

# AT YOUR SERVICE

## UNITED STATES LIBRARIES OVERSEAS

United States libraries are maintained in connection with American diplomatic missions in 63 major cities in various parts of the world, as a part of the State Department's program of international information and educational exchange. This program has one objective: "To see that other peoples receive a full and fair picture of American life and the aims and policies of the United States Government."

This objective is being carried out through various media, including United States libraries, which disseminate American books, magazines, pamphlets, posters, music, and other educational and cultural materials.

Each United States library offers to the citizens of the host country services approximating those available through the average American public library: It provides reference service; lends books, magazines, and other printed material; and carries on varied types of activities, such as lectures, musicals, film showings, exhibits, children's story hours, and whatever else the local scene demands.

Users of the United States libraries almost invariably represent a cross section of the citizenry of the host country—students, educators, government officials, business and professional people, writers, scientists, and the general public. These libraries also provide information upon request to foreign ministries of education, schools and universities, libraries, research foundations, and outstanding scholars.

American libraries abroad are active centers of information, not morgues or repositories; their books are meant to be used, not to collect dust on the shelves. In many instances, the libraries become models for the extension and development of library service in the host country. In non-English-speaking countries, the libraries adapt themselves to the local situation and its needs in various ways, their existence serving also to stimulate interest in learning the English language.

Wherever they are located, United States libraries stand as symbols of American democracy, bringing a new concept of the American way of life to peoples of distant lands.

Foreign citizens who plan to travel in the United States for business, pleasure, or study, frequently consult United States libraries regarding transportation facilities, points of interest, hotel reservations, and other problems. For use in answering such queries in United States libraries overseas and for distribution to organizations and individuals making inquiries, the Division of Libraries and Institutes, State Department, is prepared to receive from travel agencies appropriate informational materials, such as travel booklets, folders, brochures, and maps. Correspondence on this subject may be addressed to Mr. C. E. Walton, Division of Libraries and Institutes, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

American travelers and business men abroad, particularly those interested in economic, commercial, educational, scientific, and cultural resources and activities, often find it useful to visit United States libraries for information concerning these matters in the country in

which they are traveling. This brings into limited operation the reciprocal feature of the educational exchange program, whereby Americans achieve better understanding of the people of other countries.

Thus United States libraries contribute to America's foreign relations in the field of educational, scientific, and cultural affairs and to the development of closer cultural ties between the United States and other Nations.

## SALUTE TO THE STATES

By Fred T. Colwell

Public Relations Assistant, Capital Transit Co.

In Washington, D. C., where one of the most frequently heard questions is, "Where do *you* come from?", Capital Transit Company's Weekly Pass "Salute-to-the-States" series, featuring full-color reproductions of State flags, is getting an enthusiastic reception.

Among the most pleased are the members of the State societies, those groups of organized home-town patriots which flourish on the Washington scene.

The chairman of the Conference of State Societies, Carl M. Walker, when he learned of the idea, said, "I think Capital Transit's plan to reproduce the State flags will help many of those now living and working in Greater Washington to think of the efforts being made by their State societies to aid them in making new friends and renewing old acquaintanceships.

"The Weekly Pass", Mr. Walker declared, "will be a constant reminder that the State societies are organized and function to make those who live and work here feel more at home by bringing them in contact with people from their home States."

In some instances, State society dances and their other social functions have been planned to coincide with the week their flag appears on the pass.

This series, when completed, will form a set of colorful illustrations that both old and young alike will be proud to own, which explains why collectors were another group which welcomed the "Salute-to-the-States" series.

One Boy Scout leader recently informed a company official that he is going to save his weekly passes so that he can offer a complete set as an achievement prize for outstanding work done in the troop.

This is not the first time that Capital Transit has used color and attractive illustration on its passes. The beginning of the State flag series also saw the conclusion of an approximately 2-year period during which the company featured reproductions of famous paintings and other works of art in Washington's art galleries and museums.

Through the cooperation of the National Gallery of Art, Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Washington Cathedral, Franciscan Monastery, the National Museum, Folger Shakespeare Library, the Freer Gallery of Art, and other seats of Washington arts and culture, Capital Transit riders were treated to a weekly fare of Van Dyck, Copley, Botticelli, Boucher, Houdon, Hals, Gainsborough, Degas, Saint-Gaudens, Chandin, and others; Chinese bronzes and pottery of the Chow, Ming, and Ch'ing Dynasties; plaque mounts of a Palaeosyops and Stegosaurus; and an occasional photograph of a monkey, giraffe, or antelope from the local Zoo.