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

PROGRAM AGENDA
September 24 · November 13

12:00 noon
Welcome & Introductions

12:00-12:15
Art & Artifact Presentation

12:15-1:00
Book Discussion

1:00-1:30
Author Chat with Bill Dedman

BILL DEDMAN’S BIO

Bill Dedman introduced the public to heiress Huguette Clark and her empty mansions through his compelling series of narratives for NBC, which became the most popular feature in the history of its news website, topping 110 million page views. All the NBC News stories, videos and photos on the mystery of Huguette Clark are at http://nbcnews.com/clark.


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

For additional web resources, please visit:

http://www.emptymansionsbook.com


"Like her attention-grabbing father and her music-loving mother, both strong-willed and private in their own ways, Huguette was a formidable personality who lived life as she wanted, always on her own terms." -p. 356

Discussion...

Empty Mansions is based on facts, documents, and testimony. That leaves mysteries in the lives of its characters. Did the uncertainties add or detract from your enjoyment of the story?

Would you have preferred that the authors psychoanalyze Huguette, creating dialog and filling in missing scenes as a screenplay would?

Considering the limits of what the authors could learn, what do you most want to know about W.A., Anna, or Huguette?

Discussion...

"Huguette Clark lived a surprisingly rich life of love and loss, of creativity and quiet charity, of art and imagination. Though the platitude—money can't buy happiness—may be comforting to those who are less than well heeled, great wealth doesn't ensure sadness either.”

-p. 353

Discussion...

Was Huguette’s life a happy one? If you found her life to be sad, how do you reconcile that with her own apparent lack of sadness?

Would it be easier or harder to be a young heiress in Huguette’s time compared with today? Can you imagine that someone as wealthy as she could hide from paparazzi and other forms of media?

Discussion...

If you had been on the jury deciding the battle over Huguette’s will and her $300 million estate, would you have found that she was incompetent and defrauded?

Would you have given all her money to her Clark relatives? Or would you have followed the will and given it to her caregivers, employees, and friends?

Which people in her inner circle seem to be most trustworthy?

...Huguette enjoyed giving gifts to the people she knew. These were not acts of incompetence, but of self-expression and resilience. In her own way, she found what life may be, a life of integrity.” -p. 357