



Clarke Historical Library E-Newsletter

April 2014
(Best viewed on-line)

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Featured Item From Our Exhibit



Our new exhibit, *I used this because... the riches of the Clarke*, is up and running and is proving to be very popular. One of the special objects featured in the exhibit is a nineteenth-century Thai manuscript. It is an unusual piece that we are highlighting because of its physical nature -- palm leaf pages that are bound in an accordion style with bold illustrations (some gilt) and Cambodian Mul Script in the Thai language. Possibly even more interesting is the content

of the text; it is a Phra Malai, which tells the story of a Buddhist Monk who traveled between Buddhist heaven and hell and then recounted his story for the entire world to know. The accompanying illustrations depict an enlightened and beautiful world contrasted with the horrors faced by those destined to hell. This and many other treasures will be available for your viewing through August!

Michigan Digital Newspaper Grant Program



The Clarke Historical Library is sponsoring a grant to help a community in Michigan digitize a part of their historical newspapers. Now, we need your help to choose the winner. The five finalists are Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Marquette, Lansing, and Cheboygan, and the public has a chance to vote for the newspaper that will receive the grant. You can vote at digmichnews.wufoo.com. The winner of the grant will have their newspaper digitized and

loaded into the Clarke Historical Library's [Michigan Digital Newspaper Portal](#).

To read the entry statements of the five finalists and to find more information about following the Michigan Digital Newspaper Grant Program on Facebook and Twitter, check out the [Clarke blog](#).

This grant is made possible by the Robert and Susan Clarke Endowment.

Upcoming Speakers

On April 14th, CMU Alumni Association Director Marcie Otteman, *Centralight* editor Cynthia Drake, and Clarke Reference Assistant Bryan Whitledge will come together to talk about "Gentle Friday" at CMU. The tradition came about to help relieve tensions on campus and continues to serve as a reminder unique to CMU about how all of us benefit from a culture built on the concepts of civility, good will, and a free ice cream cone.

This presentation will take place at 7:00 pm in the Park Library Auditorium and is free and open to the public. A reception, co-sponsored by the CMU Alumni Association, will follow the presentation in the Clarke.

Past Speakers

In the month of March, we had two speaker presentations. [On March 5, Don Faber, author of *The Boy Governor: Stevens T. Mason and the Birth of Michigan Politics*](#), shared the history of the remarkable individual who was extraordinarily successful as a young man. Don Faber's presentation offered insight into early Michigan history, a fascinating life, and the not-particularly-eternal rest granted to Stevens T. Mason.

[On March 17, William Rapai, author of *The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It*](#), presented a moving tribute to the men and women who saved Kirtland's Warbler from extinction. His book provides an in-depth account of a community that came to embrace the project despite initial tragedy associated with it. The story Bill Rapai shared was quite a tale. It is a story that perhaps we all can learn from – that dedicated volunteers, scientists, public officials, and a community as a whole can work together to create change for the better.

Recent News Posted on the Clarke Blog



Several new posts have been added to our [News and Notes](#) blog. John Fierst wrote an intriguing article about [Theodore Roosevelt's trial](#) in which the former President sued the publisher of an Ishpeming newspaper for libel spread by the paper when it reported that he was a drunkard. We also highlighted the history of the [Clare Irish Festival](#), whose entire history is chronicled in the digital *Clare Sentinel*. And Marian Matyn chronicled her dig into history to learn more about a group of young Native American men entering the service to fight in [World War I](#).

April 26, Last Day for Saturday Hours

The spring semester at Central Michigan University will be coming to a close soon. After April 26, the Clarke will no longer be open on Saturdays. We will resume Saturday hours in early September, when the fall semester is under way.

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