

JOINT HISTORY SET ON U.S. AND SOVIET

**Maurois and Aragon Will Do
Parallel Books Marking
Trend to Coexistence**

BY THEODORE SHABAD

André Maurois, the French historian and biographer, and Louis Aragon, France's leading communist writer, are collaborating on a "parallel history" of the United States and the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1960. The joint work, to be published in seventeen countries in 1962, is designed as a major literary contribution to the new world trend of peaceful coexistence, according to Grove Press, the United States publisher for the history. The two authors have agreed to avoid polemics and to stress the achievements of the two countries, Grove said.

News of the publishing venture made public last month in French and Soviet newspapers, was confirmed yesterday by Sidney Rosset, head of Grove Press, which is at 64 University Street.

Maurois, who is a staunch American, will write the history of the United States and Aragon the one of the Soviet Union. Each of the two volumes will have about 400 pages. A third volume tentative thus far may contain interviews with or statements by Soviet and United States leaders in government, economics, science and the arts.

Prior Approval Stated

The two authors have agreed to write independently but to preserve a parallel structure in their treatments. In addition, each is expected to approve the work of the other before publication.

Their general approach will be to paint panoramas of the United States and the Soviet Union in three key years—1917, the year of the Bolshevik Revolution, 1940 (the last peaceful year before the two countries entered World War II) and 1960, the year expected to mark a new turn in world affairs).

Aragon, who appears to have promised the collaboration of Soviet authorities in the project, will go to the Soviet Union this year to collect material. He expects Premier Khrushchev to write a preface for the Soviet history.

Similarly, M. Maurois is expected to come to the United States this year to interview President Kennedy, possibly President Johnson, and to introduce the history of the United States.

Compiling U. S.-Soviet History



Louis Aragon



André Maurois

In a recent letter to Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, M. Maurois asked for assistance in his part of the joint project and said:

"It seems to me that this work might, in its modest way, help create a climate of peace by showing that, in spite of the profound differences between the two civilizations, they have much in common, are pursuing identical research and might well find a common ground of understanding."

The idea for a Maurois-Aragon collaboration was conceived by Cristobal de Acevedo, Ecuadorian delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris and a bibliophile who believes in the power of books.

Les Presses de la Cité, a Paris publisher, will put out the French edition. World rights

have been acquired by George Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Ltd., of London, which in turn has made arrangements with other foreign publishers. Publication is planned more or less simultaneously in each country.

M. Aragon has promised that a Russian edition will be published. It would probably be the first non-Communist view of recent United States history to appear in the Soviet Union.

M. Maurois, 74 years old, is a member of the Académie Française. He has written biographies of Disraeli and Proust, among others.

M. Aragon, 62, is a novelist, poet and essayist. In the Twenties he was a leader of the Dadaist movement, which later in France was succeeded by surrealism.

UF Professor Heads CIA Linked Group

School Officials Deny University Involvement

By HAROLD KENNEDY

Alligator Staff Writer

A UF professor, who is director of a foundation listed as CIA supported, also directs the annual UF-sponsored Conference on the Caribbean the Alligator learned Tuesday. But University officials deny any CIA affiliation with either UF group.

Dr. A. Curtis Wilgus, UF research professor of history and director of the Conference on the

Caribbean, was named by the Tampa Tribune as a director of the Pan American Foundation. The foundation was listed by the New York Times on Feb. 19 as one of several groups financed by the Central Intelligence Agency. The Times story claimed that the foundation was located at the UF.

School officials denied the UF was connected with the Foundation at all. The foundation headquarters were located in the Gainesville Security Building until 1964 when it moved to Coral Gables, said Dr. Lyle McAllister, director of the Center for Latin American Studies, Tuesday. Wilgus was "operating as a private individual" as director of the Foundation, he added, and not as an official of the university.

Wilgus is also director of the Conference on the Caribbean, an annual conference which discusses political, social, educational, and economic problems in the Caribbean area. Representatives from all over the United States and many Latin American countries attend annually. Nearly 400 people attended the 1965 conference.

Until 1965, the conference was financed by such private organizations as the United Fruit Company and Alcoa.

Since then, according to McAllister, UF has picked up the tab -- estimated at \$3500 - \$4500 per year. McAllister said most of the expense was in paying speakers' expenses. The money was thought to come from the president's contingency fund.

Each speaker for the conference is expert in one aspect of the political, social, educational, or economic condition of the Caribbean area. Many of the Americans have worked in State and Defense Department intelligence offices before, according to biographical sketches in the UF's national Services.

Wilgus organized the Conference in 1951, soon after he accepted the post of Director of the School For Latin American Studies.

This was near the time CIA began subsidizing private organizations but McAllister, who succeeded Wilgus when the School became the Center for Latin American Studies in 1963, feels there is no connection between the Conference and the CIA.

The Foundation, which was incorporated in 1930 by a "group of leaders in inter-American affairs from the U.S. and Latin America," lists among its activities travel, and research.

It also publishes a "Journal of Inter-American Studies" which bore the imprint of the UF School of Latin American Studies until 1963, when the school became the center and McAllister succeeded Wilgus.

That year, the journal moved its offices to Coral Gables and the University of Miami. It is still published in Gainesville. For a while the journal was circulated by the foundation without charge.

The journal is highly respectable in academic circles, said McAllister, who thought it might

be discredited now because of the tie-in with CIA.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Robert Mautz agreed with him. "That's the trouble with CIA money," he said, "Something which is respectable suddenly becomes suspect."

Wilgus was out of town Tuesday, according to his secretary, and would not be back until Thursday. The Tribune reported that he was enroute for here from New York, via Washington.

He has reportedly been planning to resign from UF for over a year. Once source reports he intends to move to Miami.