

Personal History

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can say with the ancient Talmudic rabbi: "This too was for the good."

Though she wrote it in the dark days of 1939, dark for the world as well as the Jews, she remained throughout her years consistently true to her creed, which "demands that I shall keep on steadily with the work that life has entrusted to me and do it to the best of my ability. The sorrier the time, the more poignant the anguish, the keener the need, the greater the challenge to wrestle with fate."

He Led Three Lives

"Paul Claudel: The Man and the Mystic," by Louis Chaigne, translated by Pierre de Fontnouvelle (Appleton-Century-Crofts. 277 pp. \$4.95), emphasizes the decisive influence of Catholicism on the life of a distinguished playwright, poet, and diplomat. Laurent LeSage is professor of French literature at Pennsylvania State University.

By Laurent LeSage

ALTHOUGH there are many studies devoted to France's great playwright and poet, this is the first biography. By a remarkably prompt translation (perhaps too prompt, for there are a number of printer's errors and the English is sometimes peculiar) American readers will know it only a few months after the French. The title indicates the angle of approach; one cannot expect to find much analysis or appreciation of Claudel's literary art. Perhaps rather than "Man and Mystic," though, the title should read simply "Paul Claudel the Catholic," for that is essentially the subject of this pious work written by one of Claudel's most fervent disciples.

Not that Louis Chaigne does not give us a full biography. With the information acquired from thirty years of study, he presents a detailed account of Claudel's life from infancy to the grave. We see the sullen and secretive boy growing up in a home atmosphere of constant bickering, the student who heard Renan at graduation exercises foretell that one among his youthful audience would someday publicly curse him, the career diplomat who was also a poet, writing odes in the morning and commercial reports in the afternoon. Before his retirement in 1935, Claudel

had represented his country in many parts of the world and often at critical moments of history—China at the end of the Manchu dynasty, Germany on the eve of World War I, Japan during the 1923 earthquake. As ambassador to the United States, he was active in negotiating the Briand-Kellogg Pact.

Claudel's unbanal public life paralleled a private life of even greater interest, and M. Chaigne sets before us its main events—the tragic love of his life, his family sorrows, his marriage, his friendships, and his enmities—but all from a religious point of view.

Chaigne is doubtless right in putting the emphasis on religion. Claudel himself placed his faith above all else; in fact, he was never quite sure that he had not missed his real vocation. Ever after his illumination on Christmas Day 1886, in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paul Claudel longed for the cloister.

But if we cannot justifiably reproach Chaigne for subordinating all else to Claudel's spiritual career, we may personally regret that the first biography is not an objective account but a passionate eulogy and a work of religious edification. Utterances such as that Claudel was "predestined" or "designated by God," references to "Divine Grace presiding over his destiny," make this book read like a hagiography. Moreover, Chaigne's discreet and reverent hand shields from our gaze corners that we might like to explore. One could wish to read a less veiled account of the romantic affair that was the inspiration of "Le Partage de Midi" and learn more about this married woman who eventually renounced her love "so as not to stand between Claudel and God." Chaigne does not tell us half enough about other women close to Claudel: his wife, his mother, and his sisters, particularly Camille, who must have been one of the great secret forces in Claudel's life—the talented and temperamental older sister, militantly anticlerical, who became Rodin's pupil and mistress, went mad when he married someone else, and lived out the rest of her long and tragic life in an asylum. It is possible that the testimony of these women might require a portraitist to add a less saintly pigment to his paints. If these are just evil suspicions, let us say at least that a gayer and sprightlier palette than Chaigne's is needed to do justice to the Claudel who once traded an introduction for a case of choice wine, who could not bring himself to reread Racine until he had already occupied Racine's chair in the French Academy for ten years, and who, enchanted to find that an American town he was passing through was called Sodom, stopped to send a postcard to André Gide!

Criminal Record

NIGHT OF THE KILL. By Brèni James. Simon & Schuster. \$3.50. Death of ancient Spanish-American gives Sgt. Gunnar Matson, good San Francisco beat-cop, several involved moments. Police job has nice dashes of humor; an auspicious kickoff for a newcomer.

THE DRILL IS DEATH. By Frances and Richard Lockridge. Lippincott. \$2.95. English poet, in New York as visiting prof, finds girl's corpse in cab, is kidnapped, and altogether has hell of a time on first (and last?) trip to Yankeeeland. Rather uneven for this duo, but a plausible puzzler.

THE GIRL WITH THE LEOPARD-SKIN BAG. By Jeremy York. Scribners. \$2.95. Pair of English rascals, returning from U.S., plot destruction of female compatriot who knows too much, but mistaken identity knocks plans awry. Orthodox jane-in-jam job.

A VERY WELCOME DEATH. By D. L. Mathews. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. \$3.50. Chicago police officer, vacationing in rural home town, is created deputy sheriff to solve death of undesirable female with serpent's tongue; suspects are superabundant. Pace varies.

SPARE TIME FOR MURDER. By John Gale. Macmillan. \$3.50. British naval officer helps Scotland Yard solve dire doings near mystery laboratory; violent deaths occur. Has some nice sharp twists.

EVIL GENIUS. By George Bagby. Crime Club. \$2.95. Baby-sitting chick tizzies when boy friend takes lead in head; Inspector Schmidt of Manhattan believes her yarn and gets down to work. Good detection, good humor.

DEAD MAN RUNNING. By John Blackburn. Mill-Morrow. \$3.50. English manufacturer, seeking customers in Russia, is told Yard wants him for wife murder; flees home, finds real killer after harrowing chase. Completely incredible.

THE PROTECTOR. By Larry M. Harris. Random House. \$2.95. New York man seeks wife's rapist without benefit of police; climax involves chase into New Jersey. Highly emotional, with good pace.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET. By Allen Richards. Macmillan. \$3.50. Corpse in model bedroom in Manhattan department store flusters management and

hired hands; buyer Joe Michaels plays amateur sleuth. Grade A merchandise.

HANNO'S DOLL. By Evelyn Piper. Atheneum. \$3.50. Austrian actor-director, teaching in Connecticut college, fears he has committed manslaughter; campus cop looks into things. Strong on atmosphere, with numerous flashbacks.

THE WORM OF DEATH. By Nicholas Blake. Harper. \$3.95. Nigel Strange-ways, posh London peeper, teams with erudite Chief Inspector Wright to solve slaughter of big-time medico; second murder supervenes. Good Q&A; high-IQ job.

BODIES AND SOULS. Edited by Dan Herr and Joel Wells. Crime Club. \$3.95. Fourteen tales, largely criminous, each with Catholic setting, mood, detective, or author, by Chesterton, Christie, Kantor, Shane Leslie, Rufus King, a Redemptionist priest, others. A highly varied and ingenious assemblage.

MOMENT OF VIOLENCE. By George Harmon Coxe. Knopf. \$2.95. Unscrupulous Yank's death in Barbados gives New York lawyer lively moments; good local cops quiz half-dozen suspects. Fine sense of authenticity and telling action.

SILENCE OBSERVED. By Michael Innes. Dodd, Mead. \$3.50. Sir John Appleby, Yard VIP, tackles case involving discovery and disappearance of unknown Rembrandt; bullets drop two. Good show for the cognoscenti.

THE MURDERERS. By Fredric Brown. Dutton. \$2.95. Hollywood bit-actor and adulterous dame plan Aegisthus-Clytemnestra job; beatnik types abound. Highly amative.

ERROR OF JUDGMENT. By George Harmon Coxe. Knopf. \$2.95. Jack Casey, ace Boston press cameraman, turns shamus when old pal takes lethal lead; second slaughter cancels lawyer. Nice going, with crash finish.

THE BULLET-PROOF MARTYR. By James A. Howard. Dutton. \$2.95. Cop-killing in downstate Illinois makes führer-type's aide suspicious; Biblical slaughter is recalled. Manageable cast makes for fluent reading.

THE PAPERS OF ANDREW MELMOTH. By Hugh Sykes Davies. Morrow. \$3.50. English scientist's work with rats leads to inevitable dénouement in this tract for the times. No crime, but a skilfully-knit suspense tale of quiet horror.

—SERGEANT CUFF.

Industry & Government

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device in the economic recovery of Western Europe was the combination of government and corporations together directing all their efforts toward building up a European Common Market. This success supplies the Atlantic Community with a model and a direction.

I would summarize my suggestions for an approach to establishing a long-term political international trade program as follows:

1. Modern business corporations can only be brought effectively in line with the public interest if the government (agencies and legislature) operates under a clear definition of "public interest." In the field of corporate activities abroad the President of the United States and the Congress should define that public interest as quickly as possible. Each agency involved in the control of corporations must base its decisions on the statement of policy. The Congress should exercise the greatest self-restraint in enacting any statute, bill, or regulation inconsistent with the policy. It should not interfere in the general principles of international trade anytime it thinks certain domestic interests are jeopardized, but if interference inconsistent with the welfare of underdeveloped nations becomes truly necessary, the Congress should compensate these countries for losses of trade resulting from our interference.

2. The international trade activities of corporations and of government should be completely separated so that business enterprises may have the opportunity to act in accordance with their business interests as well as with the public interest. Present governmental activities in underdeveloped territories (outside of military aid) should be curtailed as quickly as possible, and new devices should be found for governmental guarantees. A ratio of governmental guarantees to private risk in these territories should be fixed in such a way as to further the aim of relegating all governmental action to the field of military and other non-economic help.

3. American corporations doing business abroad, directly or indirectly, are bound to obey principles of American law wherever they are. Administrative agencies and eventually courts should be given the power to force any corporation to remain in line with the announced policies. As a beginning,

the Federal Trade Commission should be authorized to investigate the current business methods of American corporations in the different foreign countries, and on the basis of this investigation corporations should be ordered to cease and desist from any practices that might occasion future complaints in Latin America or other countries.

4. The government should be asked to re-examine its official attitude on the rules of international law concerning the legality of nationalization of foreign enterprises. The possibility of a rule that would give assurances sufficient both to American corporations and to underdeveloped countries should be explored. There should be an international tribunal to examine the fairness of agreements between American and foreign corporations or governments. It should be considered unfair if local interests are not permitted to take over a foreign enterprise after a certain period of years provided fair compensation is guaranteed.

5. We should examine how far American and foreign (especially Western European and Japanese) corporations might be able to go in building up joint programs for underdeveloped territories, provided that the programs stay within the limits of American anti-trust legislation and conform to the policy set by the President. Private bond issues should again become an important device for financing long-term investments in the world's new countries.

6. American and European governmental and private institutions should study jointly the channels between the United States and Europe that now exist, the effect of the present trend of investment between the United States and Europe, and the prospects for the development of an American-European Common Market. Those who have envisaged the Common European Market have set clear goals for it. Each European corporation and each government agency know what the aim is and what the end should be; they know by what standards each act has to be evaluated. Even if Europe never accomplishes political unification, the trend started by the Common Market has been most effective in the dynamic development of Europe. Although the immediate development of the Common Market may be slow, the trend remains potent.

The United States has no such trend. Until it does, it will have no chance of setting up an effective policy of cooperation between government and corporations.