

Eugene Sheffer Retiring From Columbia



MAISON FRANCAISE director will teach an undergraduate course in French at Columbia University, but is leaving his major post after 25 years. Mr. Sheffer taught English to Edith Piaf in 1947 on her first visit to the United States.

Eugene Sheffer, who owns a summer house on Hedges Lane, Amagansett and has summered in the East Hampton area since 1938, will retire from the Maison Francaise at Columbia University on June 30, after 25 years as its director. He will continue his association with the University by teaching an undergraduate French course, beginning this fall. He has taught French there throughout his directorship of Maison Francaise.

Mr. Sheffer has been associated with the University almost without pause since he entered as a freshman in 1922. During World War Two, while he was teaching French to midshipmen, he wrote a textbook, "Aspects of Modern Warfare: On Land, on Sea, and in the Air."

After the war, he collaborated with the late New Yorker correspondent, A. J. Liebling of Springs, in producing a history of clandestine writing during the German occupation of France, called "The Republic of Silence." Mr. Sheffer spoke with most of the major Resistance writers in making selections for the book.

During Mr. Sheffer's years at the Maison Francaise, he has welcomed

such French visitors to the United States as Edith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier, Yves Montand, Charles Boyer, Jean Louis Barrault, and Simone Signoret, from the entertainment world, and Jean-Paul Sartre, Alber Camus, and Veronique among the authors.

He has also been creating puzzles since he was 13, and for the last 35 years he has produced a daily crossword puzzle for the King Features Syndicate, which appears in about 150 daily newspapers.

In 1950, the French government named Mr. Sheffer a Chevalier of the Order of the Palms Academiques, for his scholarly work; and in 1960, he became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

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