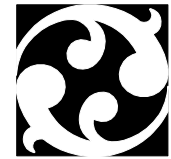




# CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



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## ***MIRACLE AT PHILADELPHIA*** by Catherine Drinker Bowen

This is the story of the formation of our constitutional government. Catherine Drinker Bowen's book is a classic that tells how America's founding fathers debated, compromised and struggled to create a permanent system of republican government in a world ruled by monarchs and absolutists.

The debates are here, as well as the personalities. The story of how various elements of our governing structure were arrived at is fascinating as well as illuminating to any serious student of the American system. Important debates regarding the nature of the presidency, small state versus large state interests (how we got our Senate), the desirability of direct democracy versus state interests (part of how we got the Electoral College), the finessing of the slave issue -- its all here.

When you read this book you will be filled with a profound sense of pride and amazement at the story of how the "gentlemen of Philadelphia" were able to navigate such complex issues and arrive at the masterpiece that is our Constitution.

(Your Scribe's note: The above synopsis is adapted from an online reader's comments.)

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### CAMELOT'S DISCUSSION of the book

Our hostess' enthusiasm for this book was highly contagious. Ann Fitzgerald is a student of American history and loves to read anything about it. She started our discussion by describing the merits of this book and its many-talented and prolific author.

We talked about the highly secretive nature surrounding these historical meetings. Some citizens were against having a Constitution at all because they didn't want to give up states' rights. So, the men who drafted these pages worked in secrecy. They didn't have a chaplain and had no money with which to pay one.

We were impressed by the youthful ages of these men in their twenties, thirties and forties, who showed such wisdom in drafting this artful and enduring document.



NEXT MEETING

**When?** Friday, February 19, 2010, 1:30p.m.  
**Where?** At Ann Seher's house  
**Why?** To have fun, and to listen to each member review a book of her own selection.

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**MEETING NOTES**

It was a delightful time together, hosted by Ann Fitzgerald, our gracious hostess. We sighed together over the bad news – burst water pipes in the recent freeze, lay-offs in Bo Pilgrim's company, friends with health problems. We were warned about protecting our purses when shopping; thieves have been known to snatch a purse in Wal-mart's parking lot, and even in Winnsboro. We heard some funny stories about early life in El Dorado. We decided to salute the good news and forget the bad.

Ann served a wonderful cheesecake with berries, and coffee with whipped cream. A great and enjoyable afternoon once again!

**Quote of the Day**

**No legacy is so rich as honesty.**

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**BOOKS WE READ IN 2009**

January	Reader's Choice	
February	<i>Lincoln's War</i>	Geoffrey Perret
March	<i>A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains</i>	Isabella Bird
April	<i>March</i>	Geraldine Brooks
May	<i>The Little Giant of Aberdeen County</i>	Tiffany Baker
June	<i>Three Cups of Tea</i>	Mortenson & Relin
July	Reader's Choice	
August	<i>The Big Rich</i>	Bryan Burrough
September	<i>A Handful of Dust</i>	Evelyn Waugh
October	<i>The Help</i>	Kathryn Stockett
November	<i>South of Broad</i>	Pat Conroy
December	<i>The Untouchable</i>	John Banville

CAMELOT BOOK CLUB IS GREAT

