



## Additional Resources:

This program, slideshow, and links below can be found at Rosenberg Library  
[www.rosenberg-library.org](http://www.rosenberg-library.org)

For additional web resources, please visit:

<http://www.emptymansionsbook.com>

<http://www.christies.com/features/the-clark-family-treasures-inside-bellosguardo-4760-3.aspx>

<http://www.theriaults.com/default/?LinkServID=BD4D5414-F61D-F544-C9441668C1949B35>

### BILL DEDMAN'S BIO

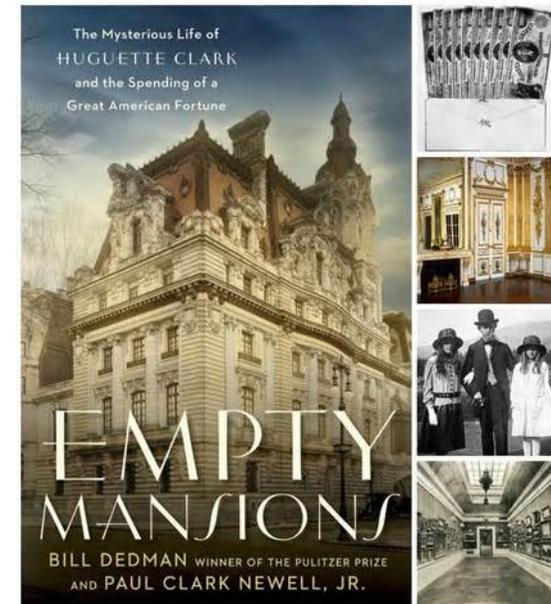
Bill Dedman introduced the public to heiress Huguette Clark and her empty mansions through his compelling series of narratives for NBC, which became the most popular feature in the history of its news website, topping 110 million page views. All the NBC News stories, videos and photos on the mystery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

Bill received the 1989 Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting while writing for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Boston Globe.

## PROGRAM AGENDA

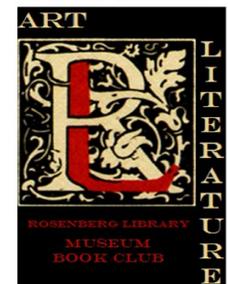
September 24 · November 13

- 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



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

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB  
The Intersection of Art & Literature.



Discuss. Discover.

***“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***



**JAPANESE DOLL**  
(Gift of George Sealy, 76.126.27)

### **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?



**DANSE AU BAL**  
Adolphe Monticelli (1824-1886)  
(Gift of Mrs. Lyda K. Quinn, 89.010)

***“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 to 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?

***“...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***



**DELFT PLAQUE**  
(Gift of the Sealy Homestead Trust, 79.201)

### **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?