



MSUM Library

honors the 2009 promotion of

Dr. Cecilia Mafla-Bustamante

Languages

Márai, Sándor. *Embers*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001

Professor Mafla-Bustamante chose this book because:

I once asked a well-known Ecuadorian writer what his favorite novel was, and he answered, *El último encuentro* (English: *Embers*) by the Hungarian writer Sándor Márai. I confess I had never heard of this novel or the writer. I tried to find it in Spanish in book stores and could not find it. In the summer of 2008, I found it in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I loved it! It's a pity that this great novel is unknown to many modern readers. The MSUM Library did not have this book, so I had to borrow it through interlibrary loan. This insightful novel depicts the relationship of two close friends who love the same woman, their separation, and their last encounter, after 41 years. Through the story, the author questions love, friendship, loyalty, betrayal, pride, hatred, and forgiveness or lack of it.

Embers was originally published in 1942 in Budapest. Sándor Márai lived in exile in Italy and in the United States. He committed suicide in San Diego at the age of 89.

I think this novel will be a wonderful addition to our library!

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