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Coral Gables Museum features photos of American women aiding France

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Anne Morgan (left) and Anne Murray Dike, cofounders of the Committee for Devastated France (CARD).



A bakery reopens. Note the child with a naked toe sticking out, an inspiration for American women to knit stockings.



Volunteers at the Château Blérancourt gateway.



Children of Saint-Paul-Aux-Bois.



Anne Morgan's grand-nephew, Miles Morgan, speaking at an exhibit preview.

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An exhibit of vintage photos of American women bringing humanitarian aid to France during and after [World War I](#) opened September 10, 2015, at the [Coral Gables Museum](#).

Entitled Anne Morgan's War: American Women Rebuilding France 1917-1924, the exhibit tells of the exploits of the youngest daughter of American financier J. Pierpont Morgan.

An advocate for U.S. workingmen and women's causes in the early 20th century, Anne Morgan turned her attention to relief efforts in France after the outbreak of World War I. In France, she found families with homes destroyed, living in caves and quarries.

Relief and Rebuilding

Morgan first helped to establish the American Fund for French Wounded to ensure that medicines sent from abroad reached the injured soldiers for whom they were intended. Later she and a friend, Canadian doctor Anne Murray Dike, founded the Committee for Devastated France (CARD).

CARD was based at Château de Blérancourt in Picardy, a region in northern France that the German army had reduced to rubble during its occupation. The organization attracted some 350 American women who spoke French and knew how to drive and repair cars and trucks. They paid their own way and spent up to six months at a time in France.

Morgan headed a successful public relations operation that raised money in the U.S. and sent it abroad through CARD to buy food and clothing for refugees displaced from their farms and towns.

The women also helped to re-establish agriculture in the devastated region, and supplied construction materials and workers to aid in rebuilding local communities. Later they brought in librarians and sports directors to help children who had known nothing but war acquire knowledge and skills for the future.

Remarkable Images

A major factor in this fundraising was the use of still and motion pictures, some candid, others staged, to tug at the heartstrings and pocketbooks of potential donors. The exhibit presents a selection of these images, sulfur-toned silver prints that are remarkably well preserved after almost a century, with excellent informative captions.

At an exhibit preview her grand-nephew, Miles Morgan, described her as "one of a group of independent women interested in the conditions of workers in industry." Remarkably, he said, many of their parents were "major stockholders" in the companies they targeted for reform.

Christine Rupp, director of the museum, noted that although the events that the exhibit depicts took place almost a century ago, its content is as contemporary as the online and televised images of Syrian refugees fleeing similar devastation in their homeland today.

The exhibit was organized by the [Franco-American Museum](#) at Château de Blérancourt, which [Anne Morgan](#) established in 1930 as a repository of Franco-American art, history, and culture.

The [Coral Gables Museum](#) is at 285 Aragon Avenue in downtown Coral Gables. It is open daily except Mondays. The Anne Morgan exhibit continues through November 28th.

<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/coral-gables-museum-features-photos-of-american-women-aiding-france#slide=1>