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DAVID McCLAY

Curating the Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor Archive

The National Library of Scotland's acquisition of the Sir Patrick and Joan Leigh Fermor archives represents not only one of the most significant travel writers of the twentieth century but one of the most complete, visual and interesting personal archive collections. In this essay senior curator David McClay reproduces his inaugural address to the Patrick Leigh Fermor Society, in which he discusses the challenges and rewards of preserving, cataloguing and making accessible this most precious of literary collections.