On Nov. 9th, the about 19 Bibliophiles met to discuss **BREAKFAST WITH BUDDHA**, by Roland Merullo.

Most readers found this to be a light, witty and engaging read in comparison with our earlier attempts to grasp E=MC² and other byways of special and general relativity theory. A unique combination of a novel and real-life travelogue, Merullo’s story comes across on at least three levels or planes of discourse: 1) physical travel, 2) disquieting sociological comments on our consumer society, and 3) an interior spiritual journey within the author’s own inquiring mind. Several readers commented with surprise at their discovery of the Author’s Note at the end, which included an extensive list of books “drawn from thirty years of reading across the religious, philosophical, and psychological spectrum and meditation retreats in Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, and non-denominational retreat centers and monasteries”

One interesting insight related by Graham Lusk’s wife was that the book suggests an often unacknowledged aspect of the many states in the union: that each state has its own distinctive, indigenous character and personality. Merullo reveals some of this uniqueness and charm through the depth of his observations and physical descriptions of geography in his journey from New Jersey to North Dakota.

“I was thinking that, maybe, if you saw the creatures and objects around you as pieces of a sacred whole, everything temporary, just playing out a role in a dream, then things would be funny a lot of the time, kaleidoscopic, comically absurd.” (p. 288).

Comparisons were seen with other books, such as Jack Kerouac’s **ON THE ROAD**, and Robert M. Pirsig's **THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE**.

The book selected for discussion at our next meeting (Caniglia’s at 11:30 a.m.) on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 will be **THE WORLD OF KING ARTHUR**, by Christopher Snyder. At our March 3rd meeting, we will discuss **THREE BODIES BURNING** by Brian Bogdanoff, and at our May 2nd choice is **THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS** by Rebecca Skoot.

Copies available at the BookWorm @ 20% discount.

(Report submitted by Bob Runyon, 11/17/11, rrunyon@unomaha.edu)