BIBLIOPHILES
MEETING #29

With the assistance of Terry Haney, Chris Behr and his Selection Committee (SC), our March 4th lunch at Spezia on went off without a hitch. We are settling into our new digs, while the homey old Venice Inn is now just a flat and barren plot of urban terrain (:-{}).

SC facilitator, Chris Behr, presented a brief summary of the proposed new book recommendation and selection procedures. This was recognized as a major breakthrough in involving all club members in a grass roots selection and evaluation process. There was a brief discussion of fine points of the process, after which it was generally agreed to be a major achievement. Chris and his SC volunteers, including David Clements, Sue Matson, and Lee Myers have led the Bibliophiles into a new era. After five years, it was time for a change.

David presented a summary and reflection regarding his reasons for recommending the book for this meetings discussion: Bill Bryson, ONE SUMMER, 1927. In a welcome departure from our previous round-robin routine, the floor was then open to discussion and reactions. This became an animated series of reports, claims and counter claims, indicating widely varying perceptions and personal reactions. Some readers were thrilled by Bryson’s breezy, energetic and positive portrayal of the personality of the 1920s; “Ford’s, Flappers & Phonetics.” That cohort enjoyed the all too human character portrayals, including the good, bad and the
ugly. One reader found the period of “the ‘20’s gloriously upbeat”, with many of our current concerns, but more buoyant.

It was suggested that this was non-academic, history light, as in “Tell Me a Bedtime Story;” too focused on dethroning prominent national figures, such as Herbert Hoover, Henry Ford, Babe Ruth and Charles Lindberg. Others applauded Bryson’s deft and humorous character revelations, with surprising and little-known details about celebrities and once heroic figures. They felt he dealt in a balanced way with confrontation, violence, prejudices, greed and graft. Everyone participated; one purpose of the exercise.

We will switch now to Doris Kearns Goodwin’s THE BULL-​LY PULPIT. This is our next great read as recommended by Sue Matson, who will introduce it at our May 6 11:30 a.m. meeting at Spezia. This follows the pattern recommended by the SC that all proposed books should have been previously read by a club member in support of their consideration.

This book should be available at the Book Worm. Visit them in their new location in the Loveland Center on 90th St. and West Center Road. Ask Beth Black for your 20% discount offered to members of the Bibliophiles Book Club.

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