u>	
	Young and high-spirited, likes to show off & inclined to be inattentive, careless and thou- ghtless. If he learns to control himself and concentrate fully on the job in hand he should develop very successfully for he has ability.	

Fig. 5: Frederic Georges HAWKINS aka Francois HORNE, Special Operations Executive personnel files, Reference HS 9/678/7 (via The National Archives, Kew UK)

and lack of life experience require him to be “restrained.” He’s labeled as “impetuous,” “sacrificing accuracy for speed,” and is merely “fair” at writing reports, signaling, and Morse. “The only drawback up to now is that he is so young and undisciplined.” Unfortunately, his age ultimately prevented him from becoming an agent, and he was returned to his unit after making only three drops.

We like to think that Freddie’s exuberant youthful energy served him well as a volunteer at the Library. It’s certainly visible on his face in the 1940 staff portrait (Fig. 1). We still

haven’t uncovered what Freddie did after the war, although we do know he passed away in Orléans on Christmas Day in 2009. The search for our spy in the stacks continues.

If you’re interested in supporting further research, presentations, or publications regarding the Library’s history, or funding the digitization and preservation of our institutional archive, please contact Executive Director Audrey Chapuis.



On 12 September 2022, Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney (right) visited the Library and perused the archives with Director Chapuis.

IN MEMORIAM



Remembering **Joshua Adler**

Josh Adler, founder of Paris Wine Company, passed away on 25 February 2022 at the age of forty-two, after battling pancreatic cancer. Josh was actively involved in the Library community, selecting the wines served at our evening programs and leading presentations, wine-tasting events, and the popular book group Words About Wine. He was a Library member with his wife, Catherine Haas Adler, and their two sons, Max and Paul.

Remembering **Medora M. Kaltenbach**

Medora Kaltenbach passed away on 18 September 2021 at the age of 88. She lived in Southern Shores, on North Carolina's Outer Banks and spent several months of every year in Paris. She volunteered at the American Library for a decade. She often came in to shelve on Mondays when the Library was closed to the public, revelling in the quiet calm. Her sense of humor and unrivaled dedication to the Library will be sorely missed.



The Honorable James G. Lowenstein was honored for his longtime service to the Library at the 2022 Gala dinner. A beloved member of the Library community and Chairman Emeritus of the Advisory Council, Ambassador Lowenstein passed away at the age of ninety-five on 3 January 2023. Photo © Krystal Kenney

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We need our bookstores, our beautiful libraries. We need the place where we can come together and talk about books; or we can sit quietly with books. A place where someone we trust will hand us the book we have been looking for our entire life: the exact book we never knew was missing...the beautiful story that makes our life whole.

— Ann Patchett at the 2022 Gala

”



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