I. GENERAL

Proust and Gide still command wide interest, and Valéry is already the object of numerous studies of high quality. On the whole, critical work is slightly less preoccupied with social problems, engagement, and existentialism, though moral and religious considerations still distract critics from literary investigations.

Among periodicals the situation remains much as last year. RSH should be added to the basic list given. The Gazette des lettres françaises has been absorbed by NL, but it is the FL which has swollen in size by the addition of politics and hunting stories. One is never sure when the valuable but irregular Cahiers de la Pléiade (Gallimard) will cease publication, nor whether the NNRF (1 Jan. 1953, Gallimard) will make it redundant: one hopes not. The Bulletin critique continues to give reliable though short notes on selected recent books in all fields, in an independent vein quite unlike the ‘professional’ reviews. The lists of the contents of periodicals have unfortunately been omitted in recent nos. New periodicals incl. Cahiers de l’association internationale des études françaises and Les écrivains contemporains (Monaco, Éd. du Palais). Many ‘experimental’ periodicals, Boîte à clous, Temps de la poésie, Tour du feu, Osmose, etc., blush unseen—it is difficult to make their publishers part with copies.

Sources of bibl. information are of mixed quality. Biblio announces with fuller details, and perhaps fewer errors and omissions, the books which were classified, a month or more before, in Livres du mois. Both Biblio and Livres de l’année published their cumulation for 1951 before the end of 1952. Talvart et Place, Bibl. des auteurs modernes now reaches Lavedan (t. xi), the Dictionnaire de biographie française reaches Biré (fasc. 32), and the Catalogue général of the Bibl. nationale, with
two new vols., takes us to Sweezy. Special mention must be made of the remodelled Lanson: *Histoire de la litt. française, remaniée et complétée pour la période 1850–1950* par Paul Tuffrau, Hachette. The new part, 300 pp., is a ‘standard’ exposition, recalling Jasinski rather than the more exciting and personal Clouard. It does admit the surrealists and Sartre; zealous critics have already suggested revaluations and additions.

Posthumous publ. of work by Apollinaire (*Tendre comme le souvenir*: see pref.), Saint-Exupéry (in G. Pélissier’s biography), Gide, Proust, and many others, has raised the question of the propriety of printing such material. Opinion is in favour, though rejected drafts and private letters are to be distinguished. Whatever may be the views of writers or of the learned world, important MSS. are liable to an unpredictable fate at the hands of their present owners. It seems urgent that a competent body should work out a voluntary scheme.

The reader is referred for periodical arts to *RHLF*, where R. Rancœur continues his invaluable ‘notes bibliographiques’. It is high time this work were done as part of a co-ordinated scheme for all Arts subjects.

2. **Essays and Studies**

The number of publications in this category has increased. They are mainly by younger writers. Many of them treat of novelist-writers, but none deals exclusively with the novel as a genre.

M. Arland (ed.), *Almanach des lettres 1953*, Horay. Rapid reviews of production, up to Oct. 1952, in poetry (Arland and Rousselot), the novel (Kanters), drama (Kemp), essays (Elsen), periodicals (Carat), etc., with lists of prizes, societies, academies, publ. addresses, and of the ‘Friends’ of various writers. Id., *Essais et nouveaux essais critiques*, Gallimard. The 1931 ‘essais’, and later ones, incl. reflections on general tendencies in 1924 and today, as well as studies on e.g. Barrès, Gide, Mauriac, Bernanos, Bourget, France, Valéry, Proust, Romain, Jouhandeau.—A. Arnoux, *Études et caprices*, Michel.—B. d’Astorg, *Aspects*

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1 Since this article went to press, D. W. Alden and others have issued a *Bibl. of crit. and biographical refs. for the study of contemp. French lit.*, 1951 supp., Hafner, 1953, for the M.L.A.A., ‘French VII’, publ. no. 4, and the 1952 *Supp.*, Ib., 1953, publ. no. 4. They record over 3600 items.