

PREFACE

## PREFACE

Paul Scott (1920-1978), a prominent Anglo-Indian novelist, is regarded as one of the best Anglo-Indian writers after E.M. Forster. The fact that he is the winner of England's <sup>two</sup> coveted prizes - the Yorkshire Post Fiction Award in 1972 and the Booker Prize in 1977 - proves his greatness as a creative writer of the British colonial experience in India during its twilight days. Born in 1920 in Palmer's Green, North London, he was educated at Winchmore Hill Collegiate. Later he began his training as an accountant and pursued it till he decided to devote himself to national service as an army officer. Scott served in the army from 1940 to 1946, mainly in India and Malaya. After that he worked for a publishing company for four years before joining a firm of literary agents. In 1960 he resigned his directorship with the agency in order to concentrate on his writing. In 1963 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Besides being a writer, he was a good speaker and held many eminent posts in educational departments.

Three years in India and his three later visits to post-Independent India cast a profound spell on his mind. In this context he says, "It released something that I was looking for. I don't know what. I formed a gradual attachment. And after the war an obsession. Out of this obsession, have come eight books set in India, culminating in an immensely long, dissection of a moment

either 'take note'  
or 'notice'

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of Indian history: four novels on the end of the British Raj, an extraordinary ambitious attempt to recount the events in India between 1942 and 1947, seen through the eyes of different characters." Source

Since the publication of the The Raj Quartet public and critics began

in my  
usage

to take notice of Paul Scott as a novelist. However he acquired real fame with the publication of his last novel Staying On which won the Booker Prize in 1977. The fact that the The Raj Quartet had been adopted for television accounts for his recognition on a wider scale.

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in English.

Since Paul Scott writes about the turbulent period in the British Indian history, it becomes imperative to assess Scott in terms of racial relationship because such a relationship was a very crucial problem then and the entire colonial affair was based on the myth of white superiority. His vital concern with the British Indian history makes him a modern historical novelist. Naturally, in his novels he has referred to many Indian national leaders like Gandhi, Nehru, Jinnah, Subhas Bose, and others.

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The present dissertation seeks to analyse the image of these leaders as portrayed by Scott with special reference to The Raj Quartet.

Why? What additional information about Scott's art can we have by going through this exercise? — Some elaboration is necessary.

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