

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Notes on the lit. scene in Paris.

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NOTES ON THE LIT. SCENE IN PARIS

Old books displayed in windows. In New York, one doesn't find any book published some years ago -- except "classics" in "Modern Lib." etc. In France, books, ten, twenty years of age, reprinted in regular editions. Early Gides, Valéry Larbaud, Valéry, Claudel, etc. Gives feeling of continuity. Also collaborators (Montherlant... Céline - reported in Copenhagen, as Dr. Destouches. Communists want him...)

No vanguard -- except Existentialism... But is such a movement? There is a talented writer, J.-P. Sartre... No program, no philosophy. Camus denies connection (as does Heidegger...) -- "La Peste," interesting novel... But no new direction... Characteristic efforts, to revive Surrealism, vanguard after the last war. "Fontaine" tries to. Doesn't work.

Politics too predominant. Literary magazines, influenced by political sympathies or aversions. "Les Lettres Françaises", fellow-travelling, attack Gide ("la vieille coquette"), Mauriac (his column in "Figaro"). ... Politics estrange literati from literature. -- Aragon, Comm. leader. The case of André Malraux -- champion of De Gaulle. (His book) Claude Mauriac on Malraux. Quotations. ("The Hero")

Claude Mauriac -- a new critic. His book on Cocteau. Critics hard on Cocteau: Maurice Sachs, "Le Sabbat" (The Sachs mystery...) Not quite fair... I attacked him too: feel sorry about it... His authentic poetry: proves in "La Difficulté d'être." The discoverer...: Jean Jenet, "Les Bonnes" (revival at the "Athenée.")

Films: "La Belle et la Bête" -- now "L'Aigle à deux têtes."
"Le Diable au Corps" (sensation: the young actor)
"Les Jeux sont faites," Sartre's script published in book form...

There may be not much... but more than anywhere else...

Henry Miller, "Tropique du Cancer", displayed everywhere. ~~No best~~
Scandal: "Comité de défense d'Henry Miller," including almost every-
body from Gide to A. Breton... except the Communists. Not enough social
consciousness in Miller's writings...