

**GOOS BOOK CLUB
320 SOMERULOS STREET
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
William E. "Bill" Fisher: 1937--2007
Hermann Moyse, Jr.: 1921--2007

GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2007

Friends,

Better late than never, it's my pleasure to report that all hands assembled for our scheduled meeting at Kiva's on Thursday, August the 16th.

Present for duty:

Jim Clary	Herb Dyer
Scott Thurston	Alan Carey
David Wall	Bubba Currier
Gus Dalton	Fred Billings
Wally Dunlap	Keith Richardson
Lou Leggio	Fred Hogeman
Clay Waggenpack	

The dragooned GOO for the evening, Alan Carey, led the group in a discussion of his selection, *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens. We learned that Dickens was born in February 1812 into a large, financially challenged family, and notwithstanding a family stint in debtors prison, rose to become the most successful author of his era, ultimately rating a burial spot in Westminster Abbey. *A Tale of Two Cities*, published in 1859, examines what for Dickens were not relatively recent events in revolutionary France, taking place only seventy odd years before Dickens's book. Although familiar in book format today, the story was originally serialized in weekly papers and one had to wait for the next edition to see what would happen. Why are the chapters so short, Scott Thurston wants to know? Writer's license? Plot structure? Artistic reasons? Heck no, it's because you get more serialized editions, silly. Why tell a good story in ten chapters when you can tell it in thirty. Dickens had bills to pay too.

One of the most repeated observations about Dickens during the night's discussion was the amazing power of observation demonstrated in his storytelling. Alan Carey pointed out that this was a writer who never attended what would have been considered "good" schools. Instead, his education consisted of simply observing life. As Lou Leggie noted, Dickens was "always observing" those around him. Others in the group commented on Dickens's skilled reliance on metaphors throughout his story (think broken wine casks and flowing wine/blood). Question for the group: Is this a cautionary tale? (hint: David Wall says "yes" ; beware mob rule).

Thanks to Alan for a great selection, and a great presentation. Sure, Clay Waggenpack liked the

book better when he was twenty, but that's what this group is all about: complete honesty. Really. Remember Alan, it was the best of picks, and the worst of picks. As the books says, "Those were drinking days, and most men drank hard." Dickens can drive you to that.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the group's newest member, Fred Hogeman, having apparently never received the Marine Corps memo about never volunteering for anything, promptly offered himself up for next month's meeting. It sort of takes the fun out of actually dragooning someone kicking and screaming, but we're not picky. Thanks to Fred for stepping up to the plate so soon in his tenure. Your enthusiasm has been noted.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 4th, 2007 at Kiva's, and Fred's selected book will be *Islam Revealed: A Christian Arab's View of Islam* by Dr. Anis Shorrosh. Take a look, prepare your kudos or barbs as required, and come ready for a full contact discussion of a religion practiced by more people than any other. Or just come for that bread that Kiva's puts out. Whatever works.

Keith Richardson