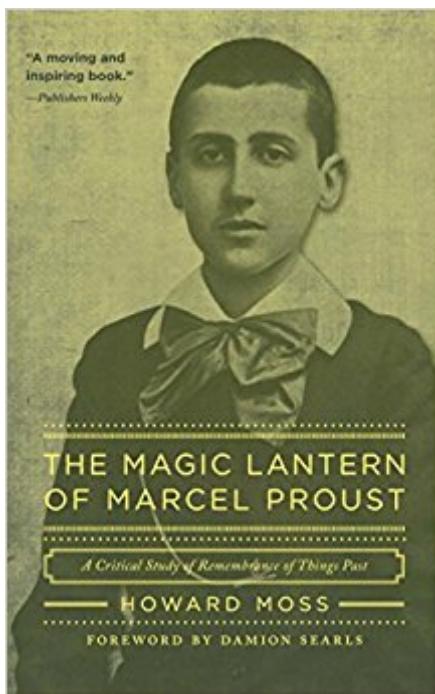


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# The Magic Lantern Of Marcel Proust: A Critical Study Of Remembrance Of Things Past



## Synopsis

"[The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust] reduces the ungainly and intricately designed masterpiece to its shape, and with hardly a wasted word...The paragraphs on habit and memory are truly wonderful&#151;wonderful as explication, as psychology, and as philosophy."&#151;John Updike"Almost everything Moss says seems to me right, illuminating, and new. This is the book of a mature and individual mind and sensibility, with a deep experience of moral, social, psychological, and aesthetic values which is rare among critics." &#151;George D. Painter"A moving and inspiring book. Moss clears away dark corners, clarifies motivations, and places the huge work within the reader's perspective. A book of great value to the scholar and the general reader."

&#151;Publishers Weekly"Remembrance of Things Past is more than a novel; it is a work in which a single person's life is transformed into a mythology, with its own pantheon of gods, its own religious rituals, and its own moral laws. A total vision, it does not rely on any system outside itself for support. It is as if Dante had set out to write the Paradiso and the Inferno utilizing only the facts of his own existence without any reference to Christianity...Other novelists describe or invent worlds. Remembrance of Things Past is an entire universe created and interpreted by Marcel Proust."

&#151; from Chapter 1" Moss lays out the sweeping claims and overarching structure of Remembrance of Things Past&#151;the significance of Swann's Way and the Guermantes Way, or why there are such long party scenes&#151;and is equally good at bringing to light all sorts of tiny, revealing details." &#151; from the new Foreword by Damion SearlsHoward Moss was poetry editor of the New Yorker for almost forty years. He also wrote more than a dozen books of poetry, plays, criticism, and a book of arch parody-microbiographies of cultural figures, Instant Lives, illustrated by Edward Gorey.Damion Searls is the author of What We Were Doing and Where We Were Going (stories) and has written for HarperÂçâ ¬â„çs, Bookforum, n+1, and The Believer. As a translator&#151;of authors including Marcel Proust (On Reading)&#151;he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2012.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Howard Moss and The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust "[The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust] reduces the ungainly and intricately designed masterpiece to its shape, and with hardly a wasted word...The paragraphs on habit and memory are truly wonderful&#8226;wonderful as explication, as psychology, and as philosophy."&#8226;John Updike "Almost everything Moss says seems to me right, illuminating, and new. This is the book of a mature and individual mind and sensibility, with a deep experience of moral, social, psychological, and aesthetic values which is rare among critics."&#8226;George D. Painter "A moving and inspiring book. Moss clears away dark corners, clarifies motivations, and places the huge work within the reader's perspective. A book of great value to the scholar and the general reader."&#8226;Publishers Weekly Praise for Howard Moss and The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust "[The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust] reduces the ungainly and intricately designed masterpiece to its shape, and with hardly a wasted word...The paragraphs on habit and memory are truly wonderful&#151;wonderful as explication, as psychology, and as philosophy."&#151;John Updike "Almost everything Moss says seems to me right, illuminating, and new. This is the book of a mature and individual mind and sensibility, with a deep experience of moral, social, psychological, and aesthetic values which is rare among critics."&#151;George D. Painter "A moving and inspiring book. Moss clears away dark corners, clarifies motivations, and places the huge work within the reader's perspective. A book of great value to the scholar and the general reader."&#151;Publishers Weekly

Howard Moss was poetry editor of the New Yorker from 1948 until his death in 1987. He won the National Book Award in 1972 for Selected Poems.

This short book is an excellently written companion to "Remembrance of Things Past." Mr. Moss presents insights and interpretations that greatly increased my understanding and pleasure and answered many of my questions.

Anyone interested in Marcel Proust does indeed enjoy an embarrassment of riches. We are blessed in English with several superb full-length critical biographies, beginning with George Painter's pioneering work, and more recently by the spectacular biography by the dean of Proust studies, Jean-Yves Tadie, and the almost equally as superb (and perhaps more readable) biography by William C. Carter. We are also blessed with a plethora of first-rate advanced studies, either written originally in English, or translated from the French or German. Despite this, we have a shortage of introductory works on Proust. Samuel Beckett wrote a very short and one of the earliest studies of Proust, but despite its excellence, it is not really appropriate as an introduction. The prose is excruciatingly thick at times, and the argument sometimes completely obscure (Beckett is said years later to have found it impenetrable in many places), not qualities one seeks in an introductory work. Luckily, this clearly conceived and transparently written by Howard Moss, long poetry editor at the *NEW YORKER*, makes a perfect introduction. Unluckily, it is currently out of print. Hopefully, some publisher will rectify this situation by making it available to the reading public. **THE MAGIC LANTERN OF MARCEL PROUST** is a very short book, and obviously in such a work there can be no attempt at a comprehensive discussion of all the minutiae in the film. Instead, Moss discusses certain motifs that reveal Proust's overarching concerns in the *RECHERCHE*. For instance, "The Gardens," the second chapter, focuses on the landscapes and physical locations there, and what they reveal about the structure of his work. "The Parties" focuses on Proust's analysis of society and class. "The Way" discusses the ideas that provide the central structuring for the work as a whole. What I love most about Moss, in addition to his magnificently clear and unelliptical prose, is his integrity as a reader. Too many writers about Proust graft onto their discussion their own principal interests. Moss takes the reader of Proust--whether actual or potential--into the heart of the text itself. One gains the sense of what is central to Proust, and not merely to the critic writing about Proust.

An awesome book on the classic by Proust! This is the one to read~ there are so many books out there on Proust and his masterpiece. This one is brief and to the point and more insightful than most out there. Read "In Search of Lost Time", fall in love, and then re-live all the beauty and insights with this gem from Howard Moss.

Just a beautiful book: trenchant insights and elegant, limpid prose. Worthy of Proust himself.

Read Andre Maurois excellent The Quest for Proust 1949, last published by Peregrine Books in 1962 we can discuss this then,. (Why such an extraordinary book is not published again I don't know).

The second listed Kindle edition is unreadable, a dog's breakfast of garbled OCR output with no proofing or formatting whatsoever. The first version that's 4 cents cheaper is fine. S

A good book for someone just reading about Proust for the first time. It's a quick read, I think it took me two sittings yet it still gives insight into "Remembrance". Great for the casual fan of Proust looking for help in beginning to tackle some of the meaning of the novel.

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