

Sartre Awarded Nobel Prize, but Rejects It

Special to The New York Times

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Sartre Awarded Nobel Prize, but Rejects It

Existentialist Thinks His Writings Would Be Compromised

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 22—The Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded today to Jean-Paul Sartre, who promptly refused the honor and the \$53,000 that accompanies it.

The 59-year-old French writer, philosopher and exponent of existentialism took time out from luncheon in a Paris bistro to issue his refusal.

[In a statement in Paris, Sartre said a writer must not accept official awards, because to do so would add the influence of the institution that honored his work to the power of his pen. That is not fair to the reader, he said.]

Sartre had forewarned the Swedish Academy, which makes the literature award, that he did not want it. Nevertheless, the academy members felt that he was the only possible recipient this year.

He is the first to turn down the award fully and freely.

In 1925, George Bernard Shaw rejected the prize, then decided to accept, with the money going toward the translating of Swedish literature. Boris Pasternak refused the 1958 award under evident Soviet pressure.



Paris Match
Jean-Paul Sartre, the French author, in his Paris apartment. He refused to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The academy's secretary, Karl-Ragnar Gierow, said: "If Sartre does not collect the prize, the money will be returned to the Nobel Prize funds. The academy's award is not guided by the possible winner's wishes but only by the decision of the academy's 18 members."

The academy chose Sartre for his "authorship, which has always been rich in ideas and which has had a vast influence on our times, mainly through

its spirit of liberty and quest for truth."

After the award was announced, academy members refused to comment on Sartre's letter to the academy two days ago, in which he is said to have renounced the prize before he won it.

Sartre, born in Paris in 1905, is known as the "pope of existentialism." His first work was a novel published in 1938 and called "La Nausée" ("Nau-

\$53,000 Will Revert to Fund, Swedish Academy Says

sea"). He has since written a number of novels, plays and philosophical works as well as a vast number of journalistic articles.

His book "Being and Nothingness" summarized the ideas behind existentialism in these words:

"Man can will nothing unless he has first understood that he must count on no one but himself; that he is alone, abandoned on earth in the midst of his infinite responsibilities, without help, with no other aim than the one he sets himself, with no other destiny than the one he forges for himself on this earth."

For the existentialist God does not exist and the world is just a phenomenon without any meaning other than what man may attach to it. Man is always faced with the responsibility of choice between good and evil, and man makes that choice not only for himself but for all humanity.

Sartre has taken a vigorous part in most of the great contemporary controversies. He has dealt, for example, with the American Negro problem, what he considers to be unnecessary fears of Communism, French

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treatment' of Algerian freedom fighters and West German prosperity.

The chairman of the Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee, Anders Oesterling, hailed Sartre as "the father of the existentialist doctrine, which became this generation's intellectual self-defense."

In 1963 the literature prize went to Giorgos Seferiades, a former Greek diplomat whose poetry appears under the pen-name George Seferis.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., American Negro civil rights leader, was designated for 1964 peace prize. A Harvard professor, Konrad E. Bloch, and a West German researcher, Feodor Lynen, were the co-winners of the prize in physiology or medicine for studies on cholesterol. The winners in chemistry and physics are yet to be announced.