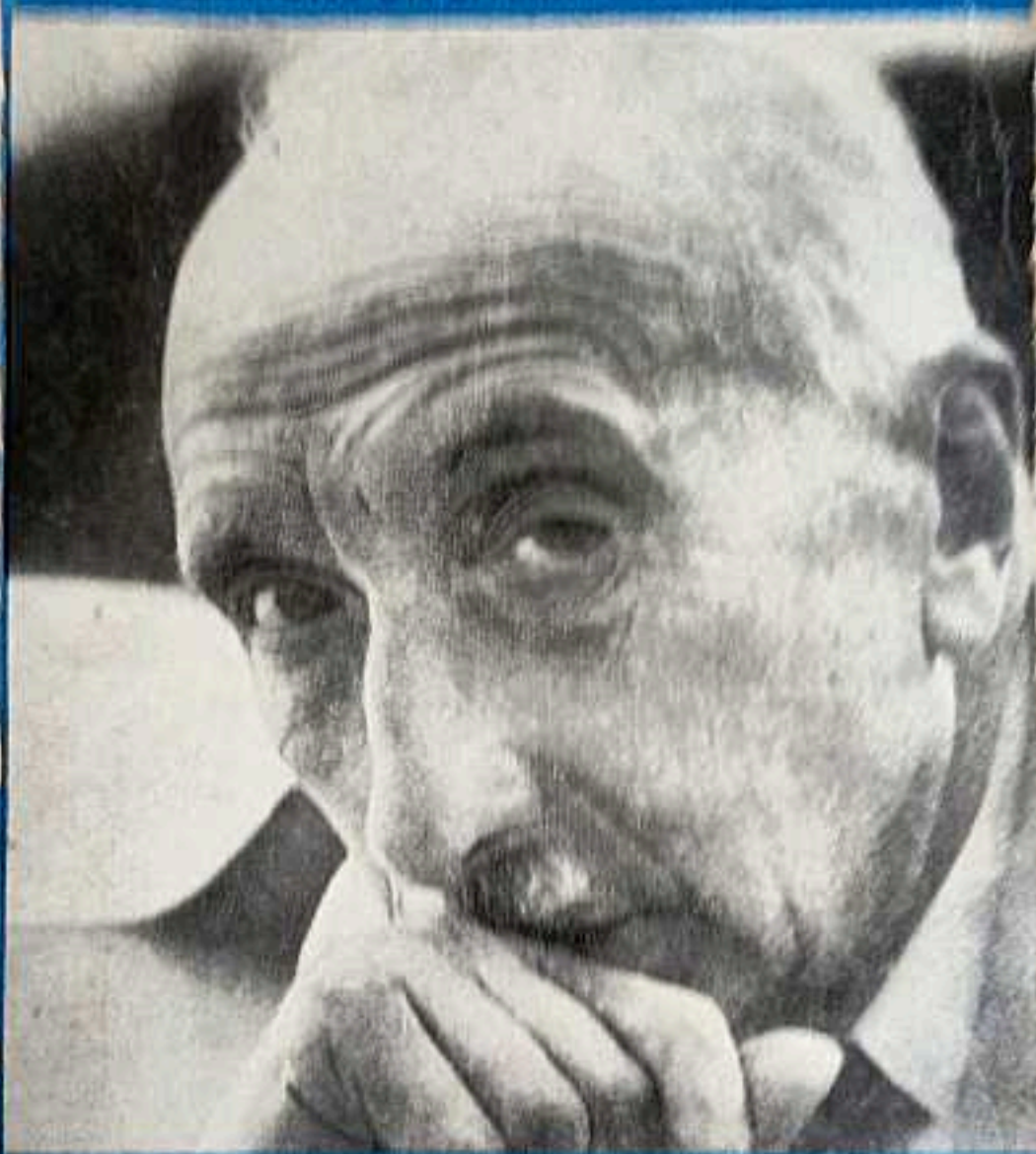


# Second Thoughts

REFLECTIONS ON LITERATURE AND ON LIFE



**FRANÇOIS MAURIAC**

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# SECOND THOUGHTS

Reflections on Literature and on Life

FRANCOIS MAURIAC

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Adrienne Foulke*

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## SECOND THOUGHTS

Francois Mauriac, recognised as one of the world's most distinguished novelists and critics, has selected from his literary journals these penetrating and deeply moving essays on our society and its literature.

In the first section, 'On Writing Today', in addition to discussing such specifically literary matters as 'The Cyclical Novel', the relations between art and the public, and 'The Detachment of the Artist', M. Mauriac offers a searching critique of modern critics, who, he contends, often 'condemn and reject what is particularly and intimately the writer's own'. His essays on André Gide, Maurice Barres, Reman, Shakespeare, Proust, D. H. Lawrence and other outstanding writers do not leave the reader with the slightest doubt as to his partialities and preferences.

The essays he has chosen for the second part, 'Life', vary from his evocative description of 'The first day of the year', and a conducted tour of his house, Malagar, to a discussion on 'The Sleepwalkers' and a brilliant interview with Gertrude Garbo. He speaks of those 'hidden regions' in the human soul 'where lie the conquered passions, the misshapen monsters, and the half-suffled memories' which are always prepared to unleash new destruction and new wars throughout the world.

Despite the darkness of this vision of man and the jagged scream in which it is presented, Mauriac is neither an angry man nor a despairing one.