

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, Inc.

10, Rue de l'Élysée

Phones : Elysées 58-84, 53-90

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1924

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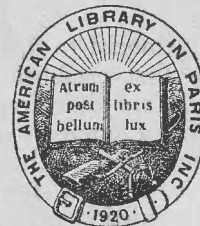
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PAMPHLET FILE

SOME FACTS
ABOUT THE
AMERICAN
LIBRARY
IN PARIS



A. L. A. LIBRARY

History

The American Library in Paris, incorporated in 1920, received as a gift from the American Library Association the collection of books made by it in its War Library Service, and later, a contribution of \$25,000 towards endowment.

Objects

(1) To serve as a memorial to those American soldiers for whom it was first established, (2) to promote among students, who are given free use of the Library, journalists, and men of letters in France, acquaintance with American literature, institutions, and thought, and (3) to supplement the meagre collections of American books in existing public libraries in Paris.

Rooms. Books. Staff

Located at the center of Parisian civic life, near the Place de la Concorde and opposite the Elysée, the Library occupies a beautiful old hotel, the first floor of which is devoted largely to the open shelf collections, the second to periodical and newspaper reading rooms, and the third to offices. Its book collections number over 20,000 volumes, of which 25 % relate to history, travel and biography, 13 % to literature, and 9 % to the social sciences.

It also receives 146 periodicals and newspapers, the use of which in the building is free. The staff of the Library numbers fifteen. Of these nine devote themselves to the assistance of readers in the selection of books and to answering questions presented in person or by letter, three to the classification and cataloguing of additions to the Library, and three to general supervision, correspondence, and editorial work.

A Center of Information about Europe for Americans

In addition to the general book and information service which it renders to its members, the Library is giving special service to American students and tourists in France, and through American libraries to Americans who have never visited France.

A Center of Information about America for Europeans

The Library is also giving special service to French students, teachers, journalists, men of letters, business men and women, who desire information about American literature, institutions and thought.

Income

Derived from an endowment of Frs. 400,000; from *patrons*, presenting Frs. 5,000 or over; from *life members*, paying Frs. 2,000; from *annual members*, paying Frs. 100, with an initial fee of Frs. 100; and from *subscribers* unable to become members, who pay Frs. 25 a year for each card issued to them,—less than half the cost of the service they receive. The total income of the Library last year, exclusive of gifts from the United States, was Frs. 141,422; its expenditure was Frs. 323,622, of which 65 per cent was for service, 27 per cent for books and supplies and 8 per cent for rent.

Larger Membership Necessary

In order that this expenditure may be continued and increased and the Library made independent of subventions from the United States for its ordinary service, a larger membership in Paris and in other parts of Europe is necessary. Such membership entitles the individual to receive the illustrated literary review, *Ex Libris*, published monthly by the Library, and to borrow books and periodicals from the Library whether resident in Paris or not.