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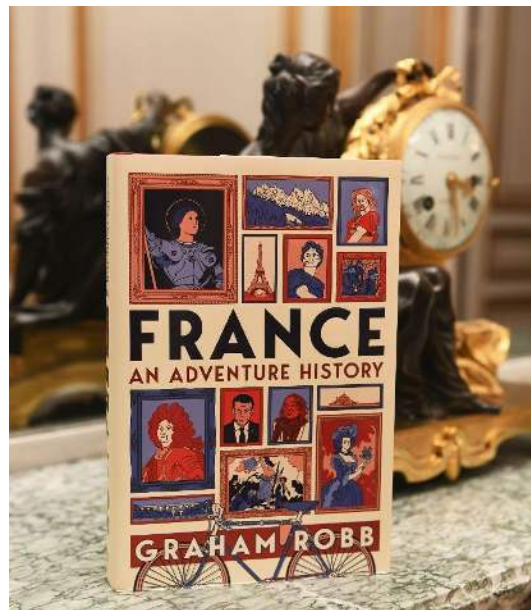
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Book Award 2022 Winner *France: An Adventure History* by Graham Robb

Congratulations to **Graham Robb for *France: An Adventure History***, winner of the tenth annual American Library in Paris Book Award. The book is an original, surprising, and fun survey of French history, from the Roman occupation in the first century, B.C., 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.

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.

Photos of the evening are available on the Library's [Flickr page](#), courtesy of photographer Krystal Kenney.





(l-r) Book Award Administrator Rachel Donadio; Book Award 2022 winner Graham Robb; Library Director Audrey Chapuis; 2022 Jury member Thomas Chatterton Williams.

This year's jury—Thomas Chatterton Williams, Alexandra Schwartz, and jury chair Charles Trueheart—wrote of the book:

"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-millennium 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."

Historian 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.



(l-r) Chantal Mistral-Bernard, Pamela Combastet, Celeste Rhoads



Michael Turner, U.S. Embassy, France Counselor for Cultural Affairs

The American Library's \$5,000 literary prize, now celebrating its tenth year, 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. In addition to the winning title, the finalists included:

The Caretakers: A Novel by Amanda Bestor-Siegal

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

City of Incurable Women by Maud Casey

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

Six additional titles were designated **coups de cœur** by the screening committee:

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



(l-r) Jeanine Saperstein, Sara Somers, Mary Lee Turner



(l-r) Lillian Manning, Brian Manning, 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 Library thanks the prize's generous Patrons: Mary Duncan, Jeanne Fellowes, Clydette de Groot, Suzanne Justen, and Usha Viswanathan.

Special thanks 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.



Attendees discover the fifty-nine submissions to the 2022 prize.

2023 Book Award

The Book Award ceremony is the Library's most important donor appreciation event of the year. If you are not currently a donor and would like to learn more about giving at the Library, contact Advancement Manager Morgan Wurzburger, pictured below, at giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.

For more general information about special donor-only events, please visit our [website](#).

To learn more about submitting a title for next year's prize, please follow this [link](#).



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