The war turned Maurice Genevoix into a writer. He embodied soldier loyalty and was the author of Ceux de 14, a prime example of French literary narrative and a monument compelling us not to forget.
Between 1916 and 1923, Maurice Genevoix published four other books based on his war experience. And yet he was also compelled to draw on another source of inspiration, rooted in nature and the miracle of life (*Raboliot*, Prix Goncourt 1925). His loyalty to the dead and to his *comrades* was pursued via his involvement in *veterans’ organizations*. In 1929, Jean Norton Cru (1879-1949) called him “the greatest painter of the war”. In 1949, the author compiled his five war books under the title *Ceux de 14* in order to create a literary monument. Genevoix was elected to the *Académie française* in 1946; he also initiated the Verdun Memorial, which he inaugurated in 1967, and was highly respected by General Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970). Maurice Genevoix never ceased to counterbalance mourning and forgetting with the values of remembrance, fraternity and peace.

Laurence Campa, Université de Paris Ouest-Nanterre

Section Editor: Emmanuelle Cronier
Translator: Jocelyne Serveau

Selected Bibliography

Beaupré, Nicolas: *Écrits de guerre, 1914-1918*, Paris 2013: CNRS.
Genevoix, Maurice, Campa, Laurence (ed.): *La ferveur du souvenir*, Paris 2013: La Table ronde.

Citation


License

This text is licensed under: CC by-NC-ND 3.0 Germany - Attribution, Non-commercial, No Derivative Works.