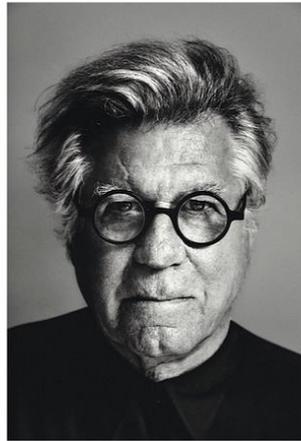


## About the Author

### BRADFORD MORROW

Bradford Morrow grew up in Denver, Colorado but studied and worked in Honduras, Italy, and France during his youth. After earning degrees from the University of Colorado and



from Yale University, he worked as a bookseller in California for several years.

Morrow joined the faculty of Bard College in New York in 1990 and founded the literary journal *Conjunctions*. He also began writing novels. Among other accolades, Morrow has won a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction and the O. Henry Prize for short stories.

*For additional biographical information and a complete list of works, please visit:*

[www.bradfordmorrow.com](http://www.bradfordmorrow.com)



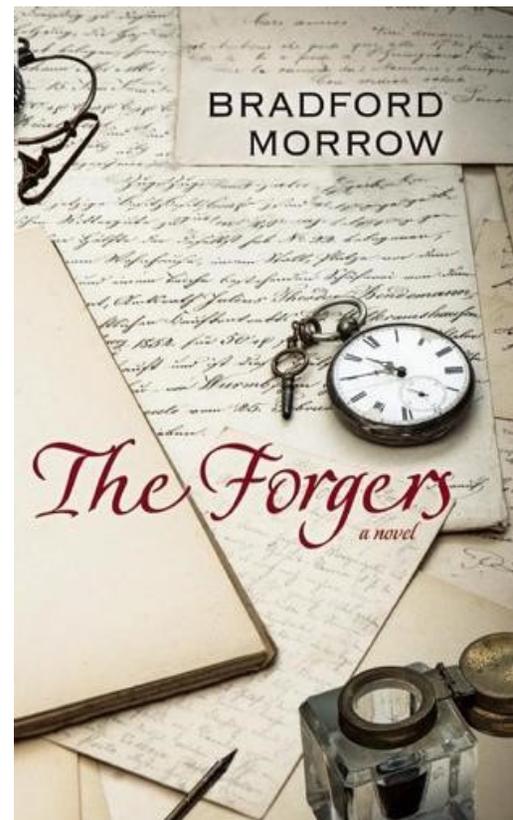
ROSENBERG LIBRARY  
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB

## PROGRAM AGENDA

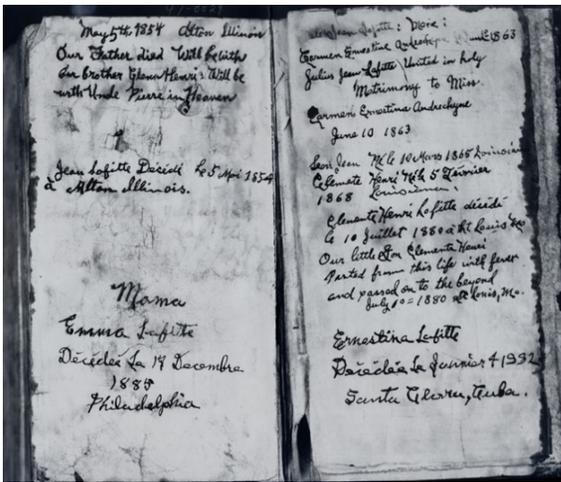
**Fall 2016**

*September 14 · November 10*

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>12:00 noon</b>  | Welcome & Introductions |
| <b>12:00-12:15</b> | Historical Presentation |
| <b>12:15-1:00</b>  | Book Discussion         |



*Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club provides a forum for discovery and discussion, linking literary selections with artworks and historical objects from the permanent collection.*



**DIARY OF JEAN LAFITTE(?)**

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center

"...forgery is a visual art form that usually has little to do with such niceties as music, imagery, vision. It has to do with the nuance of calligraphic art, a refined sense of historical materials, the science of empathy."

**Discussion...**

What was your first impression of the narrator? Did he seem trustworthy?

Throughout the novel, the narrator emphasizes how close his relationship with Meghan is, yet he keeps many secrets from her. Do you think he truly loves her?

Why does Meghan continue her relationship with the narrator after learning about his forgery and deception?

"Whereas he copied, I created. Whereas he was an artisan, I was an artist." The narrator and Adam had much in common as far as their interest in rare books and forgery. Why do you think they disliked one another so much?

"Somewhere along the line I had evolved a deluded, fanciful, and finally illicit conceit that my work did benefit others by bringing the beauty of previously unwritten words and ideas into the world. Pure narcissism, I guess, in the end."



**SIGNATURE OF TEXAS PRESIDENT, SAM HOUSTON**

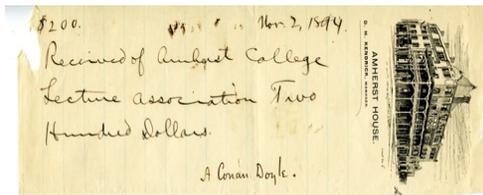
Courtesy of the Rosenberg Library Special Collections

**Discussion...**

Why do you think the narrator's mother encouraged his copying of manuscripts rather than painting? If she felt this was an innocent act, why was it kept a secret from his father?

The narrator says, "Addiction is always stronger than the addict...forgery is as difficult a mistress to quit as she is to master." Compared to addiction, how detrimental is forgery?

"To possess a pristine copy was to share the author's experience, to virtually exist in another era as a time traveler might, and to join in communion with all those owners down the years who had protected it against time's depravities."



**NOTE PENNED BY SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**

Courtesy of the Rosenberg Library Special Collections

"Book collecting...is an act of faith. It's all about the preservation of culture, custodianship, and that's why when I add a book to the collection I'm taking on the responsibility of keeping it safe."

**Discussion...**

Why do you think the narrator finally proposes marriage to Meghan after several years together? Do you think he believes this might keep him from falling back into a life of forgery?

Why do you think the narrator chooses not to follow the advice of Meghan and Atticus to become a legitimate printer rather than a forger?

Were you surprised by the way the book ended? Did the author provide any clues in the text as to how the story would conclude? What do you think the future holds for each of the characters?