



PAUL GAUGUIN  
Classic figure of revolt

real story is rather different from the legend. He was, it is true, a stockbroker of sorts when he married Mette; but he had had an exotic childhood in Peru, and from heredity and environment had received a character which seemed to belong inevitably to an artist.

Much of his best work was done in Brittany, long before he thought of Tahiti, and even then he had broken away from the Impressionists. Although a hard man to get on with, he had his disciples. His work is described competently in this book; but the authors emphasise that their interest is in the man, and they see him increasingly through his relationship with Mette. It is clear from the evidence that Gauguin's ruthlessness in the separation has been greatly exaggerated. He refused to give up painting; but he was incurably an optimist; he really believed that in a few years he would be able to sell his canvases and support his family in comfort.

His wife and children were not starving; they were living with relations in Denmark, and in later years Mette was able to sell many of Gauguin's pictures at prices which surprised her. It was Gauguin himself who knew hunger. He was not silent about his sufferings; on the contrary, his letters to Mette were full of bitterness. Both of them wrote too much; but although they reproached each other the link between them was not finally broken until near the end of the artist's life. And it was always Gauguin who wanted a reconciliation.

The story of those last years at Tahiti is one of unrelieved tragedy—unless, perhaps, there is relief in the frenzied outbursts of painting while his splendid health was being broken down by syphilis. Gauguin suffered terribly, and much of the evil that came upon him was of his own making. But he had his own integrity, a complete dedication to his work; and he did not mistake his genius.

The Hansons have written this biography carefully. They show the man in the round, hiding nothing; he is there, when they have finished with him, to be seen and heard, but not to be judged.

—H.

#### THE PERENNIAL ARGUMENT

SEX, SIN AND SANCTITY, by John Langdon-Davies; Victor Gollancz, English price 16/- AN ANALYSIS OF THE KINSEY REPORTS ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, edited by Donald Porter Geddes; Frederick Muller, English price 10/6.

NO one with any sense expects to find himself writing or reading the last word on sexual behaviour. Mr. Langdon-

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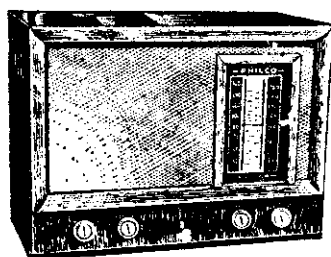
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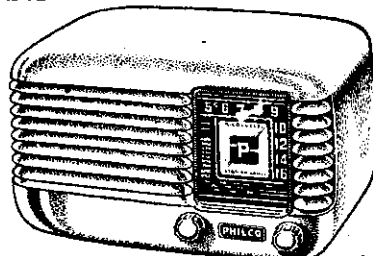
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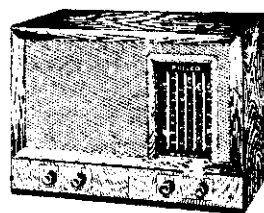
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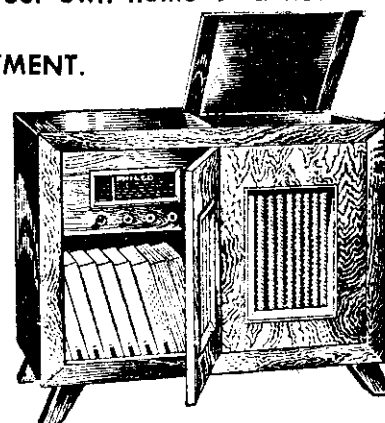
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