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## A Gift from Marguerite Yourcenar, Member of the Academie Francaise

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## *A Gift from Marguerite Yourcenar, Member of the Académie Française*

Mme. Marguerite Yourcenar, distinguished French writer and the first woman to be elected to the Académie Française in its 346-year history, has generously presented seventeen of her books to the Syracuse University Libraries. Some are early editions of special value, and one, *Nouvelles orientales* (Gallimard, 1938), is extensively corrected in her own hand. All the books contain a presentation inscription.

This important gift from one of the great living writers could become the nucleus of a larger Marguerite Yourcenar collection of particular interest to French scholars and to feminist historians. Perhaps Library Associates will assist in the development of such a collection.

The gift came about through a happy connection—a friendship of over forty years between Mme. Yourcenar and Dr. Mary H. Marshall, English professor emeritus at Syracuse University. They met in New Haven during World War II, through Grace Frick, who became Marguerite Yourcenar's translator. Two volumes of Mme. Yourcenar's plays, *Théâtre I* and *II* each include an inscription alluding to Professor Marshall's courses in drama:

*A la Bibliothèque de l'Université de Syracuse et en particulière référence à tout l'excellent travail fait par Miss Mary Marshall, amie de longue date, dans le domaine du théâtre.*

*Marguerite Yourcenar  
27 Juin 1980*

A file on the author has been started, thanks to Professor Marshall's gift of a collection of reviews from American and French newspapers and magazines on the occasion of Marguerite Yourcenar's installation in the Académie Française on January 22, 1981. The file includes a published copy of Miss Yourcenar's installation address, which was anxiously awaited by feminists and critics of the appointment. (*Le Monde*, 23 janvier, 1981)

According to August Heckscher in the *Christian Science Monitor* of February 2, 1981, *Le Monde* described the address as "Quite simply a masterpiece....a superb example of lucidity, of compassion, of poetry and of wisdom."

Mme. Yourcenar is best known in the United States for her novels, *The Memoirs of Hadrian* and *The Abyss*. Her published works include eight works of fiction, several plays, several volumes of critical essays, philosophical and social history, poetry, and many translations, notably of Greek poetry. Mme. Yourcenar, who has lived for many years on Mount Desert Island in Maine, has several works in progress. Her latest publication is a short book on the Japanese writer, *Mishima, ou la vision du vide* (Gallimard, 1980).

Following is a list of the books given by the author:

- Souvenirs pieux*. Gallimard, 1980, Collection Folio.
- Sous bénéfice d'inventaire*. Gallimard, 1979, Collection Idées.
- Fleuve profond, sombre rivière*. Gallimard, 1974, Collection Poésie.  
(A French translation of Negro Spirituals)
- Présentation critique de Constantin Gavafy*. Gallimard, 1978, Collection Poésie.
- L'Oeuvre au noir*. Gallimard, 1976, Collection Folio.
- Denier du rêve*. Gallimard, 1971.
- Alexis ou le traité du vain combat*. Gallimard, 1980.
- La Couronne et la lyre*. Gallimard, 1980. (A French translation of several Greek poems)
- Nouvelles orientales*. Gallimard, 1938.
- Nouvelles orientales*. Gallimard, 1978, Collection L'Imaginaire.
- Archives du nord*. Gallimard, 1980.
- Présentation critique d'Hortense Flexner*. Gallimard, 1969.
- Le Mystère d'Alceste et Qui n'a pas son Minotaure?* Plon, 1963.
- Discours de Mme. Marguerite Yourcenar et de M. Carlo Bronne*  
(Reception à l'Académie belge). Gallimard, 1971.
- Charpentreau, Jacques. *Le Livre de tous les jours*. Gallimard, 1980.  
(Quotation of M. Yourcenar, page 45)
- Théâtre I*. Gallimard, 1971.
- Théâtre II*. Gallimard, 1971.
- In addition, three books have been given by Professor Mary H. Marshall. Others from her own collection are promised to the library.
- The Anchor Review* (Doubleday Anchor Book, no. 2), 1957.  
Contains "Notebooks on *Memoirs of Hadrian*" by Marguerite Yourcenar. (Material included in later editions of *The Memoirs of Hadrian*)
- Blot, Jean. *Marguerite Yourcenar: un étude*. Ecrivains d'hier et d'aujourd'hui: 38. Paris: Seghes, 1971.
- Rosbo, Patrick de. *Entretiens radiophoniques avec Marguerite Yourcenar*. Paris: Mercure de France, 1971.