
An interesting and appropriate comparison was briefly made between this book and another entitled THE NAME OF THE ROSE by Umberto Ecco. Both books artfully describe the life of medieval Christian monasteries and their scriptoria. These were sequestered chambers of monks, busily copying fugitive manuscripts inherited from classical Greek and Roman civilizations. Both Greenblatt and Ecco invest these isolated cloisters with mind-numbing routine combined with intellectual drama and history making importance.

There was some questioning about the fictionalized dialog ascribed to major historic figures in the evolution of ideas. This was a stylistic approach used to personalize some of the protagonists in the long history of philosophical and religious dispute between separate belief systems.

Was Greenblatt’s assertion, that Poggio’s 1417 rediscovery of Lucretius’ epic poem, On the Nature of Things, served as a catalytic influence on the flowering of the Renaissance, actually true? Many of our readers were skeptical regarding this metaphorical swerve. But it made for an engaging reader’s journey. And it led to a final coup de grace, when he linked Epicurus’s pleasure principle to the words of Thomas Jefferson in the world-shaking Declaration of Independence!

Gary Ellers kindly submitted recommendations for 1) Louise Edrich’s novel, ROUNDHOUSE and 2) David McCullough’s GREATER JOURNEY: Americans in Paris. Discussion led to adoptions of those two titles as our next selections in that order. BUT, later on, however, your daunted leader dis-
covered that the second title would *not be available in PERBACK until May 14!* I therefore decree that THE GREATER JOURNEY will be on the agenda for our next discussion at 11:30 Wednesday, March 6 at Canigilias. Discount (20%) copies will be available at The Bookworm. My apologies to those that already purchased their Kindle copies of ROUNDHOUSE. *Mea Culpa.*

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