

Gentleman in Moscow Tours June 2018

Helpful website: http://www.bookcompanion.com/a_gentleman_in_moscow_links2.html

Mark Catron

Theme: "As Time Goes By-- the Place-Time Continuum of Amor Towles" I believe this novel transcends its time and place with three universal truths:

1. It is the human condition that we are each given time. It is not a gift given in equal measure.
2. Like the Count, we also share confinement. Ours may not resemble his geographical confinement in a hotel, but like him we all have limitations and restrictions created by our health, strength, intellect and drive.
3. The confinement, like the time, is a gift, because it is in the struggle to overcome the confinement of our own limitations, especially in the saving or service of others, that we can thrive, even in some cases, living beyond our chronological time.

Objects:

- Lepine clock - time theme
- Daumier Fugitives - Russian history
- Piranesi pier table - opulent setting of the Metropol
- Witte Ster flower vase - symbolism all aristocratic would know
- Jean Gaspard Feilt, Lady's Writing Desk, 1750 - opulence and elegance
- Edgar Degas, Little Dancer, on loan - Nina or Sofia
- Pissaro, Place du Theatre Français - Pissarro likened to the Count
- Rodin, Study for Burgher - The Count as captive
- Ivan Vasilievich Kluin, The Clockmaker, 1914 - Emotional impact
- Der Postagent Hausler (The Telegraph Operator), 1927, Albert Birkle - character
- Brancusi, Golden Bird - captures the essence of the man of purpose

Music: As Time Goes By

Ginny Wheeler

Theme: The Art of the Novel. Amor Towles creates a portrait of a gentleman in Moscow with a monitor as his canvas, a keyboard as his paintbrush, and the elements of literature as his paint.

- * Jean Gaspard Feilt, Lady's Writing Desk, 1750 - setting
- * Wanda Gag special exhibition, Grandma's Parlor, 1930 - poetic devices
- * Joseph Kratina, Loie Fuller, 19-20th C - epitaphs/onomatopoeia
- * Walk through Salon, past the grandfather clock and peek over the balcony - tone
- * Vassily Kandinsky, Nymphenburg, 1904 - tone
- * Edgar Degas, Little Dancer, 1878-91/ Bronze cast in 1998 - Nina and Sofia; character development
- * Paul deLamerie, Silver Tureen - the arts and the artists
- * Anton Dressler, Wheel Lock Puffer, 16C - plot development
- * Table Cabinet, German, 1560-1570 - theme—a novel needs a bit of philosophy
- * Albert Birkle, The Telegraph Operator, 1927 - foil character
- * Ivan Vasilievich Kluin, The Clockmaker, 1914 - the portrait of the artist (Towles)

Music: Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 1 in C and Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto

Lynn Dunlap

Theme: Where Is Our Purpose Now? (What becomes of a man when house arrest is meant to rob him of purpose?)

- * French Salon
- * Lady's writing desk, c. 1750, Jean Gaspard Feilt, 80.35A-L
- * Fountain Court —Piazza

- * Otis elevator grill
- * Table cabinet, c. 1560-1570, Unknown artist, Germany, 2018.15A-X, G340
- * The Clockmaker (Der Uhrmacher/ L'horloger), c. 1914, Ivan Vasilievich Kliun, 2007.85
- * Telephone stand, c. 1927, Attributed to Abel Faidy, 98.276.291.1A,B
- * Tray from a cocktail/schnapps set, c. 1930, H. Ottomann; Manufacturer: attr. Burg Diebichenstein, 98.276.238.1
- * Chess set, c. 1923, Josef Hartwig; Manufacturer: Staatliches Bauhaus, 98.276.19A-GG
- * "RCA Victor Special" portable phonograph, model M, c. 1935, John Vassos; 98.276.162
- * Four-paneled folding screen, c.1958, Piero Fornasetti, 2010.81 (Rostov)
- * Remembering, 1937, George Grosz, 2017.107, G377
- * Find a character and present your case
 - * Der Postagent Hausler (The Telegraph Operator), 1927, Albert Birkle, 2015.55.1
 - * The Poet with the Birds, 1911, Marc Chagall, 61.36.7
 - * Reclining Nude II, Henri Matisse, 1927, 71.9.5
 - * White Plumes, Henri Matisse, 1919, 47.41
 - * Young Woman in Undergarments, c. 1910–11, Wilhelm List, 2015.40.1
- * The Little Dancer, Degas

Emily Shapiro

Theme: The World According to the Count

- * Third floor hallway/Baroque Gallery overlooking the Fountain Court - setting
- * Table Cabinet, German, 1560-1570 - Metaphor
- * Gabriel Orozco, Untitled, 2016 - Composition
- * Pair/share Activity in G377 - Character study
 - * Grosz, Chagall, Birkle, List, Matisse are possibilities
- * Piero Fornasetti, Four-Paneled Folding Screen, 1958 - Symbolism
- * Ivan Vasilievich Kliun, The Clockmaker, 1914 and Alexandra Exter, Italian Town by the Sea, 1917 - Artistic Style; Unfolding of the Plot; Themes
- * Degas, Little Dancer and Portrait of Mlle. Hortense - Character Revisited/Nina and Sophia
- * Pissarro, Place du Theatre Francais, Paris: Rain, 1898 - Point of View and Perspective
- * Wanda Gag prints: Grandma's Kitchen, Elevated Station, Uncle Frank's Workshop - Point of View and Perspective

Boyd Ratchye

Theme: If a man does not master his destiny then he is bound to be mastered by it.

- * Daumier, Fugitives - Russian background
- * Delacroix, Still Life with Dahlias, Zinnia, Hollyhocks and Plums, 1835 - Aristocratic way of life
- * Peale, Still Life with Fruit, Cakes and Wine, 1821 - Food theme
- * The Salon, Tarot Cards - Anna
- * Jean Gaspard Feilt, Lady's Writing Desk, 1750 - A King fortifies himself with a castle, a gentleman with a desk.
- * Odd Fellows Key in G331 - key as symbol
- * Anton Dressler, Wheel Lock Puffer, 16C - The role of pistols in the Count's life
- * Degas, Little Dancer and Hortense - Nina and Sofia
- * Pissarro, Place du Theatre Francais, Paris: Rain, 1898 - Sofia in Paris
- * Millais, Peace Concluded, 1856 - Side trip to Russian history
- * Alexandra Exter, Italian Town by the Sea, 1917 - Major Russian artist
- * Portraits from Kunin Collection - characters Mischka, Marina, Anna
- * List, Young Woman in her Undergarments - Anna
- * Birkle, The Telegraph Operator - the Bishop
- * Monti, The Veiled Lady - Anna
- * West, The Destruction of the Beast and the False Prophet, 1804 - the Count

Mary Bowman

Theme: The Art of the Novel

- * Louis XVI cabinet
- * Jean Gaspard Feilt, Lady's Writing Desk, 1750
- * Lepine Clock - (3 clock faces)
- * Dutch still life with wine, sea food, bread and timepiece - 311
- * Rodin, Age of Bronze
- * Degas, Little Dancer
- * Salvador Dali, Lobster phone
- * List, Young Woman in her Undergarments
- * Brancusi, Golden Bird
- * Sully, George Washington
- * Polaris
- * Caviar Server

Helen Leslie

Theme: Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, "the luckiest man in all of Russia"

Mishka, upon leaving the Metropol after visiting AIR for the last time: "Who would have imagined," he said, "when you were sentenced to life in the Metropol all those years ago, that you had just become the luckiest man in all of Russia."p. 292

- * Maria Sybille Merian, Dish, China, 1735
- * Jean-Antoine Lepine and Joseph Coteau, Astronomical Mantel Timepiece, France 1789
- * Jean Gaspard Feilt, Lady's Writing Desk, 1750
- * Spice Container, Israel, 19th-20th C
- * Edgar Degas, The Little Dancer, 1879-81; cast in 1998
- * Edgar Degas, Portrait of Mlle. Hortense Valpinçon, c. 1871
- * Camille Pissarro, Place du Théâtre Français, Paris: Rain, 1898
- * John Vassos, "RCA Victor Special" c. 1935
- * Character study:
 - * Henri Matisse, White Plumes, 1919
 - * Henri Matisse, Large Seated Nude, c1923-1925
 - * Albert Birkle, The Telegraph Operator, 1927
 - * Marc Chagall, The Poet with Birds 1911
 - * Brancusi, Golden Bird, 20th C
- * Russian artists:
 - * Italian Town by the Sea c. 1917 Alexandra Exter
 - * The Clockmaker c. 1914 Ivan Vasilievich Kliun
 - * Study for Improvisation V 1910 Wassily Kandinsky