

DENIS SAURAT (1890-1958)



Saurat was an Anglo-French scholar who lived and worked in London during the Second World War. His special study was of the English poetry of Spenser, Milton and Blake and their connection with the occult or 'underground current' of humanity. He was a close friend of Orage and met Gurdjieff. His first response to reading *Beelzebub's Tales* was (in a letter to C. S. Nott):

"It is, in my opinion, a great book and it is a thousand pities that it cannot be published. There is a very great amount of wisdom and knowledge in it and, as I became more familiar with it I realised that practically every page is full of sense and information. Beyond some excusable mannerisms and the peculiarities which give charm to every author,

I see nothing in the book that could be objected to. But no doubt its allegorical or philosophical meaning which is easy enough to someone who has studied the traditions, would be completely beyond the public. I am glad to say that I found no difficulties in the book. It is a work of art of the first magnitude in its own peculiar way."

Further comments in correspondence from Saurat can be found by finding the link at <http://www.gurdjieff-bibliography.com/Current/index.html>

The two books I have by him are *Gods of the People* and *Death and the Dreamer*, both now long out of print. An extract from the former is provided on our site to give a taste of it. Of foremost interest is what he calls the 'XXth Century Texts' taken from documents he procured while in London and representing the underground current of insight and vision he felt persisted amongst those who would be regarded as just ordinary unconscious people.