Our January 6, 2016, discussion of *WILL OF THE WORLD* by Stephen Greenblatt elicited an animated discussion on the life of Shakespeare. There was a coterie of readers who were enchanted with the depth and credibility of Greenblatt’s research and imagination: such that allowed him to make brilliant connections between the plays and sonnets and historic events of the Elizabethan period. Some others felt that his ascribed and hypothesized connections linking these two narrative frameworks were problematic. The book was a deep dive into the mind of Shakespeare by a committed scholar/partisan. Lots of historic, legal and financial facts were brought forward in the book to corroborate textual citations and connections with Shakespeare’s written works. But the plethora of intuitions and assumptions were still there to plague some skeptical readers.

There was more searching discussion of our book selection process and themes for future readings. After a close vote, Yuval Levin’s, *THE GREAT DEBATE: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and the Birth of Right and Left*, was chosen for our *March 2, 2016* discussion. Along with this title, it was recommended that we read *THE AGE OF REASON* by Thomas Paine.

If you are still loyal to our local, independent bookstore, you can buy Levin’s book at the Book Worm. When I was there a week or two ago, I was told that it was not in. Repeated appeals led to the attendant climbing a ladder (don’t you try it) at the south end of the store to pull down one of several available copies for my purchase. The store was not able to order *THE AGE OF REASON* because of complicated book trade finances which I won’t go into here. It is available online, however, in many variant paperback editions.

The theme selection for our May 4th meeting will be *HISTORY*. Several titles have been suggested by our committee: 1) The *Ornament of the World* by Menocal, 2) *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson, and 3) *The Island at the Center of the World* by Shorto.

You are encouraged to send additional titles for consideration to our selection committee: Chris Behr  chris@behrfamily.com  -  David Clemence  cvn59@cox.net  -  Sue Matson  argon@cox.net  -  Lee Myers  llmyers@cox.net

The committee hopes to facilitate, but not to dictate your choices of great future read. You may also wish to make your suggestions to any of the committee members regarding our selection criteria. In our new process, we have graduated from two simple rules: *highly acclaimed, recent paperbacks*. We now ask for advocates to recommend *books that they have read*. If this is too restrictive of your choices, please let us know. I believe that history, including biography, is high on our Bibliophiles’ priority listing. Please make your recommendations accordingly.