Gertrude Stein
reads

The Making of Americans:
Parts 1 & 2

A Valentine to Sherwood Anderson

If I Told Him:
A Completed Portrait of Picasso

Matisse

Madame Recamier: An Opera

The place of Gertrude Stein in American letters rests upon her brilliant re-examination of the English language. Using words as the cubists used line and color, she found new ways of expressing reality; built up arrangements of grammar and thought which seemed at times senseless, yet brought into being such a stimulating concept of immediacy—a concept peculiar to the needs of the twentieth century—that the best of her generation's writers and artists came to learn from her. Around her in Paris they came and went: Hemingway, young Scott Fitzgerald, Picasso, Pound.

Dogmatic, strong-minded, impervious to ridicule, she reminded Pound of an inverted pyramid, and was the butt of innumerable witticisms. That she weathered them was not remarkable, in view of her basic integrity and devotion to her work. "Eventually," as she once remarked, "it comes out all right, and so you have this very queer situation which always happens with the followers: the original person has to have in him a certain element of ugliness. You know that is what happens over and over again: the statement made that it is ugly—the statement made against me for the last twenty years. And they are quite right, because it is ugly. But the essence of that ugliness is the thing which will always make it beautiful. I myself think it much more interesting when it seems ugly, because in it you see the element of the fight."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

WARNING: It is expressly forbidden to copy or reproduce this recording or any portion thereof, in any manner or form, whether for profit, amateur, institutional, or educational use. Permission for broadcast, telecast or public performance use must be obtained in advance in writing. Caedmon Records, Inc., 505 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10018.
GERTRUDE STEIN

READING

TC-1050-B Side 2

If I Told Him
A Completed Portrait of Picasso
Matisse
Madame Recamier

Recorded in New York, Winter 1924-35