

**GOOS BOOK CLUB
850 NORTH BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802**

IN MEMORIAM

Page Acree: 1919--2005

Frank Craig, Jr.: 1918--2005

Durwood "Woody" Facundus: 1934--2003

Charles Prosser: 1919--2005

Carter Wilkinson: 1947-2006

December 21, 2006

RE: GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF November 30, 2006.

Dragooned Goo — Lou Leggio

Selected Read — “Palace Walk”

NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Kivas.

Newly Dragooned Goo — John Clifford

Selected Read — “*The Bridge of San Luis Rey,*” by Thornton Wilder

Lads:

In the spirit engendered through our last book, I commence this newsletter, thusly: *May the peace of the Prophet be with you all.*

The Goos' brotherhood gathered again in our usual private room at Kivas' Restaurant on Thursday, November 30, 2006.

Present for duty were:

Brian Luikart

Alan Carey

Bubber Currier

Louis Leggio

Herb Dyer

Jim Clary, Jr.

Scott Thurston

Bob Thurston

Keith Richardson

Buzzy Anding

John Clifford

Clay Waggenpack

Prior to turning to the business at hand, your president reported that — although Wally Dunlap had planned to attend — his wife had a friend come into town and they had taken her to dinner. Accordingly, he had to skip the meeting for that reason. All of your thoughts are with Wally and we wish him well in his continued recovery.

Thereafter, the members of the group were polled about any good books recently read and the following was reported:

Brian Luikhart — “*Snow Falling on Cedars*,” by David Guterson.

John Clifford — “*Internal Bleeding*,” by Robert Wachter. About medical errors.

John Clifford — “*The Cry and the Covenant*,” by Morton Thompson — Viennese doctor who discovered the cure purple sepsis.

Alan Carey — “*A Tale of Two Cities*,” by Charles Dickens.

Keith Richardson — “*Letter to A Young Contrarian*,” by Christopher Hitchens. How to be fly in the ointment or dissident.

Keith Richardson — “*Kim*,” by Rudyard Kipling .

Once the hubbub surrounding this initial give-and-take subsided, we turned the meeting over to our Dragooned brother, Lou Leggio, who provided some insight into the author of our most recent selection, “*Palace Walk*.” Naguib Mahfouz was born in Cairo in 1911 and lived there all of his life, just passing away last August. He was born the youngest of seven children and lived his entire life in Cairo. Although he was a prolific writer, economic success eluded him. Not all of his works have been translated into English, but there seems to be agreement that the “*Palace Walk*” trilogy (of which we read the first volume) seems to be considered his master work. Mahfouz worked as a minor civil servant, and also found time to write. During the course of his life, he apparently engaged in many of the traditions which were revealed in “*Palace Walk*,” including spending time in coffee shops. Lou passed around a photograph of Mahfouz in the very same coffee shop of which he wrote in “*Palace Walk*”.

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For some arcane reason or another, Mahfouz's writing put some Islamic fundamentalist sects into high dudgeon and — as a result — he received death threats. As a matter of fact, he was stabbed by a would-be Islamic assassin in 1994, but he survived the attack.

Once the discussion was opened up to the group, there seemed to be general enjoyment engendered by this selections. Most of the Goos agreed that Mahfouz's writing style was somewhat anachronistic, possessing almost the Arabic equivalent of Shakespearean English qualities. Thus, many of the Goos were led to speculate how much of what we read demonstrated the imported character of Mahfouz or was instead related to the **translation** choices made. Some seemed to think that the essential character of Mahfouz's message may have been "lost in translation."

Not all of the Goos were enamored of the work. Clay Waggenpack had a few comments, which were rendered "off the record" and "not for attribution." Herb Dyer summed up his opinion thusly: "*It was a hard book to pick up, but easy to put down.*"

The other Goos seemed to enjoy the novel, however.

Thereafter, brother Leggio fished around for a Goo to Dragoon, and our Founding Father, John Clifford, immediately volunteered. He offered a choice between two selections but — ultimately — assigned "*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*," by Thornton Wilder as our next read. (This assignment barely edged out "*The Portrait of Dorian Grey*," by Oscar Wilde.)

Our next Goos meeting is scheduled at Kiva's in our usual private room for Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. again, the slightly-later-than-usual time period is required because Your President has a conflicting meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thus, I maybe five minutes late for the start of the meeting. The room will be ready to receive everybody at 6:30 p.m., though.

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As a final note, I would remind everybody that — every so often — we consider a change of venue to either a new restaurant or to a member's home. At the January meeting, we will discuss this again, but — if anyone would be willing to host a Goos gathering — let me know and we will gladly accept.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again on Thursday, January 25, 2007 and wishing all of you the best during this holiday season, I remain — as ever

Your obedient servant,

James R. Clary, Jr.

JRCjr/jlw

P.S. I am forwarding this reminder that the Goo's Roster, Newsletters and other personal information can be found on our website located at www.goosbookclub.org.