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Patrick Leigh Fermor, memory and the process of revision

This article stems from a thesis on the late Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor and the process of remembering presented to the University of Oxford in May 2015, entitled *Memory in post-war travel writing: a study of Patrick Leigh Fermor's 'A Time of Gifts'*. It is a condensed version of the ideas there contained, which include a detailed analysis of Leigh Fermor's multiple revisions of his typescripts and manuscripts for *A Time of Gifts* held at the National Library of Scotland and what these illustrate about how Leigh Fermor and many writers of his generation thought about questions of self-representation, authenticity and memory. A central strand of the argument is that writing, revising and editing was a mechanism used by Leigh Fermor and others to deal with the horrors of the Second World War, and that this process of painful remembering resulted in an ode to a vanished pre-war Europe as contained in Leigh Fermor's trilogy of books narrating his walk from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople.