

Ezra Pound

The key to success in life is not only learning its basic rules, but knowing when to break them. Ezra Pound mastered most of them, and was iconoclastic by nature, but his timing was off.

Ezra Weston Loomis Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho Territory, in 1885. After attending the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to London and became the darling of the news media. Part archaeologist, part refugee, fulltime expatriate, Pound culled through previous eras (Confucian China, Yamato and Edo periods Japan, medieval Provence) to construct a cultural revolution complete with its own doctrine, ideology, and propaganda. He's best known for *Ripostes* (1912), *Hugh Selwyn Mauberly* (1920), and his unfinished epic, *The Cantos* (1917 - 1969). Pound was once described as a cat who walks by himself, is tenaciously unhousebroken, and very unsafe for children. Ever responsive and rigorous, however, he unselfishly aided such prominent writers as T.S. Eliot (he trimmed *The Waste Land* down to half its original length), William Butler Yeats, James Joyce and Robert Frost.

Although he resided in Europe most of his life, Pound was at heart an American – albeit one who was rough and ready, and occasionally, well, vulgar. And he definitely had a dark side. Not only was he anti-Semitic, he was on personal terms with Benito Mussolini, and openly supported Adolf Hitler. (To Pound, they were just a couple of fun guys out to have a good time.) When World War II ended Pound was charged with treason and placed in a U.S. military prison in Pisa, Italy. American officials there judged him to be a bit wacko, and incarcerated him at St. Elizabeth's psychiatric hospital in Washington DC. Upon his release in 1958 (after an aggressive campaign by prominent literati, among them Ernest Hemingway), Pound moved back to Italy where he spent his remaining years. Ezra Pound died in Venice in 1972.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

2015 Winter Reading Books (continued) more Recommendations from Your Friends

The Secret Life of the Grown Up Brain; The Surprising Talents of the Middle-aged Mind by Barbara Strauch
Combines recent findings from neuroscience with anecdotes about our brains' improved skills and scary lapses, and why these changes happen.

Any of the ***Discworld series*** by Sir Terry Pratchett

We lost this wonderful fantasy author this week. If you want to have some fun, read at least one of his books (and then try not to read another ... ☺)

Ides of March Issue, 15 March 2015

President's column for March 2015 FOML newsletter

Dear Patrons and Friends of the Manchester Library,

I'm happy to report that over the past year, the Fred Meyer Foundation has

donated nearly \$2,000 to the Friends of the Manchester Library. How is this possible; well our thanks go to about 80 of our patrons and friends of patrons who have taken a few moments to enroll in Fred Meyer's "Rewards card" program and tied their card to the Friends of the Manchester Library non-profit. If you would like to help us with this effort all you need to do is get a Fred Meyer Rewards Card (no cost) and then go to the Fred Meyer Community web-site and update your Rewards Card information to indicate that you would like to help support the

Friends of the Manchester Library; to do this go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and then update your Reward Card profile to indicate you would like to support the Friends of the Manchester Library (Group #93267). There is no cost to you to do this, and it does not impact any of the other benefits you get from participating in the Rewards Program...a true win-win. Afterwards, everytime you shop at Fred Meyer, the purchases essentially "cast a vote" with the Foundation to send a portion of their charitable contribution to the Friends.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program please contact me at johnwinslo@aol.com.

Warm regards,
John Winslow-President

* * *

2015 Winter Reading Books (continued) still more Recommendations from Your Friends

Village School by "Miss Read" (pen name of Dora Jessie Saint)
First in a series about a schoolmistress in a small English village, mid 20th century. England was still feeling the effects of WWII; these stories of village school life and of people making their way through good and bad times are told with a wry charm and a sense of irony. You may get hooked.

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? A Memoir
by Roz Chast

Roz Chast, a cartoonist for the New Yorker, depicts her experiences with her parents as they aged into their nineties. Both humorous and painful, it is a great exploration of what it is like to be the child of aging parents.

editor: Ray Pardo

raypardo@gmail.com

2 of 2