

(summary)

## MARQUÉS DE TAMARÓN

### A Romantic Scholar

Patrick Leigh Fermor recreated the past and painted what he saw through his eyes and mind. Being very conservative in his taste and also very youthful, his books (mostly essays, often autobiographical, but also a short novel set in the Caribbean) overflowed with colour, drama and humour; detailed observations of the present and the past.

For him the past, in particular the historical past, is never dead, it's not even past. Which is why he enjoyed culture, the letters and the arts as living things. He was not, ever, pedantic or somber. He saw tragedy and comedy in life, and was never bored by either.

Hayden White's concept of Metahistory a *narrative prose discourse that purports to be a model, or icon, of past structures* would have seemed to Paddy an ingenious but obvious idea. He saw history as a palimpsest, and he wrote about it with an elaborate system of appositions. As a pre-modern man, he selected his appositions with the help of all the Nine Muses. That, together with his sense of language, made him passionately fond of imaginative erudition moving in a misty no-man's land between history and literature.

He enjoyed it and it made him supremely enjoyable.