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

November 3, 2012
11:00am—12:00 noon

PROGRAM AGENDA

12:00 noon  Welcome & Introductions
12:00-12:15 Artifact Presentation
12:15-1:00 Open Discussion

Additional Resources:
This program, slideshow and links below can be found at Rosenberg Library
www.rosenberg-library.org

Or visit:
Edmund de Waal’s website
www.edmunddewaal.com

Videos of Edmund de Waal
http://youtu.be/UMci7etxN8U
http://youtu.be/DlUgZ2j-704

Photos of netsuke from De Waal’s collection
http://www.vintage-books.co.uk/books/harewithambereyes/
http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/gallery/2010/jun/25/edmund-de-waal-netsuke-hare?intcmp=239

Interviews
http://www.vintage-books.co.uk/authors/vintage-podcasts/Podcast6/

Website of the Ephrussi-Rothschild Villa & Gardens in southern France
www.villa-ephrussi.com

Museum of Fine Arts Houston www.mfah.org

The Rosenberg Library Museum Book Club wishes to acknowledge MFAH and Edmund de Waal for the resources and suggestions.
Consider de Waal’s initial descriptions of his netsuke collection,

“*It is a very big collection of very small objects.*

*I pick one up and turn it round my fingers, weigh it in the palm of my hand.*”

**Discussion...Senses**

When you visit a museum or admire a display, how do you experience the art?

Is touch necessary to understand objects or appreciate artifacts?

How is your experience interacting with netsuke today different from viewing a display?

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The story of Charles is linked very closely to the history of the period—the Dreyfus Affair and anti-Semitism, particularly within the art community.

How familiar were you with this aspect of history?

Consider the work of Rabbi Cohen in Galveston - the Temple Forums, work with the Newspaper Editor, discussion over “the Merchant of Venice” - how do you think his efforts had an effect on anti-Semitism in Galveston?

**Discussion...Anti-Semitism**

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“*It wasn’t just Renoir who disliked the Jews. ...Protecting your name and your family’s honour was increasingly difficult as a Jew in Paris.*”  
—The Hare with Amber Eyes, Chapter 10

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“Objects need biography—there aren’t many books out there that take objects themselves seriously.”

Edmund de Waal, Interview in *The Guardian*

How do you interpret this?

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**Discussion...That with which we surround ourselves**

Consider the artifacts you have seen today. Are you satisfied with the biography of these objects?

What would you want to know if this was your collection?

Is examining objects owned and valued by people a good way to find out who they were / are? Why or why not?

What do your personal collections or ‘treasures’ say about you?