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Patrick Leigh Fermor and George Seferis: portrait of a friendship

In this article the friendship between Patrick Leigh Fermor and Nobel Prize-winning Greek poet George Seferis is described, making use of available records (books, diaries, correspondence and biographies). The writers' characters were quite different, but both were genial and sincere. They first met during the difficult years of the Greek civil war and developed a relationship based on mutual respect, and their shared interest in and devotion to literature. Leigh Fermor, fifteen years younger than Seferis, had all the characteristics of the cosmopolitan writer, as well as an unquenchable desire to travel all over the world. Seferis acknowledged his friend's appetite for life and tried to tame his wilder authorial urges. Their love for each other brought stability to their relationship.