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1949

# Andre Gide Views Oscar Wilde

OSCAR WILDE. By Andre Gide. Translated from the French by Bernard Frechtman. Philosophical Library, New York. 50 pages. \$2.75.

"I've put my genius into my life. I've put only my talent into my works." Oscar Wilde once remarked to Andre Gide. Gide comments here on the truth of this statement, saying, "The best of his writing is only a pale reflection of his brilliant conversation."

Andre Gide, dean of French letters now at the age of eighty, first met Wilde in 1891 when his plays were the talk of London. Wilde, at that time, was a prodigious being, brilliant, handsome, charming, rich, and laden with honors. To the young Gide he seemed a radiant being. In the year or two that followed these two saw each other often.

When Wilde was released from prison after the experience which wrecked his career he found refuge in France at Berneval, a quiet village near Dieppe. Gide was the first of his French friends to seek out the broken man who was using the pseudonym, Sebastian Melmoth.

The two essays included in this brief volume, "In Memoriam" and "De Profundis," were written nearly half a century ago, the first in 1901 only a year after Wilde's death, the second in 1905. This is their first authorized translation. The translator is Bernard Frechtman. They are interesting not only for what they have to say about Wilde. They



ANDRE GIDE.

are a pleasure to read because of the dignity, simplicity and color of the Gide style.

In the foreword Gide says of Wilde, "Let those who knew him longer tell the story of his life; one of those who listened to him most eagerly here simply sets down a few personal memories."

PAULINE WORTHY.

O. Wilde

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...and make-up are excellent. Miss Marshall starts all her papers with dramatic flourish and concludes her swift pace for any part. May will be the best have read. ... you read this story.

24 June 49

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This, the first authorized