

'Conversations with Willie' a gossipy book on Maugham's life and times

by Shirley Whittington
Robin Maugham is a nephew of W. Somerset Maugham, and a writer himself. In fact, Maugham ("Willie" in the book) once told him that he was one of the few

people in the world really close enough to him to write about him. Robin Maugham did, and "Conversations with Willie" is the result. It's a nice gossipy book, full of juicy bits about Winston Churchill, Noel Coward and other members of the society in which W. Somerset Maugham moved.

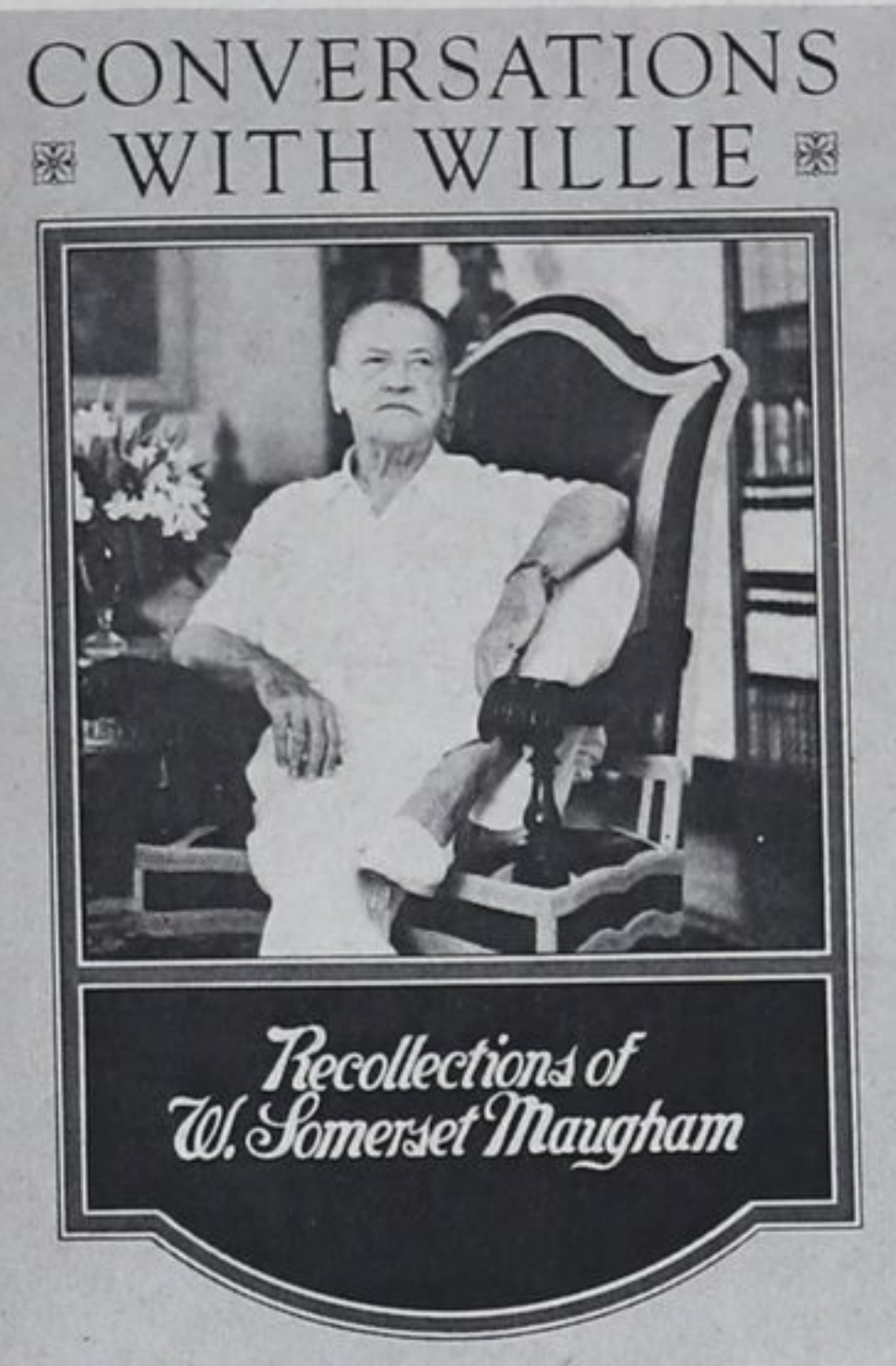
Robin Maugham deals quite frankly with his uncle's homosexuality. Maugham himself seemed to be a bit hypocritical when one considers his own relationship with Gerald Haxton. He advised Robin to give up a close relationship he had with a young man. In fact, he offered to pay Robin Maugham 50,000 pounds if he'd give up his boyfriend, and writing, and settle down to a political career.

Willie Maugham was born in Paris. His mother died when he was very young, and he was sent to live with his uncle in Britain. These years in an English vicarage "made Willie relish friendship with the great, the titled

and the affluent later in life...to the end of his days he loved to tell stories about rich and powerful acquaintances, celebrities or royalty." Robin Maugham credits Willie Maugham's stammer with the development of his pithy written prose.

"It is almost certain that without the stammer Willie would not have been a writer; he would probably have become a lawyer like his brothers." Certainly the stammer is evident in the written pages of Robin Maugham's book. "Weren't you ter-taught when you were young not to stroke the fruit?" he is reported to have said to a luncheon guest. "When I look back on all I have published," he told his nephew, "I simply don't know how they came to be writ-

ten...they'll be forgotten, of course, because the language they're written in will be dated." Another time he confessed, "My success means nothing to me. All I can think of are my mistakes. And Syrie (his wife) was my biggest mistake." When hundreds of letters poured in to congratulate Maugham on his ninetieth birthday, he scoffed at them. "I don't know why they should be so stupid. And I don't care."



Scottish pipe band to play in Wyevale

Sunday, July 23 has been proclaimed Scottish Day in Wyevale. On this day the Glasgow Student Band, visiting Canada through an International Youth Exchange Programme will be performing an old fashioned open-air band concert in the Wyevale Park. The students will arrive in the Barrie area from Scotland on July 18 and will have a chance to do some sight seeing in Huronia prior to the concert. The performance gets under way at 2 p.m. rain or shine, and is free of charge.

The programme is being planned by the Township of Tiny, Parks, Recreation and Com-

munity Centres Board in co-operation with the Wyevale Recreation Association.

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Conversations with Willie by Robin Maugham. Musson pub. 188 pp. \$12.95.

church directory
THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF FLOS
SCHEDULE OF MASSES: Father Neil Varley
Pheipston: Sun. 9 a.m. and
Elmvale: Sat. 7:30 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
Minister: Rev. Sydney McDonald BA
Phonics: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453
Elmvale Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m.
Christian Worship, 11 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. John's - Elmvale Minister: Rev. B. Gazzard
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Nursery during Service)
Phonics: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522
Wyevale United Church: 11:30 a.m.
Waverley United Church: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Allan J. McLaughlin, Minister

Hillsdale United Church
Services 9:00 a.m. each week
Minister: Reverend Arnie Chamberlain
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.

The Salvation Army
Midland Citadel Corps
251 Second St., Midland
Lt. and Mrs. Bruce Bailey
(Commanding Officers)

Sunday 9:30 - Sunday School
11:00 - Family Worship
7:00 - Circle Church

Tuesday 7:30 - Bible Fellowship
Wednesday 2:00 - Ladies' Home League (all ladies welcome)

Friday 7:30 - CORNERSTONE (Teenage Bible Study and Coffee House)
Telephone: 526-2751

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ELMVALE
Rector: The Rev. J. Allan Kirk
Rectory — 322-2115 Church — 322-2712

Wycliffe Church, Elmvale
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist weekly
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 1st and 3rd
Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th and 5th
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
St. John's Waverley
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 2nd and 4th
Morning Prayer, 1st, 3rd and 5th
Good Shepherd, Wyebridge
9:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 2nd and 4th
Morning Prayer, 1st, 3rd and 5th
Sunday School at main service in the three churches.

Calvary Baptist Church
598 King St., Midland
Pastor: Rev. Rob Campbell, B.A., M.Div.
526-9681
10:00 a.m. Service of Worship and Instruction
11:15 a.m.
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