

O. Wilde

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His Wreath Of Admiration

OSCAR WILDE. by Andre Gide: Philosophical Library: \$2.75.

This slender book of 50 pages is the first authorized translation by Bernard Frechtman of Gide's personal memories of Oscar Wilde. They comprise three essays first published in French in 1910.

Gide first came into contact with Wilde in Paris in '91, when the latter was at the height of his success. Something in Gide seemed to draw from Wilde a store of short philosophical and poetical allegories, retold here.

Three years later, when tragedy was beginning to overtake Wilde, Gide came across him in Algiers on the eve of his returning to England, to his trial and imprisonment.

After his release Wilde returned to Berneval, France, where he lived under an assumed name, M. Melmouth. Gide visited him there as soon as he learned his whereabouts. Later Wilde came back to Paris but Gide was away at the time of his death so was not a member of "the meagre cortege which followed him to the cemetery of Bagneux."

Gide's attitude toward Wilde is summed up in the following: "Now that all gossip about this wretchedly famous name has quieted down, now that the throng has grown weary, after having praised, of being astonished and then of damning, perhaps a friend may express a sadness which persists, may bring, like a wreath to a forsaken grave, these pages of affection, admiration and respectful pity."

A touching and interesting tribute from one literary figure to another. E. O. P.