

PASTEUR PERSPECTIVES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTEUR FOUNDATION DEVOTED TO THE WORLD OF THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

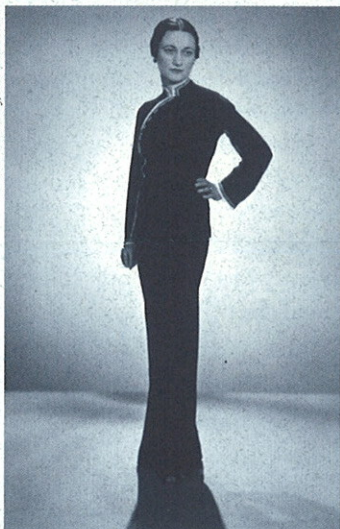
LEGACIES AND THE FUTURE: 120 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

by Caitlin Hawke

For 120 years, the Institut Pasteur has benefited enormously from gifts and bequests made by people who share its vision, its values and its goals: to advance science and to acquire the knowledge to prevent and cure illness.

At the institute, the history of gifts and bequests is particularly impressive.

Credit: Man Ray/Institut Pasteur



The Duchess of Windsor bequeathed her entire estate to the Institut Pasteur.

With respect to American donors, it all begins with *la rage* – rabies. After Louis Pasteur's discovery of a cure, he became known throughout the world. Moved by his work, people from far and wide contributed to a fund to establish an institute that would bear his name. In the United States, the fund made news in the major dailies. The following excerpt is taken from the pages of the *New York Herald*, on February 28, 1886:

"Monsieur Pasteur told [a reporter] this morning that a public subscription would be opened for the creation of a Paris International establishment for inoculation and the treatment of rabies patients from all parts of the world. The city of Paris has consented to make a gift of a suitable piece of land for the site of the establishment. About 50,000F have already been subscribed. The total sum needed is estimated at about 2,000,000F – about \$100,000. M. Pasteur asked if the Herald would open a subscription in the United States for the proposed international establishment, wherein Americans and patients from all countries would be treated."

At the root of this extraordinary appeal to Americans was the recent triumphant return of

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A Message from the President of the Institut Pasteur

Dear Readers:

Before there was an Eiffel Tower, before a single gas-powered automobile was sold and before the Lumière Brothers screened the first moving picture, there was the Institut Pasteur. As we begin the celebrations of our

120th
 anniversary

Institut Pasteur



120th anniversary, the Institut Pasteur adheres firmly to its history and to the *esprit pasteurien*, investigating some of the very same diseases that Louis Pasteur

studied before there was an institute that bore his name. At the same time, our scientists are fully devoted to our future: by combating emerging diseases like SARS or avian influenza, by working to find applications for the discoveries made in our laboratories and by protecting public health.



To mark this milestone, we are planning a special gala in New York City on May 7th that will honor two remarkable individuals: President Nelson Mandela and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. They will be recognized for their commitment to addressing pandemics such as AIDS and malaria.

I hope you enjoy discovering more about the world of the institute in these pages. And I warmly invite you to visit the Pasteur Museum in Paris to learn more of our history. The Pasteur Foundation will be happy to provide readers with a complimentary pass; please email PasteurUS@aol.com for more information.

In honor of this special anniversary year, I appeal to you in the words of Louis Pasteur "to take interest in these sacred domains so expressively called laboratories. Ask that there be more and that they be adorned, for these are the temples of the future, wealth and well-being. It is here that humanity will grow, strengthen and improve."

There are many ways to support our work. Making a contribution in honor of our 2008 Pasteur Foundation awardees and our 120th birthday is a great place to start.

Nous vous remercions et vous attendons à Paris!

Yours sincerely,

Alice Dautry, Ph.D.
 President



LEGACIES AND THE FUTURE: 120 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

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four Newark, New Jersey, boys who were sent to Louis Pasteur for his new rabies treatment. The boys were among the world's first patients to receive the cure that earned Pasteur a popular reputation as a "miracle-maker."

Many Americans chose to contribute not only to the boys' expense fund for their journey to Paris in December 1885, but also to the public fund described above. After an outpouring from donors around the world, including the Czar of Russia, the Emperor of Brazil and *Herald* publisher Gordon Bennett, Jr., the Institut Pasteur was inaugurated on November 14, 1888.

While the Duchess of Windsor (see sidebar) is certainly the most famous American to make estate plans on behalf of the institute, the first American to make such a philanthropic gesture was New Yorker Eugene Higgins, a carpet-maker, who in 1948 bequeathed to the institute his *hôtel particulier* on the Place d'Iéna in Paris. The value of his bequest in today's dollars exceeds \$3.8 million.

The generosity of the institute's donors is evident in each of its laboratory corridors, in every building on its Parisian campus and within the historic walls of the Pasteur Museum. Giving has literally shaped the physical face of the institute. But the legacy of these gifts and bequests is deeper than the bricks and mortar; it permeates the track record of the institute's scientific achievements. Without the support of the public, the Institut Pasteur could not continue its work on infectious diseases and its quest to improve global health.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Given the mission of the Institut Pasteur to fight infectious diseases, every gift to the Pasteur Foundation is an investment in global public health. Today's techniques and knowledge have enabled science to progress as never before. By supporting the Pasteur Foundation and its programs to bring U.S. scientists to work Pasteur labs, Americans help to advance research that benefits global public health.

For more information, please visit
www.pasteurfoundation.org.

BEQUESTS: TWO HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Duchess of Windsor

The second most significant bequest in the institute's history – and certainly the most publicized – was made by Wallis Warfield Simpson, an American better known as the Duchess of Windsor after King Edward VIII abdicated the Throne of England in 1936 to marry her. She is shown on page 1 as photographed by Man Ray.



Credit: Institut Pasteur

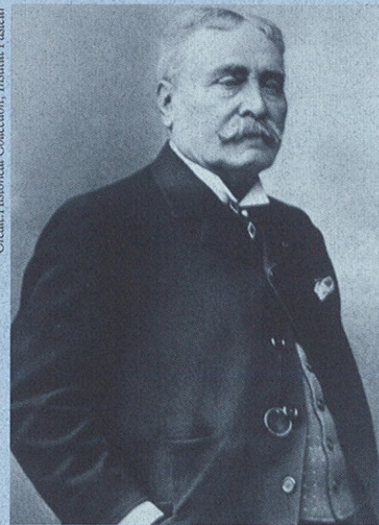
Among other projects, the Duchess of Windsor's bequest, equal to \$90 million today,

The Scientific Information Center: a jewel in the crown of the institute's campus

financed construction of the Scientific Information Center, which hosts over 25,000 visiting scientists each year.

Daniel Iffla-Osiris

Citing "the memory of the great Pasteur, one of the purest glories of [his] country," Daniel Iffla-Osiris named the Institut Pasteur as his universal legatee. The largest ever received by the Institut Pasteur, this 1907 bequest – which amounted to 36 million gold francs or today's equivalent of over \$175 million – enabled the institute to create an endowment, to acquire new grounds in the 15th arrondissement of Paris and to establish a laboratory for Marie Curie at the Institut Pasteur after her husband Pierre's death in 1908.



Credit: Historical Collection, Institut Pasteur

Daniel Iffla-Osiris

To learn how to support our work and become a part of this history, please see page 4.