

READING MAUPASSANT IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH

Coordinator: Raoul Oreskovic

Guy de Maupassant is considered one of the fathers of the modern short story. Maupassant, a realist writer, depicted many aspects of French life during the second half of the 19th century: the love of the outdoors, the Franco-Prussian war, colonialism, the hypocrisy of the bourgeoisie, bureaucrats, prostitutes, infidelity and the fashionable Parisian life of the Belle Epoque. In the readings, we observe the emergence of new literary and artistic movements. Our readings and discussions are in English. But, in each session we go over some passages in French in order to appreciate Maupassant's writing. A minimum knowledge of French is helpful but is not required in order to enjoy his elegant and precise writing style. Maupassant's short stories are often compared to those of Chekov.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

The weekly readings of the short stories are from English translations and will be posted on an Internet site for this study group.

The required reading for the novel Bel Ami (weeks 4-7) is:

Bel Ami by Guy de Maupassant, translated by Margaret Maudon, {Oxford World's Classics, Oxford University Press, New York 2001, ISBN 1619493853}.

Upon request the complete French texts can be e-mailed to the participant.

Raoul Oreskovic has coordinated several study groups: Byzantium, Vichy France, The Latin American Literary Boom, Europe's Fourteenth Century, The Austro-Hungarian Empire.

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Week 1: Maupassant life, time and works- "On the River"

Week 2: Boule de Suif – A Coach Journey During the Franco-Prussian war.

Week 3: Boule de Suif

Week 4: Bel Ami – A chronicle of a corrupt journalist who rises from poverty to wealth and success in Paris by manipulating many powerful, intelligent and wealthy mistresses.

Week 5: Bel Ami

Week 6: Bel Ami

Week 7: Bel Ami

Week 8: Maison Tellier – One of Maupassant's best realist short stories. It is about prostitution.

Week 9: The Necklace, Olive Grove

Week 10: Mrs. Husson's Rosier.

Week 11: The Horla – a short horror story written as a journal.

Week 12: The Horla.