



Photo: Dorys

Rotary's new President comes to his task with a rich background of experience in Rotary, business, and world affairs. A fellow countryman writes intimately of him.

TO write formally of Maurice Duperrey, the man elected President of Rotary International at its 28th annual Convention in Nice, France, would be asking the impossible of one who has known him intimately in business, in the great work of Rotary, in his home life. For Maurice Duperrey is intensely human in work and in play.

Fortunate are the hundreds of Rotarians, especially on the Continent of Europe, who have learned to know Maurice Duperrey in their Clubs—for he has visited many of them. His knowledge of several languages (he speaks fluently in English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Esperanto, as well as his native tongue) has furnished forthwith the key to the hearts of men.

Here, they have found, is a man of fine mind, warm cordiality, enthusiastic action, and obvious sincerity. His services to the cause of Rotary bear out these qualities, and mark him as a man who will provide an in-

Maurice Duperrey, the Man

By **André Gardot**

Past Governor, 49th District, Rotary International

spirational leadership for Rotarians the world over.

But it is in the home, to a close circle of friends and relatives, that a man really discloses his true character. It is there that a man creates an atmosphere of love or distrust. Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing Rotary's President in his home have had our love and admiration deepened. Here it is that the equilibrium of his personality is disclosed.

The home life of Maurice Duperrey is made beautiful by an adoring wife and their three daughters, whose charm has made the Duperrey home one of the most enjoyable and inviting. The President's youngest daughter has for several years accompanied him on his visits to Rotary Clubs and has won the hearts of those she has met. All three daughters have married into great industrial and commercial families of France. Maurice Duperrey is a grandfather—and a young one at that!—who has succeeded in having strongly concentrated the unity of his family in a coherent and invigorating atmosphere.

Often he goes with his family and friends to his country home in a suburb of Paris, which Mme. Duperrey supervises with much devotion. He himself probably regrets that he is unable to spend more time in this delightful village—where, I am quite sure, the Mayor and the church never appealed in vain to the treasures of his experience and of his heart.

But rising early and taking his exercises—to which he faithfully adheres—M. Duperrey takes time before arriving at his office to cast a glance at the beautiful handiwork of Nature, just as he has time to smoke his good old pipe after lunch! Here is a man who gives the impression of being neither nervous nor disturbed.

That, briefly, is the picture of the family man, of the man who loves his home, who follows the rule of going to bed early and arising early, who lives for his loved ones. Perhaps a game of golf—and he plays a masterful game!—and he is off to attend with vigor to his multitude of other activities: in business, in public affairs, in personal life.

His business—how he enjoys it, how he works at it!

Proprietor of two factories in Paris, one for chemical products and abrasives and the other for bronzes and clocks; administrator of several hotels, of the Paris Hotel Union, and of hotel organizations with branches in several parts of France: these executive positions have brought him recognition and respect as a man of ability in the business world. Undoubtedly they have diverted him from politics, a field in which he would certainly have also succeeded. His business represents another family center, solidly built, modern as well as traditional.

Go and surprise him at his office in the neighborhood of the East Station in Paris. Nothing on the signboard but the family name. He was able, first together with his family, then alone with a young nephew, to transform the substantial business which he inherited, to diversify it, to enlarge it, adding new processes to old ones, building appropriate plants, and finally taking over the administration of great hotels. And, mind you, no ostentation, no megalomania.

CLEAR-SIGHTEDNESS, prudence, hatred of bluff, enable him to lead with exemplary discretion a host of considerate and devoted collaborators. All that he conducts successfully. Successfully for him. Successfully for others. He is a happy man who merits his opportunity, for it is the product of his qualities.

Finally, service to the community and to the country inspires his third activity. In professional and industrial associations, in great organizations such as the French National Committee of Counsellors of Foreign Commerce, of which he is secretary general, or the Permanent Committee of Foreign Fairs, of which he is treasurer, he has shown what he can do, thus establishing his authority with all more and more every day. He has travelled with his associates all over the world; he has organized missions and cruises in a masterly manner. Ministerial departments—above all, the Department of Commerce—profit by his wide and profound experience.

Such brilliant successes might have made him dogmatic. He is nothing of the kind. All see in him the friend. When facing the most difficult problems, he keeps smiling. He does not scorn good humor. He

Rotary's President tries out the headphones used for translation purposes at the International Assembly held in Montreux, Switzerland; but he need not, for he speaks some eight languages.



propagates wholesome gaiety. He knows how to improvise tales in verse worthy of a La Fontaine.

He does not affect to be an aesthete, but his taste is refined. He likes to read, when he has time. Still more, I think, he likes to look at his pictures, a lovely collection which he treasures and which he enlarges. It is a hereditary preference. See those beautiful landscapes, his still-lives, *Boulevard Malesherbes*, or even the paintings in his office. You will conceive his enlightened and refined intellect, and why, between two business deals, he loves to rest his eyes on those fine things.

And lastly, he never talks about the War, in which, nevertheless, he showed such splendid courage. But heroes never like to mention such matters.

In short, sized up in his different activities, he is a *man* in the strong sense and in the classic sense of the word.

His new task is a great privilege that will endear him to Rotarians throughout the world, who, above all, appreciate in their hearts that quality which makes it possible to pursue the realization of their ideal: mankind.



Photo: (left) Henri Manuel

Though his interests and duties are many, Maurice Duperray is a devoted home man, typical of French family tradition. He and Mme. Duperray take turns holding Grandchildren Mary-Noële and Alain Costil (above). . . .

They have three daughters, two of whom are here shown at Paris Rotary Club luncheon following the Convention: (left to right) M. and Mme. Dusausay, Mme. and M. Costil, Mme. Duperray.



Maurice Duperrey

—A Tribute

by **Gian Paolo Lang**

President of Rotary International, 1956-57

IT WAS in June, 1937, that I first had the honor of meeting Maurice Duperrey. This was on the occasion of his election as President of Rotary International for the year 1937-1938.

His official investment took place during the International Convention held in June, 1937, in Nice, France, in which I participated. I happened to be a young Rotarian at that time, and I was fascinated by Maurice's gentle behavior.

He was very intelligent and clever and was fluent in many foreign languages besides his native French. This fact enabled him personally to exchange conversations with the world's Rotarians without the medium of an interpreter.

The passing of the years and his advanced age did not prevent Maurice Duperrey from welcoming in his home at lunch many Rotary Foundation fellows as they pursued their studies in Paris. Being a perfect gentleman, Maurice, with his many shrewd remarks and his French wit, was a delight to listen to, and to speak to also.

During his official visits in many parts of the world he was always enthusiastically received and liked by the many Rotarians who met him.

As a businessman, Maurice was the proprietor of a firm making chemical products and abrasives in Paris, France. He also served as president and administrator of several Paris hotels, the Paris Hotel Union, and of hotel organizations with branches throughout France. He had a distinguished record of service during World War I, for which he received the French *Croix de Guerre* and the British military medal. The French government made Maurice a Knight Commander of the French Legion of Honor because he was "a man who devoted all his life to service on the national and international levels in accordance with the precepts of the Rotary ideal."

Maurice was proud of his service to both his community and his country. He served with distinction in both professional and industrial associations, such as the French National Committee of Counselors of Foreign Commerce, of which he was Secretary-General, and the Permanent Committee of Foreign Fairs, of which he was Treasurer.

Maurice became a member of the Rotary Club of Paris, France, in 1926 and served as Club President. In addition to his service as RI President, he also served RI as Vice-President, Director, District Governor, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation, and committee member and chairman.

On two occasions I was forced to appeal to him for help. The first was when I was President of Rotary International in 1956-57 and my Convention was held in Lucerne, Switzerland, early in May, 1957.

Several prominent people had been invited to address the Convention, amongst them the German Minister for



Maurice Duperrey, of Villeneuve Saint Georges, France, President of Rotary International in 1937-38, who died on May 29, 1972.

Commerce. Just a few hours before he was expected to speak, we received a telegram notifying us of his inability to be present to address the 9,000-odd Rotarians. Unexpected important State problems had arisen.

I was therefore abruptly left in the lurch, and with the impossibility of finding there and then an adequate replacement. Maurice was present in Lucerne, and it suddenly struck me that he might possibly save the situation. I immediately placed the matter before him and, fortunately, was successful. Maurice very generously accepted to replace the German Minister and, with about two hours of notice, he delivered an impromptu address in intermingled English, French, and German and profuse with his light humor. An ovation saluted him at the end of his speech. The Convention was saved!

The other time I appealed to him was during the Convention in Nice, 1967. I realized that with this meeting, taking place in France, it would be a tribute to him to invite him as the only Past President of Rotary International from France to address the Rotarians of the world in his own country. He graciously accepted and his joyous voice was heard once again on this occasion.

Unfortunately, this was to be the last time Maurice would address a Rotary Convention. He died on May 29th last. Funeral services were held on June 2 at St. Charles de Monceau in Paris. Past RI Director Michel Alexandre represented Rotary International.

Maurice is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Jean Dusauso and Mrs. Denise Costil, both of Paris, and to whom we all send our heartfelt sympathy.

Maurice will be deeply missed by his many friends all over the world who realize how very much he contributed to the progress of Rotary. I shall always remember Maurice Duperrey as one of my best friends. ❁