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Catologue des Edit. Knopf
6 July to December 1947 [BELLES-LETTRES]

* THE JOURNALS

Volume I:

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, WITH AN

WHEN, at the age of twenty (1889), André Gide began keeping a journal, he did not intend it for publication. But with the passing years and the ever wider recognition of his position as a great European writer, he gradually changed his mind. Last summer, at seventy-six—with at least *The Counterfeiters*, *The Immoralist*, and *Strait is the Gate* universally considered to be masterpieces, and with more than fifteen hundred pages of his journals already published in French—he was still noting down his varied activities and stimulating thoughts.

Fifty years of a most active literary life, which began with Mallarmé, Valéry, and Maeterlinck and eventually brought contact with almost every great contemporary European, are recorded here. Racy and at the moment itself, Gide has described his meetings with such men as d'Annunzio, Hofmannsthal, Bennett, and Rathenau, set down his conversations with Wilde, Claudel, Rodin, and Proust, and reported original anecdotes involving such friends as Maillol, Léon Blum, Degas, and André Malraux. In Paris and during his frequent travels throughout Europe and Africa his notebook has faithfully accompanied him, gathering æsthetic appreciations, philosophic reflections, sustained literary criticism, notes for the composition of his

*Also by André Gide: *The Counterfeiters*, *Lafcadio's Adventures*, *Strait is the Gate*, and *Imaginary Interviews*.

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[BELLES-LETTRES]

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OF ANDRÉ GIDE 1889—1939

1889—1913

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES, BY JUSTIN O'BRIEN

works, details of his personal life and spiritual conflicts, and comments on the political and social events of the day.

André Gide's work as novelist, dramatist, critic, and essayist is as voluminous as it is varied: the fifteen large volumes issued in France before the war include only what had appeared up to 1930. It is upon those works that his reputation and equally immense legend were built. But who shall say if his *Journals*, now first translated into English, may not one day come to be the Montaigne's *Essays* of our age, and eclipse those disturbing and controversial writings on which they now throw so much light? For André Gide is superior to his work. Before being a writer—like Montaigne, indeed, and like that other ancestor, Goethe—he is a man. This is why his *Journals* can be profitably read even by those to whom he has hitherto been but a name.

In annotating his translation with greater care than has ever been devoted to any French edition of Gide, Justin O'Brien, professor of contemporary French literature at Columbia, has drawn upon years of study and frequent consultation with André Gide. The first volume of the *Journals* covers the years 1889—1913. Two additional volumes, of the same format, are scheduled to appear before 1950.

TYPOGRAPHY AND BINDING DESIGN BY W. A. DWIGGINS

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