Martín-Santos, Luis

from Chambers Biographical Dictionary

1924-64

Spanish novelist

Born in Larache, Morocco, he helped to revolutionize the form of the novel in his country during the Francoist period. He was a psychiatrist by profession and his first writings were technical. His only finished and influential novel, Tiempo de silencio (1962, Eng trans Time of Silence, 1965), deals with a man's unfulfilled life in the sick and submissive society of Madrid in 1949 and shows the influence of the psychology of Karl Jaspers in its attempt to reconcile subjectivity with objectivity. Aesthetic innovations in his work combine with his wish to understand and relieve mental illness. His stories were collected in Apólogos (1970, "Apologues"), and an attempt has been made to reconstruct his unfinished and pessimistic novel about a law student, Tiempo de destrucción (1975, "Time of Destruction").

Mainer, J C (ed), Introduction to Tiempo de destrucción (1975).

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