



Scholar's Choice is a series of lectures and discussions exploring literary classics and popular works. This special program brings scholars of the community to Clearwater to share an understanding and appreciation of literature. The Clearwater Public Library System is pleased to sponsor this program.

A series of three lectures and follow-up discussions will be led by scholars from the University of South Florida. Each scholar will first offer a lecture designed to inform and prepare an understanding of the text. After the lecture a follow-up discussion will be held.

Limited books and materials are available. Participants may choose to attend any individual lecture or all of the lectures.

For further information, please call (727) 562-4970, ext. 5284 and speak with Jan Nickols.

All libraries are wheelchair accessible.

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SCHOLAR'S CHOICE

A Series of Lectures and Discussions Exploring Literary Classics and Popular Works.

January-February 2010

Clearwater Main Library

100 North Osceola Ave.

Clearwater, FL

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### **Wednesday, January 13, 2010 – 2 p.m.**

*A Moveable Feast* edited by Patrick Hemingway

*A Moveable Feast* (1964) was the first of Ernest Hemingway's posthumous publications. Edited into final form by his widow, Mary Hemingway, she claimed to have done virtually nothing to the manuscript except correct the spelling of some Paris street names. That claim, however, has been questioned in the years since the book's publication. *A Moveable Feast* is a memoir of Hemingway's early days in Paris, introduced by a preface in which the author tells the reader that, if he or she wishes, "the book may be regarded as fiction". What Hemingway wrote about his contemporaries was meant to reflect indirectly the portrait of himself as a dedicated young author.

This new "restored" version presents the same book as re-edited by Hemingway's grandson. The original book is a highly-regarded literary work of art. The inclusion of new, previously unpublished chapters is called "Additional Paris Sketches." Anything new written by Hemingway is always welcome.

But since the manuscript was left unfinished when Hemingway died, no one knows what he really would have wanted. There is no "definitive" edition and never can one be. The text is still the work of one of the 20th century's greatest and most influential writers.

LECTURER: Dr. Phillip Sipiora, Professor of English at the University of South Florida. His areas of specialization include Literary Theory, Twentieth Century literature, and Film Studies. He is a recipient, twice, of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. He is also a founding member of the Norman Mailer Society and is editor of *The Mailer Review*. This year, Dr. Sipiora received the Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher award from the University of South Florida.

### **Wednesday, January 27, 2010 – 2 p.m.**

*Bartleby, the Scrivener* by Herman Melville

"Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street" is a novelette, written following the publication of *Moby-Dick*. The story first appeared anonymously, in two parts, in the November and December 1853 editions of Putnam's monthly magazine. The narrator, an elderly lawyer who has a very comfortable business helping wealthy men deal with mortgages, title deeds, and bonds, relates the story of the strangest man he has ever known. He hires a scrivener named Bartleby to copy legal documents. Though Bartleby is initially a hard worker, one day, when asked to proofread, he responds, "I would prefer not to." As time progresses, Bartleby increasingly "prefers not to" do anything asked of him. The story is rich in language and yet spare in actual action.

LECTURER: Dr. Maryhelen Harmon retired as Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida, where she had been teaching since 1964. She was named "USF Distinguished Teacher of the Year," and received four other awards as an Outstanding Professor. A past president of the Popular Culture Association, she was also past president of the Florida College English Association. Her degrees are from the University of Alabama, the University of Florida, and her Ph.D. is from Florida State University. She has also studied at Wesleyan College, Oxford University, and the University of Edinburgh. She has been a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Paris (the Sorbonne) and also at the University Center in Florence, Italy. This is Dr. Harmon's 21<sup>st</sup> presentation in our series, and we are delighted she is returning again while she enjoys her retirement.

### **Wednesday, February 17, 2010 – 2 p.m.**

*Jamaica Inn* by Daphne de Maurier

Daphne du Maurier started writing her fourth novel, *Jamaica Inn*, in 1935. The storyline came from an outing that had taken place some years previously when Daphne went riding on Bodmin Moor (Cornwall) with a friend. They became lost in a dense fog but were led back to a hotel named Jamaica Inn by their horses. While there she met and talked to the parson from the nearby church, who entertained them with wild tales.

The novel begins on a bitter November evening, when young Mary Yellan journeys across the rain swept moors to Jamaica Inn to honor her mother's dying request. When she arrives, the coachman's warning begins to echo in her memory, for her Aunt Patience cowers before hulking Uncle Joss Merlyn. Terrified by the inn's brooding power, Mary gradually finds herself ensnared in the dark schemes being enacted behind its crumbling walls -- and tempted to love a man she doesn't quite trust. Vividly set in 18th century Cornwall, *Jamaica Inn* has been popular since its publication in 1936, with interesting implications for psychological (particularly feminist) criticism and for the development of gothic literature.

LECTURER: Dr. Nancy Jane Tyson, Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida. Her specializations include Romantic and Victorian Literature, and Research Methods for English Studies. Dr. Tyson has published articles on Charles Dickens, William Morris and Oscar Wilde. She received the Teaching Incentive Award in 1994-95, and the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1996. She was a United Faculty of Florida state Senator and NEA national Delegate, and served as USF Faculty Senate President in 2000-2001. She was a contributor to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, the first revision of the revered standard DNB since its publication in 1885-1900.