

THE 2006 AATF BOOK CLUB

Welcome to the second year of the AATF Book Club! The theme for 2006 is Literature and Film in anticipation of the 2006 Conference (Milwaukee, July 5-8) and the special issue of the *French Review* on Francophone cinema. A book list is provided here to allow interested members to read the texts and view films in advance.

Michèle's List:

- (1) Texte: "Une Partie de campagne" (Guy de Maupassant); Film: *Partie de campagne* (Jean Renoir)

Renoir's adaptation of Maupassant's short story is a rich and concise way to explore the process of adaptation and the differences between literary and cinematic language. Any edition of the *nouvelle* is appropriate. A recommended edition for colleagues interested in in-depth comparison of the story and Renoir's adaptation is *Maupassant/Renoir, Une Partie de campagne* (Ellipses Marketing, 1995), ISBN: 272984533X. Renoir's film is available in VHS (NTSC); a new Zone 2 DVD of the film will be released in September 2005.

- (2) Texte: *Le Gône du Chaâba* (Azouz Begag); Film: *Le Gône du Chaâba* (Christophe Ruggia)

This autobiographical coming-of-age novel/film tells the story of a group of Algerian immigrants in France in the 1960's from the point of view of nine-year-old Omar. The author, currently *Ministre délégué à la Promotion de l'égalité des chances* will be in Milwaukee to talk about his novel and its adaptation. The novel will serve as a springboard to discuss *le cinéma de l'immigration*.

- (3) Texte: *Une si longue lettre* (Mariama Bâ); Films: *Xala* and *Faat Kiné* (Ousmane Sembène), *Tableau Ferraille* (Moussa Sene Absa)

This well-known novel is in the form of a long letter written by a widow, Ramatoulaye, to her friend, over the mandatory forty-day mourning period following the death of her husband. Ramatoulaye examines her life and that of other women of Senegal, focusing on the cultural restrictions placed upon them and the issue of polygamy. The novel will serve as a springboard to discuss Senegalese society and women's issues in the films. Many AATF members are already familiar with *Une si longue lettre*; it is more readily available than the other works listed below which are out of print, difficult to find, or very expensive but which may be available at your local library or through Interlibrary Loan.

Ka, Aminata Maïga. *La Voie du salut et Le Miroir de la vie*. Présence africaine, 2000. ISBN: 2708704613

Sembène, Ousmane. *Xala*. Société

Nouvelle Présence Africaine, 2000. ISBN: 270870589X

Warner-Vieyra, Myriam. *Juletane*. Présence africaine, 2003. ISBN: 2708707256

Gaasch, James. *La Nouvelle sénégalaise*. XAMAL, 2000. ISBN: 2844020216

All three books (including the Ellipses edition of *Une Partie de campagne*) can be ordered from French & European Publications, Inc./*Librairie de France*. E-mail: [ivresny@aol.com]; Telephone: (212) 581-8810; Fax: (212) 265-1094. Contact: Emanuel Molho. You will receive a 20% discount if you mention that you are a member of the AATF when ordering.

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Note: Michèle Bissière is Associate Professor of French at UNC-Charlotte, where she has taught since 1990. Her Ph.D. and early publications were on eighteenth-century women writers. She is now focusing her teaching and professional activities on film. She is currently co-editing a special volume of *Women In French Studies* entitled *Teaching French and Francophone Literature and Culture Through Film* (with Catherine Montfort, of Santa Clara University). She is also working on an intermediate French textbook based on feature films.