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Report of Visit by John Marshall
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A second major opportunity lies in the possibility of the Foundation's being ready to consider fellowships for younger writers in Great Britain and France, and later perhaps in other European countries, much like the awards granted in the United States, Canada, and Latin America by the Guggenheim Foundation. For the present at least, such fellowships should not require travel but should be designed primarily to give the younger writers free time to write as they please.

From what I have been able to read of the work of younger writers both in France and Great Britain, I am convinced that there is to be something very like a renaissance in the literature in those two countries after the war. From the work of the writers who came out of the resistance movement in France, and from what is being published in Great Britain by younger men for the most part still on active service, it seems fairly clear that this literature will deal directly or indirectly with the human experience of the war. Indeed, it is perhaps to this literature that one should look for a first formulation of that experience.

I also have the impression that literature in Great Britain and France, at least for the next years, is likely to have a considerably larger influence than before the war. So far as I have been able to read it, what is now being written, both in prose and verse, is far less esoteric than was the work of some abler writers before the war. Indeed, it is it is hard to believe that some of the writers of the French resistance, whose style now is so simple and direct as hardly to be a style, were before the war surrealists! And much the same simplicity and directness is characteristic of the work of the younger British writers. In both instances, they seem indeed, to be writing for a more general audience, rather than for a narrower, literary audience, for which much of prewar writing seemed primarily intended.

No one of course should harbor the illusion that more than a small relatively small proportion of a population is likely to undertake reading of a serious character. But the hunger for reading during the war in both Great Britain and France may have tended to increase that proportion. And

the development of publishing in Great Britain , particularly in the Penguin and other inexpensive editions ordinarily on sale on newsstands and other convenient places, has tended to make books more readily accessible to a larger public. Thus, all in all, it seems only likely that the hearing writers will have in France and Great Britain after the war will be better than the average.

Fellowships for younger writers, as they are released from war service, Then, may turn out to be an investment which would bring an unusually large return. Certainly as the shortage of paper diminishes, work worthy of publication will hardly fail to secure it. But, how until he has had an opportunity to write, will the younger writer whose time has been devoted to fighting the war, have wares to submit for publication? Advance royalties will help in some instances. But almost certainly, without the freedom to write, such as the fellowships here suggested would provide, something - perhaps a great deal - will be lost. Precisely what the terms of such fellowships should be, remains to be considered. Undoubtedly their value and effect would be enhanced if awards could be made at an early date, to assure writers in the services of an opportunity to write as they pleased for a given period after demobilization.

I should have liked, while in France to explore the actual need for fellowships of this kind among younger writers; but with the situation there what it was, and with no certainty that the Foundation could consider appointments, it seemed better not to raise the question. In Great Britain, however, circumstances seemed to allow discussion of this need, all the evidence points to the conclusion that it does not yet, but soon will, exist, particularly as younger writers are released from the armed forces. Their work, or such of it as they are able to produce, is already being closely watched, and some of it is being published, notably, perhaps, in the Penguin series, New Writing. Informal discussion with T.S.Eliot, Herbert Read, F.R.Leavis, and Edwin Muir led to agreement that they would let me know of any cases of immediate need which came to their notice on the part of younger writers of real promise.