

Novel Club Minutes
June 4, 2019

Our final novel club meeting of the year took place at the spacious Moreland Hills home of Anne and Nick Ogan. As always we were welcomed by a delicious spread of plenty of treats of all kinds. Wine flowed freely and we enjoyed a nice chat before getting down to business a bit later than usual. We had a full house but there were seats for all. Guests were introduced, including the Peters, and PK and Ginger Saha, attending for the second time.

As announcements and welcomes wound down, our presenters made their entrance just in time to deliver their fine papers on the *End of the Affair* by Graham Greene. The biographical paper was delivered by Clyde Henry, and the critical paper by James Saunders. Clyde gave us an enlightening sketch of Greene's life. In brief, he was born into a comfortable family in England. In spite of his father being a headmaster, he disliked school at a young age, but he did go on to attend Oxford. He experienced significant depression throughout his life, and recognized that this condition was a source for his inciteful writing. He married in 1926, and converted to Catholicism, which seems to have contributed to the religious themes in his work. Although his wife did not wish to grant him a divorce, his marriage was an unhappy one, and one of his affairs is understood to be the source of our book of the evening. Clyde's succinct and thorough essay offered a useful foundation for discussion.

James Saunders presented the critical paper. From the outset, James reminded us that this is one of his favorite books, and with good reason. The story is a simple one, centered on the affair between Bendrix, a writer, and Sarah, who is married to a civil servant, and acquaintance of Bendrix'. For good reason Sarah's husband's jealousy drives him to hire a detective, providing the reader a glimpse into the actual affair as well as the detective's character. Greene describes the inner turmoil and emotions experienced by his characters, which allows the reader to sympathize with them and know them intimately. Most members of the Novel Club shared James' enthusiasm for the book and we proceeded to discuss themes of religion, motivations behind character's actions, and the WWII setting.

Broad participation in the discussion made the meeting especially lively and it was a successful final meeting of the 2018-2019 Novel Club season.