

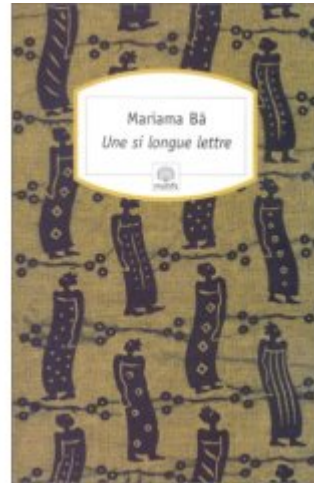
Book Club Discussions in French, German and Spanish
Saturday, March 10, 2006 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

S – 1009 French Book Club: *Une si longue lettre* by Mariama Bâ

Presenter: Bruno Wambi, University of Missouri Kansas City, MO

Room: Chicago B

Une si longue lettre by Mariama Bâ is a sequence of reminiscences, some wistful, some bitter, recounted by Senegalese school teacher Ramatoulaye, who has recently been widowed. The letter, addressed to her old friend Aissatou, is a record of her emotional struggle for survival after her husband's abrupt decision to take a second wife. Although authorized by Islam, his action is a calculated betrayal of her trust and a brutal rejection of their life together. The novel is a perceptive testimony to the plight of those articulate women who live in social milieux dominated by attitudes and values that deny them their proper place.



ISBN: 2-84261-289-2, available through www.borders.com, www.barnes&noble.com, www.continentalbook.com for approximately \$14.

S – 1013 German Book Club: *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee* beschreibt Thomas Brussig

Presenter: Patricia Syring, Fort Dodge Senior High School, Fort Dodge, IA; Gerald Syring, Retired, Sac City, Iowa

Room: Northrup

In seinem Roman *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee* beschreibt Thomas Brussig auf humorvolle und satirische Art Menschen, die durch das politische und gesellschaftliche System der DDR geprägt wurden. Menschen in Ost und West des nun fast 16 Jahre vereinigten Deutschlands sind sich immer noch fremd. Brussig vermittelt Aufklärung, ohne erhobenen Zeigefinger. Das Buch wurde verfilmt und ist auch als Hörbuch erhältlich. Außerdem gibt es Lernmaterialien dazu. Wir freuen uns auf das Gespräch mit Kollegen.



S - 1006 Spanish Book Club: *Chac Mool* by Carlos Fuentes

Presenter: Ginette Baillargeon, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO

Room: Chicago A

The journal of a drowned bureaucrat reveals his adventures with a stone *Chac Mool* in this story of supernatural events. Join the discussion and help unravel mysteries! Participants can find the complete text, which is included in the AP reading list, at

<http://www.geocities.com/apspanishlit/fuentes.html?200618>,

[http://www.ciudadseva.com/textos/cuentos/esp/fuentes/chac.](http://www.ciudadseva.com/textos/cuentos/esp/fuentes/chac.htm)

[htm](http://www.ciudadseva.com/textos/cuentos/esp/fuentes/chac.htm), or through Google. The discussion will be better if everyone has read the story, but all are welcome.

