

Daniel Rops

Daniel Rops was born Henri Petiot on January 19, 1901 in Epinal to Charles Petiot, a soldier, and Odile Grospérin.

He studied law and literature in Grenoble. He prepared for the agrégation in history and geography at the University of Lyon. He passed at the age of 21.

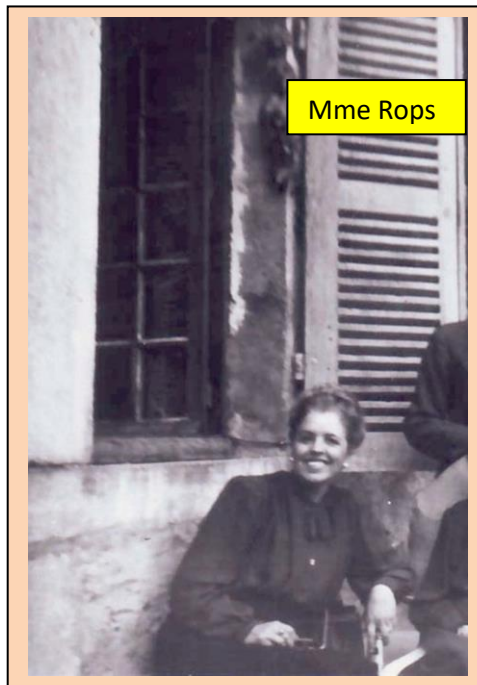
At 22, his first teaching post was at the Lycée Vaugelas in Chambéry.

From 1918 to 1922, Pierre Coutras published poems and short stories by his friend Daniel Rops.

In 1923, he founded the quarterly literary review, devoting a special issue to Stendhal.

In 1924 he married Madeleine Bouvier and the couple adopted Francis.

He adopted the literary name Daniel Rops.



He taught in Amiens, Paris and at the Lycée Pasteur in Neuilly.

In 1929, he published his 1st novel, "L'âme obscure".

Under the influence of Dom Alexis Presse, Cistercian abbot of Tamié, he moved closer to Catholicism. He took part in the activities of the New Order and disseminated its ideas. He wrote "Le monde sans âme" in 1930, "Les années tournantes" and "Eléments de notre destin".

After 1935, he collaborated with the Catholic weekly "Temps présent".

He published "Mort où est ta victoire" in 1934.

Between 1941 and 1944, he devoted himself to writing "Le peuple de la bible" and "Jésus en son temps". This work was followed by "History of the Church of Christ", which he was unable to complete (14 volumes published in 500,000 copies). 1945 he gave up teaching to devote himself exclusively to writing.

In 1946, he was awarded the "Grand Prix de littérature" by the Académie Française for the body of his work.

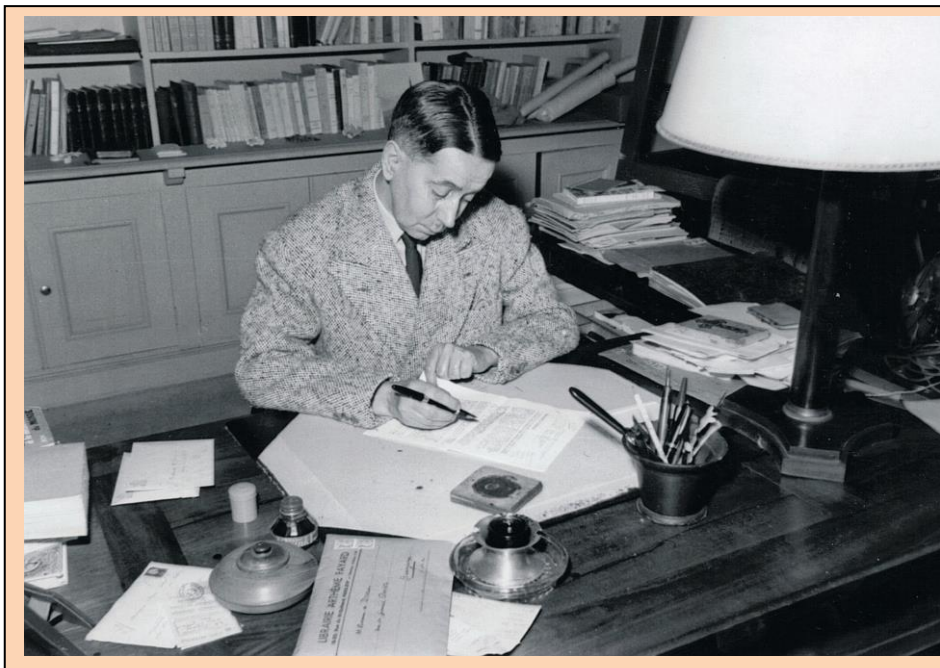
He chose Tresserve as his second home in 1947, and spent an increasing amount of time there: (three months in summer, but also Christmas, Easter....) he rested, worked and received writer friends.

**It's in this Savoyard transverse valley of Le Bourget that I've chosen to spend a large part of the year and that I have my tastes. To tell the truth, it's not quite Aix-les-Bains that I'm a citizen of, but the most exquisite of the surrounding villages, Tresserve, lying as if in a row at the top of its long hillock, so close to the city and yet so far away and secluded. From my terrace, I can't see the city next door, but only the lake dear to the poet, towards which the tiers of my garden tumble, and the perfect line of the Dent du Chat and Mont de and Mont de l'Epine, at the summit of which a chevelu of trees reaches for the sky.*

He took on a young woman, Ada Cevolani, who was to become his indispensable secretary; she was to accompany the great writer and his wife throughout their lives. Her daughter Christine was adopted by the Rops couple. Ada Cevolani ended her career with the publisher Fayard.



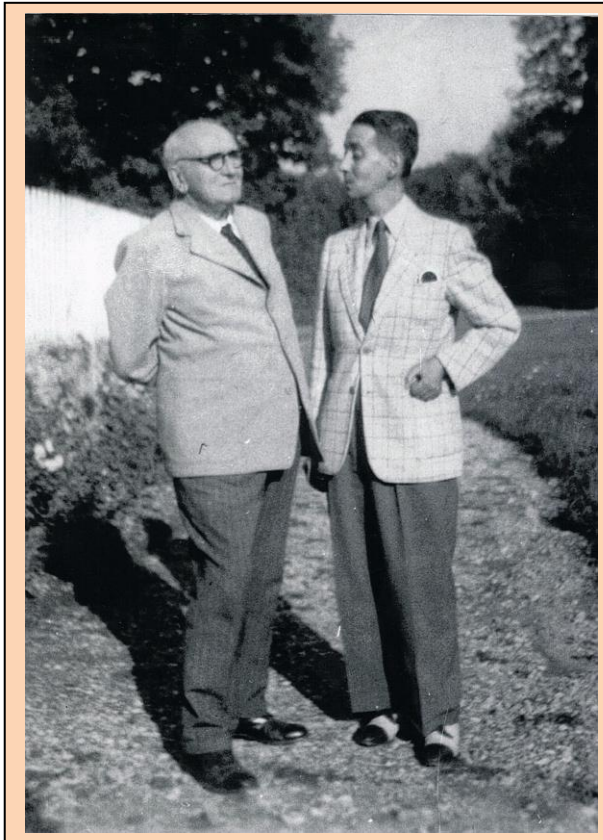
Daniel-Rops wrote every morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., always on green paper.



Having just bought his own property, he feels stimulated by the setting of Tresserve:

"Some people have their trade, their business, others their factory. My factory is this setting, this horizon. Only here do I live, and my work will be fruitful.

The afternoons are devoted to visits and walks; he receives Henry Bordeaux, Father Bernardet d'Hautecombe, Robert Aron, Arnaud Dandieu, Paul Claudel...



Avec Paul Claudel



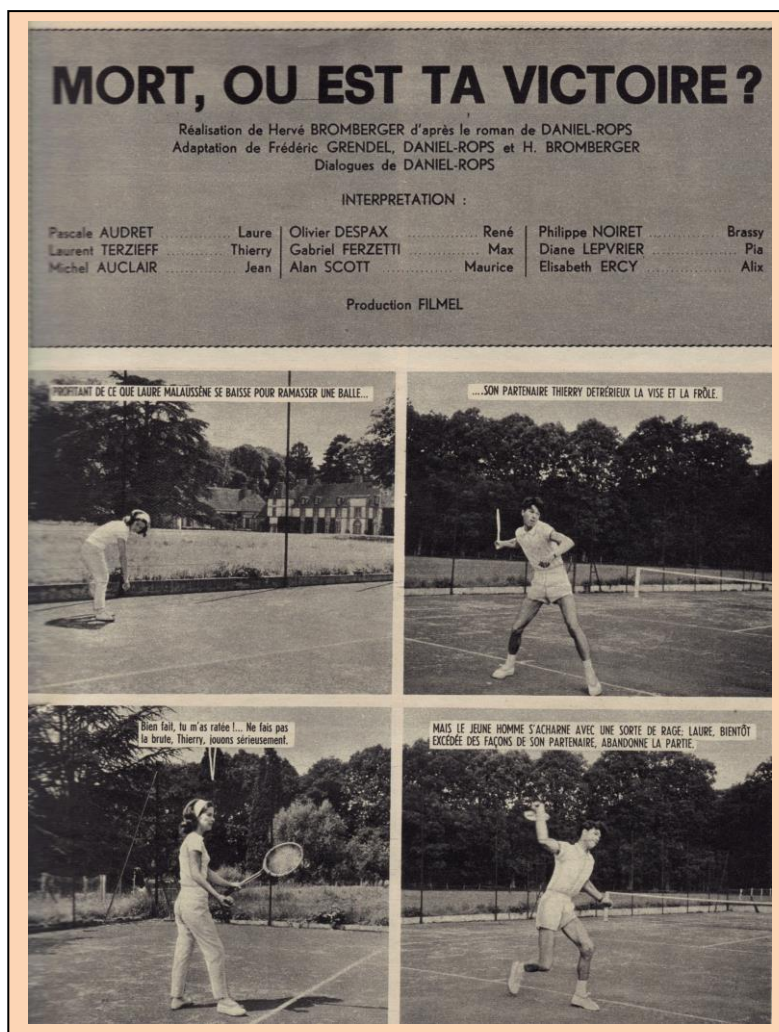
Avec Gaston Monnerville (Président du Sénat) lors de l'inauguration du buste Lamartine

He was invited to inaugurate several monuments: The bust of Lamartine in Place de la Mairie in August 1962, the oratory at Sonnaz....

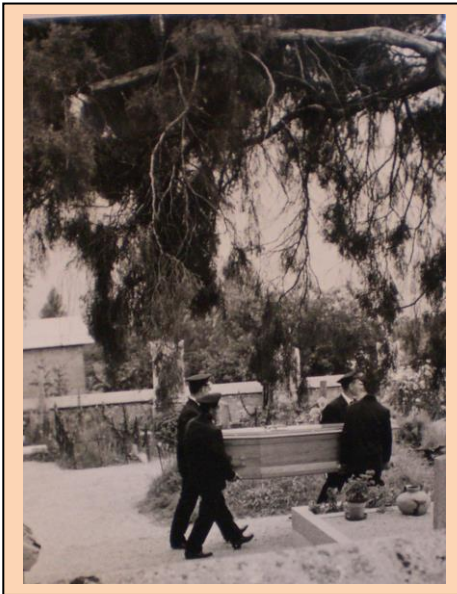
His work includes some one hundred books

Pius XII, who claimed to be a fervent reader of Daniel-Rops, made him a Commander of the Order of St. Gregory in 1949, and the Grand Cross of the same order was conferred on him in 1956. In 1951, he was elected to the Académie des sciences, belles-lettres et arts de Savoie and, on March 3, 1955, to the Académie française, in chair 7, which had been Lamartine's in 1829. Jean Cocteau and François Albert-Buisson were admitted on the same day. At 54, he is the youngest academician.

In 1965, he takes part in the filming of "Mort où est ta victoire" in Tresserve and Savoie, based on the novel he published in 1934.



In 1965, he suffered a brutal stroke and died within hours. He is buried in the Tresserve cemetery.



His wife died in 1975.

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Association pour la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine de Tresserve