



LA  
MAISON  
FRANÇAISE  
at  
COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY

**La Maison Française  
at Columbia University.  
What it is. What it does.  
And why it deserves your  
support.**

New York's Columbia University. A world-renowned institution with 17,000 full and part-time students. Among its distinguished schools—Business, Law, Engineering, Journalism, Medicine, International Affairs, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences with its 40 academic departments. And the largest single study center of the French language in the United States. La Maison Française at Columbia University is the oldest foreign language center at an American university. La Maison Française, now in its 65th year of operation, provides a vital Franco-American cultural center both for the Columbia University community and for New Yorkers at-large.

**The Goals**

To establish a French presence which will expand the knowledge of French culture and language within the extraordinary environment of the thousands of young Americans studying at Columbia University.

To nurture and cultivate a feeling for France, for things French and for Franco-American ties beyond the walls of Columbia—among the community of greater New York.

**The means available**

The creation of a warm and friendly place on campus which encourages French cultural and social pursuits in a relaxed and informal setting.

The bringing together of French literary figures, artists, poets, scholars and businessmen with the greater New York and Columbia University communities.

The sponsorship of trips to France for U.S. students, by which they are encouraged to study and travel in France.

**The results achieved  
in the academic year 1976-77**

La Société des Amis de la Maison Française was created in 1972 to encourage and recognize the interest and support of friends of the Maison Française. Its functions were formalized in 1976 by establishing two committees:

The Advisory Committee, chaired by Monsieur Jean Caste, President of L'Oréal/Cosmair, Inc., provides financial and policy-making guidance.

The Cultural and Artistic Committee, chaired by Monsieur G.H. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, President of Vox Records, assists the Director of the Maison in planning and programming.

In 1977, as a result of the first fundraising efforts by The Advisory Committee, La Maison Française moved to East Hall in the center of the University campus. Its new location, marked by the famous Rodin statue, "Le Penseur", is across from Philosophy Hall, the headquarters of the University's French Department.

**Why La Maison Française  
Needs Your Support**

**To Expand and Improve Its Facilities**

The University provides as its contribution, the physical home of La Maison and the salary of its Director. However, the renovation of East Hall and funding for the activities held there are possible only with your financial help. Today La Maison offers its visitors the facilities of the Main Floor: a main lounge; seminar and classrooms; and an important library and reading room. As funds become available, the other floors of the building will be renovated to accommodate the increasing activities of La Maison.

Historic East Hall has been provided by Columbia University for the permanent use of La Maison Française.



**To Enrich Its Library**

The 10,000 volume library provides a unique resource for both graduate and undergraduate students of French. Funds are needed to increase its collections and to keep it up-to-date and well-supplied with new acquisitions of recent French literature, art periodicals, and business journals.

**To Establish Its Music Library**

Vox Records has given 200 classical records of French composers and artists to La Maison. Funds are needed to purchase equipment and to furnish a listening room, so that student and non-student patrons of La Maison can enjoy this musical oasis.

**To Expand Its Programs  
and Forums**

To give you an idea of exactly what these activities are, here are just some of the events which took place in 1976-77:

**6 Major Exhibitions were presented**

French Architecture, French Photography, French Cinema—all were shown at La Maison Française.

**6 Concerts were given.**

Contemporary and classical French music was featured in performances by young artists. La Maison Française affords the opportunity for new talents to launch their careers.

**Some 30 lectures were held**

With topics ranging from Psychoanalysis to Poetry. Among the prominent guest lecturers were diplomats such as the French Consul General in New York Monsieur Gausson, Ministre Plénipotentiaire; businessmen such as Monsieur Collin du Bocage, President of ELF Petroleum; literary scholars such as Umberto Eco, and Julia Kristeva; critics such as Philippe Sollers; poets such as Yves Bonnefoy.

**18 Films were shown**

Several had their first United States showing here. Chosen from the works of France's finest directors, they afforded their New York audience the opportunity to view such unique classics as "L'Espoir" by Malraux.

**How you can help La Maison  
Française**

An opportunity is presently available to fund La Maison Française for the future.

The National Endowment for Humanities has recently awarded a cultural studies grant to Columbia University of which \$100,000 has been allocated to the Maison if this grant can be matched by \$100,000 per academic year in '78, '79, and '80 from private sources.

Raising that sum will enable La Maison Française to cover all its expenses of operations and renovations, and also will provide the beginning of an endowment for the future.

The fundraising effort for the academic year 1976-77 virtually saved La Maison Française from permanently closing its doors. Now, your generosity can keep its doors open and ensure the bright future of La Maison Française at Columbia University.

Dr. William McGill, President of Columbia, presents an award to Monsieur Jean Caste, Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the official opening of La Maison, in the presence of His Excellency Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, Ambassador of France to the United States.



An informal group discussion such as this is one of the many activities held in the warm and friendly atmosphere of La Maison Française.



Rodin's "Le Penseur" separates La Maison Française from Philosophy Hall, the headquarters of Columbia's French Department headed by Michael Riffaterre, Chairman of the Department of French and Romantic Philology.



La Maison Française at Columbia University

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