

The two are frequently contrasted. There seems to be a general agreement that Sartre had the more incisive intellect, but Camus was the better writer. In fact, Camus as a thinker tends to be undervalued. The young who can identify with *The Stranger* (or *The Outsider*) demur from *The Rebel* which has no sympathy with revolt and alienation — 'Every rebel becomes either a heretic or a tyrant.' That much is true, but Camus in his later years was muddled and angry, destroying the genuine argument against political violence by emotive pseudo-logic and deliberate provocation. The thinker in those early essays, speaking for life against futility, waste and death, is a nobler and truer witness.

Olivier Todd chronicles this development with sympathy for one who, whatever the shortcomings in his work and his life, was an advocate of justice and truth. With access to the Camus papers, and with a lifetime's inside knowledge of the events and people, Monsieur Todd illuminates darkened areas, not least in the famous quarrel between Sartre and Camus. It wasn't as serious a falling-out as legend has it. In part it was inevitable, given the two men's contrasting outlooks. It was also a falling apart of the whole post-war Sartre circle. There were other outlets than *Les Temps Modernes*. There were other streets than those of the sixth arrondissement. Camus died far from Paris, a writer of world stature, though the controversies have yet to be resolved about the nature of this necessarily complex man. Monsieur Todd offers at least a partial resolution.

GEOFFREY HEPTONSTALL

THE WORLD OF PAPERBACKS

SUTTON PUBLISHING, one of the most successful of our smaller publishing houses, is celebrating its twentieth birthday. As part of this celebration it has republished George Holbert Tucker's *A History of Jane Austen's Family* (£9.99. ISBN 0-7509-1663-X) first published in 1983 as *A Goodly Heritage*. It brings to life not only Jane Austen's immediate circle but a large section of eighteenth century life.

From ABACUS, the paperback arm of Little, Brown we have a new edition of Thor Heyerdahl's *Green was the Earth on the Seventh Day* (£7.99. ISBN 0-349-10987-7), one man's 1930s autobiographical search for a botanical Shangri-La and a key insight into one of the founders of the 'Green movement.' Another title is Charles Jennings' *People Like Us: A Season Among the Upper Classes* (£6.99. ISBN 0-349-10852-8) a humorous and sometimes biting examination of life among the wealthy, titled and landed classes in England today.

THAMES AND HUDSON have brought out a re-issue of *The Flowering of the Middle Ages* edited by the historian, Joan Evans and first published in 1966 (£12.95. ISBN 0-500-28043-6). With its numerous illustrations and easily digested text this remains a superb introduction to the achievements of the mediaeval period and it is good to have it in print once again.

ROBSON BOOKS recently published a paperback edition of Howard Engel's *Lord High Executioner: an Unashamed Look at Hangmen, Headsmen, and Their Kind* (£9.99. ISBN 1-86105-159-X). With some 70 illustrations the book gives a grisly history of execution and the work of executioners. This is not a book for the faint-hearted.

* HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS has brought out in paperback the award-winning biography, *A Prince of our Disorder: The Life of T. E. Lawrence* (£12.50/US\$18.95. ISBN 0-674-70494-0) first published in 1976. Unlike many 'psycho-biographies', this was written by a trained psychologist who had also done his biographer's homework: it remains the best biography of T. E. Lawrence. Another Harvard title

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now available in paperback is Thomas J. Reese's *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organisation of the Catholic Church* (£10.50/US\$15.95. ISBN 0-674-93261-7) perhaps the best examination of the 'politics and organisation' of the Catholic Church's headquarters.

GRANTA BOOKS have recently brought out paper editions of the three titles in Patrick Chamoiseau's books on life in his native Martinique: *School Days* (£5.99. ISBN 1-86207-163-2), *Texaco* (£6.99. ISBN 1-86207-046-6), and *Strange Words* (£5.99. ISBN 1-86207-086-5). *Texaco* is translated by Rose-Myrian Réjouis and Val Vinokurov, and the other two titles, by Linda Coverdale.

FABER & FABER have brought out Miriam Marx Allen's edition of letters from her famous father, Groucho, to her: *Love, Groucho: Letters from Groucho Marx to His Daughter Miriam* (£8.99. ISBN 0-571-19440-0). These letters are gems of wit and insight. The collection was first published in America in 1992 and it is good to have it available in the UK.

PENGUIN has brought out Don Share's edition, *Seneca in English* (£9.99. ISBN 0-14-044667-2) as part of its 'Poets in Translation' series. Like the other titles in this series it contains translations by various writers which gives an added dimension to Seneca's works and influence. A second title from 'Penguin Classics' is *The Age of Bede* (£7.99. ISBN 0-14-044727-X) edited by D. H. Farmer. It contains five texts, translated by J. F. Webb and D. H. Farmer, concerned with English life in the sixth of seventh century.

ALLISON & BUSBY have brought Alan Chedzoy's much praised *Sheridan's Nightingale: The Story of Elizabeth Linley* (£9.99. ISBN 0-74900-341-3), a fascinating story of late eighteenth century life.

From PIMLICO comes Norman Davies' massive (1365 pages) *Europe: A History* (£15.00. ISBN 0-7126-6633-8) which received a whirlwind of praise when first published by Oxford University Press in 1996. In this edition the author has corrected 'errors of fact'. Also from Pimlico comes the film of the book: Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns' *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery* (£20.00. ISBN 0-7126-6648-6) which describes the two explorers' epic voyage which began in 1804.

PHOENIX GIANTS have issued two new biography titles and one autobiography. The first is John Dixon Hunt's *The Wider Sea: A Life of John Ruskin* (£14.99. ISBN 0-75380-138-8) first published in 1982. This did much to revive interest in this forgotten Victorian genius. The Second is Nigel Nicolson's *Mary Curzon: A Biography* (£10.99. ISBN 0-75380-201-5) which describes the fascinating story of the American born wife of Lord Curzon. The autobiography is Katharine Graham's *Personal History* (£12.99. ISBN 0-75380-167-1), the life story of one of America's most influential women.

London: Blue Guide. Ylva French. A&C Black. £14.99. p.b. ISBN 0-7136-4678-0. This is the sixteenth edition of the London guide in this famous series of 'Blue Guides.' It includes information on how to see London on foot - still the best way - or by using the Thames, on museums and cultural attractions, on London's history and on her incredibly wide selection of famous buildings and landmarks, not to mention her 1700

parks. There is also a good range of information on the practical side to touring: where to stay, where to eat, what to pay and how to get about. This latest edition confirms the Blue Guide's reputation as the best guide books available.

Prince Rupert: Admiral and General-at-Sea. Sir Frank Kitson. Constable.