ROSENBERG LIBRARY  
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB  
Winter 2013-2014

Rosenberg Library’s Museum Book Club provides a forum for discovery and discussion, linking literary selections with art from our permanent collection.

PROGRAM AGENDA

December 11
12 noon - 1 pm

January 23
12 noon - 1 pm

*February 15
11 am - 12:30 pm
* special guest Ed Simmen

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For additional web resources, please visit:
http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/tg071


http://gthcenter.org/manuscript%20scans/87-0035_Gonzales.pdf

http://www.rosenberg-library-museum.org/exhibits/galleries/past.gallery/harris/wings/wings.htm

www.winslowhomer.org/

http://www.winslow-homer.com/

http://www.salmagundi.org/history.htm

OTHER WORKS By EDWARD SIMMEN

Pain and Promise: The Chicano Today
Gringos in Mexico: An Anthology
Galveston Chronicles: The Queen City of the Gulf

ABOUT THE AUTHOR (from Simon & Schuster Publishing)

Edward Simmen is a professor emeritus at Universidad de las Americas-Puebla in Puebla, Mexico and has published numerous articles and books on Chicano literature/culture. He received his PhD from Texas Christian University. His most recent work can be found in Galveston Chronicles: The Queen City of the Gulf (2013 The History Press). Dr. Simmen was born in Galveston and has fond childhood memories of the Rosenberg Library, where his parents were active with the Friends.

Additional Resources:
This program, slideshow and links below can be found at Rosenberg Library

www.rosenberg-library.org

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“The older they got, the more they changed, and the more they changed, as did other immigrants, the more American they became”

(Chapter I, p. 11)

Discussion...Gonzales Family History

Why do you think Simmen started Boyer Gonzales’s story with the story of his grandfather, Lt. Victor Gonzales?

Rita Gonzales brought her sons Tomás and Francisco to New Orleans in 1836. How did they adapt to their new home? Did the brothers ever find a national identity?

Thomas Gonzales became very successful in business. What did his work ethic have to do with it? How do you think that influenced his views on his son's love of art?

Why do you think Thomas Gonzales sacrificed so much for the Confederate Cause?

“... the child, he had shown a natural talent for sketching and painting, a talent that was never taken seriously, much less fostered by anyone, certainly not his father.”

(Chapter 2, p. 27)

Discussion...Boyer Gonzales’s Personal Life

How does Simmen characterize Gonzales’s childhood in Galveston?

Why did Gonzales delay his commitment to art for so long? Would you have done the same thing if you were in his situation?

Describe Gonzales’s love life and health. Do you think the two were linked?

With a war hero as a father and an ambitious older brother, what do you think thought of himself as a man?

Winslow Homer was a notorious loner. Why do you think he and Boyer Gonzales became friends?

“... a new public will have the opportunity to enjoy the work of an artist who, ‘understood so intimately the moods of the sea and the ways of the seabirds,’”

(Afterword, p. 99)

Discussion... Boyer Gonzales’s Art

What is your favorite work of art by Boyer Gonzales? Why?

What changes do you see in Gonzales’s work (both thematically and stylistically) over time?

Why do you think Simmen titled the book With Bold Strokes?

Do you think Boyer Gonzales gets the credit he deserves?

For those who read our Summer 2013 selection Luncheon of the Boating Party, how does Gonzales’s vision of ‘impressionism’ differ from that of Renoir?