



THE PARIS LIBRARY SCHOOL

AND THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

10 RUE DE L'ÉLYSÉE

THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

THE School was established to meet the need for trained librarians for libraries in devastated France, but from its beginning has had a wider usefulness. It has adapted its work to new purposes even while continuing the work for which it was established. Briefly, its purpose may now be stated as three-fold:

(1). To stimulate and direct advanced study in those aspects of library science, bibliography and related subjects which can be studied to better advantage in Europe than in America by students from all countries but especially from America.

(2). To provide training in modern library science, particularly in American library methods, for European students.

(3). To serve as a center of information on education for librarianship; to improve library service in America and Europe, and to help promote international understanding.

HOW IT WAS FOUNDED

During the World War a number of small public libraries were established in the devastated regions of France by the Committee for Work in Devastated France. When it became time to withdraw the American librarians, it was necessary to train French women in library methods to administer these libraries. It was planned to establish a small training class of perhaps a dozen women under the direction of Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, Assistant Secretary of the American Library Association, but *ninety-seven* men and women applied for admission. Fifty were accepted. This was the origin of the Paris Library School.

Funds to support the School for two years were set aside by the Committee for Work in Devastated France. The third year was financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., on condition that the American Library Association secure funds for two more years thus completing a five-year demonstration period.

AFTER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD—WHAT?

The plan of completing a demonstration period was based upon a belief that in five years' time the School would give definite evidence whether it should become permanent, and, if so, under what auspices it should be financed and administered. Now it seems not only possible, but imperative for it to continue. It is hoped that a large American University, which has a library school, may take over The Paris Library School as an European center after the demonstration is over. Thus its permanence as a foothold for library and educational interests in Europe would be assured.

ONLY \$37,500 REQUIRED

Millions were given by Americans during the World War to provide the tools of war. Now, in a time of peace, ought we not be equally willing to provide the tools of peace?

Books make it possible for men of all lands and all times to talk together. They are the fuel by which men's minds blaze into common understanding. In art, in literature, in drama, America has followed foreign models; in formal education she has built on Continental systems; but in library service the nations of the world are looking to America for leadership.

Because of this, public library service has come to be regarded as a prime factor in the establishment of international harmony. Each graduate of The Paris Library School becomes by virtue of his position an informal ambassador of peace. Some of the very "poilus" who tramped away from their villages in France to serve in the war are going in and out of the libraries established in those same villages. But now there are books under their arms instead of guns upon their shoulders.

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Support for the fourth year has been underwritten by the Executive Board of the American Library Association from war funds, and there now remains only one more year of the demonstration period to be financed. Applications for admission are already being received at the School for next year's term and the sum of \$37,500 must be in sight by April 15th, 1928, in order that an announcement may go forth to prospective students.

POSITIONS HELD BY PARIS LIBRARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

In less than four years' existence, The Paris Library School has supplied 184 librarians, trained in American methods, to serve in foreign countries.

Typical positions accepted by recent graduates are: Librarian of the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris; head of the order department, League of Nations Library, Geneva; cataloger and teacher in the library course at the National Jewish and University Library, Jerusalem; indexer and classifier at the International League of Red Cross Societies, Paris; assistant librarian of the Municipal Library, Chalons-sur-Marne; reference librarian at the Public Library, Oslo; assistant librarian of the Municipal Library, Montlucon, etc.

Students from twenty-three foreign countries have been received by the School. In a typical graduating class of twenty-three there were nine French students, six Norwegians, two Germans, two Poles, two Russians, one Belgian and one Czech. The international character of the School is marked, not only in its curriculum and in the composition of its student body, but in its faculty as well.

VALUABLE AS ADVISORY BUREAU

As a center for information service and for the exchange of ideas on professional library work The Paris Library School meets an ever-increasing demand for co-operation with social groups and international organizations.

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In Paris, for instance, the School gave instruction about library work to the students of two schools for social service workers. Round table discussions for the solving of professional problems are attended by librarians from the devastated regions. The National Jewish and University Library in Jerusalem has sought advice from the School in planning its library school. These are but a few instances typical of the many ways in which the School is continually demonstrating its value.

ENDORSED BY EMINENT AUTHORITIES

Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, cabled from Paris after visiting the school for the first time:

"Having inspected Library School here, am additionally impressed with its importance not merely to Europe in demonstration and supply of personnel but to United States. In latter respect we at Washington shall draw upon it."

Ambassador Myron T. Herrick cabled his opinion in these words:

"Paris Library School has demonstrated its usefulness to America and Europe and especially France and I feel its continuation would be an important contribution to improving international understanding and friendly relations."

Cardinal Du Bois, Archbishop of Paris, says:

"Happy to recognize how profitable the instruction of The Paris Library School has been in the excellent organization of my own private library. I recommend the methods of the School for Catholic libraries."

The faculty of The Paris Library School is composed of:

SARAH C. N. BOGLE, <i>Director</i>	
MARY P. PARSONS, <i>Resident Director</i>	
GABRIEL HENRIOT	DOROTHY CURTIS
FLORENCE WILSON	EUGENE MOREL
MARGUERITE M. FAMIN	FIRMIN ROZ
EVELYN WATTLE	

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The project to assure the support of The Paris Library School for the final year of a five-year demonstration period as here presented has been approved by the following persons:

W. W. BISHOP, *Librarian*, University of Michigan
Chairman A. L. A. Committee on International Relations

ANDREW KEOGH, *Librarian*, Yale University

FREDERICK P. KEPPEL, *President*, Carnegie Corporation

HERBERT PUTNAM, *Librarian* of Congress

JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE, *Vice-Director*, School of Library Science, Pratt Institute

CARL B. RODEN, *Librarian*, Chicago Public Library
President, American Library Association

WILLIAM F. RUSSELL, *Dean*, Teachers' College,
Columbia University
Educational Adviser to A. L. A.

ADAM STROHM, *Librarian*, Public Library, Detroit
Chairman, Board of Education for Librarianship

CHARLES C. WILLIAMSON, *Director of Libraries* and
Director, School of Library Service, Columbia University

GEORGE A. WORKS, *Dean*, Advanced Graduate Library School, University of Chicago

It has also been approved by the 12 members of the Executive Board of the American Library Association.

ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

86 EAST RANDOLPH STREET, CHICAGO