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LIBRARY OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THINGS YOU *MUST* KNOW ABOUT

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

IN PARIS

AND WHY

Report for 1938

Below are the names of the Board of Trustees of the American Library. These people have given generously of their time to help maintain this great collection of books open to the public. Their names are a guarantee of the sort of management the Library enjoys.

President Dr. EDMUND L. GROS. Chief of Medical Staff, American Hospital of Paris. ✓

1st Vice-President. Comtesse ALDEBERT de CHAMBRUN. Dr. of the University of Paris. ✓

2nd Vice-President. MAX SHOOP. Lawyer, Resident Partner of Sullivan & Cromwell. President American Club of Paris. ✓

Sumner ~~3rd~~ *Vice-President*. MALCOM W. DAVIS. Associate Director, European Centre, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. ✓

Trustees WELLES BOSWORTH. Consulting Architect. General Secretary Franco-American Committee for the Restoration of the Versailles and Fontainebleau Palaces and the Cathedral of Reims. President University Club Paris. Membre de l'Institut. ✓

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trator Rockefeller Foundation, ✓
Paris.

Director DOROTHY M. REEDER.

Librarian EVANGELINE TURNBULL.

During recent years when international misunderstanding has seemed to be unusually active, it has been a privilege of Americans to participate in one great gesture towards international comprehension and sympathy. That gesture is their support of the American Library in Paris.

Perhaps no other thing possesses that mystic faculty of a book to make people see a little bit with other people's eyes. Books may have, on occasion, caused wars and revolutions, but they have on many more occasions prevented them. To the extent that books can be ambassadors of peace and good will, the American Library has been America's most permanent and possibly most effective interpreter.

Few people realize the influence that our library is having on the relations between France and America. A whole generation of French school children has grown up with such facilities for obtaining American books as exists nowhere in the world in a non-English speaking country. Thousands of children have held student cards. Probably tens of thousands have used the library. French school teachers have sent pupils to the library for their English reading, and these children have grown up in the kindly and democratic air of this typical American library.

Intelligent interest in America among French writers is probably associated in some degree with the possibility of knowing the best of America in Paris.

It is a curious thing how seldom the modern library is classed as a characteristic American institution. But it is. The open shelf system where book lovers can browse to their heart's content is something that stems from the American desire to see books circulate. Thus the library has built up a typical warm and friendly atmosphere peculiar to itself. This atmosphere has been moved so completely from America to Paris that inside one scarcely realizes that there is a different country outside the walls. Its influence on the thousands of alert Paris school children and the scores of writers who use it is absolutely inestimable. Certain it is that it constitutes a factor which cannot be ignored in summing up Franco-American interchange of influences.

Most libraries in the United States are supported by taxation whereas the Paris Library must rely on voluntary donations. Americans in Paris have insufficient resources to enable them to maintain a library here capable of meeting the extraordinary demands on it. They need the support of people of broad understanding at home to be able to spread out further this particularly charming influence of America.

Today this library of nearly 100,000 books is operated at a cost of about \$ 12,000 a year. Aside from a small income from investments, the greatest single resource is from subscribers. Almost 35 % of the total comes from people who are paying their money for something they need and use. An astonishing proportion of this is made up of student cards at Frs 50 apiece. These student cards are very often in the hands of school children of many nationalities who are learning in the library the graciousness of American scholastic life.

There have been a few large donations from individuals. Aside from these donations, there are three funds. Mr. Charles L. Seeger, father of America's war poet Alan Seeger, established a memorial endowment of Frs 50,000. There were created also the Howard Burchard Lines fund, the J. C. Copley Fund, and the Mildred Aldrich trust. Today, however, the total revenue from these various sources totals only about Frs 25,000.

For several years the annual deficit has been made up by a group of generous friends of the library. These people guaranteed Frs 100,000 a year. The French Government has taken so great an interest in this work that for years they have given sums ranging from Frs 25,000 to Frs 100,000 to enable the library to survive.

But even with this generosity, the library is

often seriously handicapped in its work by a lack of funds. A magnificent gift from the Carnegie Corporation for the purchase of books has succeeded in embarrassing the library staff by making new books available faster than they could be catalogued. The Carnegie Corporation gift has built up the resources of the library in books while the library staff has remained the same.

It is certain that the library needs considerably more money to be able to carry on efficiently. How few people can realize the great work and responsibility of directing the distribution of nearly 100,000 books and bound periodicals, and 15 daily newspapers. Such an immense collection of books calls for a vast amount of highly specialized work.

During the busy season an average of 300 persons use the library daily. Month in and month out, a daily average of 250 entries are made for books checked in or out. Thousands of books a day are replaced in the shelves. Many people who use the library must be guided and helped, especially the students. Over 1,000 people actually subscribe to the library, representing 30 different nationalities.

Thousands of books a year must be wrapped up and sent out to universities and to out-of-town subscribers. Many of the great universities have an insufficient collection of American reference

books and this library has done a heroic work in lending to them from our supply of Americana. An American library school which was extremely popular in Europe had to be dropped some years ago. As soon as sufficient funds are made available, it will be reopened.

If, with this work, the librarians find that time hangs heavily on their hands, there are always hundreds of questions that are written in or that are asked personally by users of the library. These are entered in the day-book to await a free moment. Some questions copied at random read as follows : What is the Leslie Dana gold medal? What powers are possessed by the President aside from those conferred on him by the Constitution? How is hominy made? and peanut butter? and whiskey? Where can I find statistics on the foreign-born population in America? Where find recent decisions of United States Supreme Court? Bibliography of mammals. Economic conditions in America. Best-sellers for past ten years. Out-of-door libraries.

All in all, this library is one of the busiest corners in Europe. What it needs is more money to enable it to extend very greatly the extent of its influence. It is hard to realize what a problem of home economics it is to operate a building big enough to house 100,000 volumes and pay rent, heat, taxes, insu-

rance, postage, car fares and the like on a net expenditure—aside from salaries—of just under \$ 3,000 a year.

Those people who have not as yet seen the aristocratic old building that houses the library are cordially invited to come and make a tour of inspection. It is one of the few pleasant outcomes of the great war that this library was born of that war. And today the library stands as an active evidence of America's great hope of promoting understanding among peoples.

Gifts made to the American Library in Paris can be deducted from your American income tax. We believe that this institution will return you as great dividends in good will as any object to which you can devote your money.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ended

INCOME			
Annual Members' Dues	Frs.	18,112,00	
Subscribers' Fees		93,244,80	
Donations :—			
Various in Dollars. \$ 800....	Frs.	30,400,00	
Various in Francs		<u>5,810,00</u>	36,210,00
Interest :—			
On Bank Accounts		56,90	
On Investments. \$ 718.04..		<u>27,285,52</u>	27,342,42
Miscellaneous Sales		<u>1,050,00</u>	
Total Income		175,959,22	
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year, carried to Reserve Fund		<u>128,271,39</u>	
	Frs.	<u>304,230,61</u>	

NOTES. The operating deficits for the three years ending December 31, 1939 have been underwritten by a group of supporters of the Library, up to an amount not exceeding Frs. 100,000 in any one year.

Since the above account was rendered, the French Government has given Frs. 25,000 towards the deficit of 1938.

ACCOUNT

December 31, 1938

EXPENDITURE			
Salaries :—			
Library staff	Frs.	184,456,00	
Building Staff		<u>11,000,00</u>	195,456,00
Taxes and Insurance			18,095,70
Rent			45,000,00
Heat, Light and Water			20,121,30
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone			4,328,95
Stationery, Printing and Office Supplies			4,090,25
Repairs and Alterations			1,271,55
Furniture & Equipment			475,25
Laundry & Cleaning			1,197,30
Fares and Gratuities			1,109,70
Garden Expenses			2,226,00
Social Insurance			1,749,20
Exchange			4,976,31
Miscellaneous			<u>4,133,10</u>
	Frs.		<u>304,230,61</u>

The following additional expenditure during the year has been met out of the Carnegie Corporation Grant :—

Assistants in Cataloguing Department	\$ 844,04
Binding and Mending	597,23
Books	1,989,59
Periodicals	627,56
Total	<u>\$ 4,058,42</u>