

Additional Resources:

This program and links below can be found at
www.rosenberg-library.org



ROSENBERG LIBRARY
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB
Spring 2014

For additional web resources, please visit:

<http://billbrysonbooks.com/>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Bryson was born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1951. At age 22, Bryson travelled abroad to England where he eventually settled. He worked as a writer for English newspapers and penned travel articles.

Bryson moved back to the United States in the mid 1990s and wrote his first full-length travel book, *The Lost Continent*, which chronicles his journey through small-town America. Since then, he has written several more books about the U. S. and the U. K. Currently he is the Chancellor of Durham University in Norfolk.

OTHER WORKS by BILL BRYSON

The Lost Continent

Bill Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words

Neither Here nor There: Travels in Europe

Notes from a Strange Island

Made in America

The Mother Tongue

Bill Bryson's African Diary

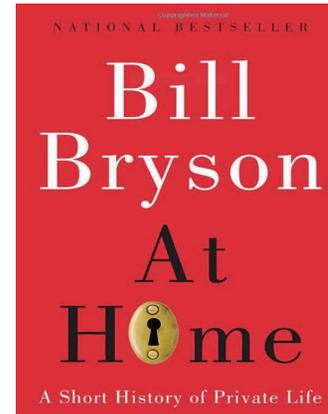
A Short History of Nearly Everything.

A Walk in the Woods

I'm A Stranger Here Myself

In a Sunburned Country

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid



March 12
12 noon - 1 pm

April 17
12 noon - 1 pm

May 17
11 am - 12:30 pm

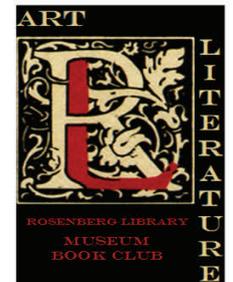
PROGRAM AGENDA

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

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

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB

The Intersection of Art & Literature.



Discuss. Discover.



Argand lamp made of silver, early 19th century
[Image courtesy of the Rosenberg Library
museum collection]

*"The fact is that people
put up with dim evenings
because they knew no
other kind."
(Chapter VI, p. 113)*

Discussion...Technology in the Domestic Sphere

Was there one innovation described in Bryson's book that stood out to you as the most influential on daily life?

What modern conveniences did you feel had the most interesting histories?



Caster set, late 19th century
[Image courtesy of the Rosenberg Library
museum collection]

*"For centuries spices were not
just the world's most valued
foodstuffs, they were the most
treasured commodities of any
type."*

(Chapter 2, p. 27)

Discussion...Bryson's Style

Why do you think Bryson chose to arrange the book with chapters devoted to single rooms in his house?

Did this make the book more or less enjoyable to read?

"The masters of mourning were of course the Victorians. Never have a people become morbidly attached to death or found more complicated ways to mark it."

(Chapter XV, p. 337)

Mrs. Henry Rosenberg (Mollie Ragan Macgill) in mourning dress
[image courtesy of the Galveston and
Texas History Center]



Discussion...Objectivity

Did you feel confident in the accuracy of Bryson's historical accounts?

Do you think he may have been biased in some ways?