The Man In The Mirror Of The Book: A Life Of Jorge Luis Borges

James Woodall

The incident occurred in February, 1969, in Cambridge, north of Boston. I didn't write about it then because my foremost objective at the time was to put it out of my mind, so as not to go insane. What the man was whistling or trying to whistle (I have never been able to carry a tune) was the popular Argentine milonga La tapera, by Elías Regules. In the wardrobe closet in your room, there are two rows of books: the three volumes of Lane's translation of the Thousand and One Nights, which Lane called The Arabian Nights Entertainment, with steel engravings and notes in fine print between the chapters, Quicherat's Latin dictionary, Tacitus' Germania in Latin and in Gordon's English version, a Quixote in the Garnier.