Gabriel Marcel to open Montana State University public lecture series

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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One of the world's most distinguished living philosophers, Gabriel Marcel, member of the Institute of France, will open the Montana State University 1963-64 public lecture series, Dr. Earl C. Lory, series chairman, announced.

Marcel will speak on "Science and Wisdom" Friday at 8 p.m. in the MSU Recital Hall, Dr. Lory said. The lecture is open to the public without charge. The speaker will be introduced by Dr. Henry Bugbee, formerly of the MSU Philosophy Department, who has worked with Marcel in France and, two years ago, at Harvard University.

Marcel is often styled a Christian Existentialist, but he has repudiated this label: his writings are uniquely personal and nonsystematic, defying easy classification, according to Prof. E. L. Marvin, chairman of the MSU Philosophy Department.

Prof. Marvin points out that much of Marcel's work is presented in the form of meditative reflections. For example, one of his earliest books, "Metaphysical Journal," is a diary of day-to-day reflections on profound problems, such as the meaning of faith and its bearing on understanding reality. "The Mystery of Being" is generally considered Marcel's most comprehensive philosophical work, Prof. Marvin adds.

Marcel was born in Paris in 1889. Although he is known primarily as a philosopher, he is also a successful dramatist, a drama and music critic, and an accomplished musician.

Marcel's many honors and awards include: Grand Prix de Litterature de l'Academie Francaise, 1948; Gifford Lecturer, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, 1949-50; elected a member of l'Institute de France in 1952; le Prix Goette de la ville de Hambourg, 1956; Grand Prix National de Lettres, 1958; William James Lecturer, 1961.

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