Library Celebrates French Michigan with Major Acquisition

On April 1, the Library opened its newest exhibit, “When France Claimed Michigan, 1608-1763.” The exhibit highlights the first Europeans to visit and settle in Michigan and features the Library’s extensive collection of materials created during the existence of “New France” (the territory of New France extended from Newfoundland to the Rocky Mountains and from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico), as well as the substantial body of literature that discusses this period of North American history.

A key display in this exhibit is the Library’s major new acquisition from the period of French dominance in the Great Lakes, Louis-Armand de Lom d’Arce, Baron de Lahontan’s New Voyages to North-America, which was published in London in 1703. Lahontan’s book is a biographical account of his travels and adventures in America, and it is one of the few published firsthand accounts of life in and around the Great Lakes in the latter years of the seventeenth century. Lahontan spent nearly a decade in New France, from 1683 to 1692, a substantial portion of which was spent on the Great Lakes and in Michigan. His account gives a fascinating, if sometimes controversial, view of the period.

Louis-Armand de Lahontan did not have an easy life. He was born on June 9, 1666, the only son of an elderly French nobleman. Lahontan’s father was a distinguished and well-regarded civil engineer who in his most productive years had completed several major projects and had been favored by the Crown with gifts and a substantial income. Louis-Armand, however, was born when his father was already seventy-two. At that time, he was experiencing substantial financial difficulties. Eight years later, Lahontan’s father died. His young son inherited a greatly diminished estate and an ongoing legal battle that eventually left him with nothing more than his title. However, before Lahontan’s finances were completely exhausted by the courts, he left France seeking adventure, even though he was not yet eighteen. In 1683 he was among three companies of French soldiers (about four hundred men) sent to New France. Although Lahontan’s exact rank is uncertain, the soldiers’ mission was clear: they were

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to help the colonial militias suppress the troublesome Iroquois Indians.

Lahontan quickly fell in love with the New World. He found the housing and standard of living offered by New France quite favorable when compared to that of the Old Country. He seems to have learned Indian languages quickly and greatly enjoyed hunting and fishing with both French and Indian companions. In 1684 the French Marines marched on the Iroquois, but the campaign went badly. Matters were eventually settled by a treaty more favorable to the Iroquois than to the French. The young Lahontan was part of this military campaign and was a careful observer of events. His transcriptions of the speeches made by the leader of the French expedition and the Iroquois representatives are considered among the best examples of early Indian oratory and diplomacy.

In September 1685 Lahontan was ordered to help garrison a distant post named Fort Chambly. (Fort Chambly, which was reconstructed to appear as it did in 1711, is now a Canadian national historic site.) This fort, which was on the Iroquois River (now the Richelieu River) at the Chambly Falls, guarded what was considered to be a likely Indian invasion route up Lake Champlain and then onward via the Iroquois River into the heart of New France. Although the eighteen months he spent at Fort Chambly might have bored many men, Lahontan found it much to his liking. At one point he disappeared on a midwinter elk-hunting adventure that lasted three months.

For all his love of sport and hunting, Lahontan seems to have nurtured an appreciation for scholarly pursuits as well. He enjoyed conversation with learned men when he could find them (usually missionaries), and he seems to have read the works of various classical Roman authors. This knowledge would serve him well when he began to write his own book.

In the spring of 1687 Lahontan took part in a second major military campaign against the Iroquois. Like its predecessor, this expedition was not particularly successful. Unlike the first operation, however, Lahontan found this campaign distasteful. Lahontan had been granted leave to return to Paris so that he could argue before the court to secure his inheritance. However, the governor of New France was in need of every available soldier and he revoked Lahontan's leave until the fall, which he said would be soon enough. But when the expedition against the Iroquois ended, instead of honoring his promise, the governor ordered Lahontan to take command of a small detachment of troops bound for the "upper lakes" and Fort St. Joseph. This fort, located near what is today Port Huron, Michigan, was meant to stop Iroquois warriors from advancing into Lake Huron. Lahontan's now extensive Native language skills made him the logical, although very unhappy, commander for this campaign.

The winter of 1687-1688 was a difficult one at Fort St. Joseph. Lahontan wryly noted that when a Jesuit arrived to serve as chaplain he "found no occasion to trouble himself with preaching Abstinence from Meat in the time of Lent." Unlike his stay at Fort Chambly, and perhaps because of the circumstances surrounding his aborted trip to Paris, Lahontan found this outpost boring. He spent considerable time away from his command, allegedly seeking additional supplies for the fort by hunting and fishing. When these local forays were insufficient for his men's needs, Lahontan left in midwinter to make a trip to Mackinac, where he was supposed to obtain provisions. He did so, although his men might well have been chagrined when their commander, with the promised supplies, did not reappear until July 1688. Despite his long absence, Lahontan did not find it necessary to remain at the fort long, and once again he disappeared into the wilderness.

When he returned in late August 1688, he decided to abandon Fort St. Joseph. The on-again, off-again war with the Iroquois was going badly. In spite of all his travels, Lahontan had managed to procure only two months worth of supplies for his men. He decided that the fort was indefensible and that they could not survive the winter. On August 27 Lahontan and his men burned the fort and then set out for Mackinac. When he and his troops arrived there, orders awaited them, but these were agreeable ones
as they commanded Lahontan and his men to return to Montreal, if it was not already too late in the season. By then the fur convoys had left Mackinac for Montreal, so Lahontan decided to wait until spring.

Lahontan’s actions during the winter of 1688-1689 eventually caused a great debate. In his book *New Voyages*, Lahontan claims he went exploring. What is certain is that Lahontan left Mackinac on September 18, 1688, and returned on May 22, 1689. Lahontan would later assert that during this trip he discovered what he called the “Long River.” *New Voyages* includes a detailed map of this alleged river. Lahontan also says that he found three unknown Indian tribes, the Ekokoros, the Espanapes, and the Gnacsitares, living along this river. From these tribes he learned of two even more remote groups, the Moseemlek and Tahuglauk. Lahontan’s claims, however, were disputed. His critics noted that no subsequent explorers ever found the Long River. Even more telling is the fact that later explorers failed to encounter the tribes Lahontan claimed to have discovered. Critics suggest Lahontan spent the winter of 1688-1689 as he had past winters—idling away his time hunting and fishing, this time with members of the Fox tribe in Wisconsin. Lahontan’s tales of exploration, they contend, were a fiction he created to help sell the book he would later write.

Wherever Lahontan spent that winter, on July 9, 1689, he finally returned to Montreal. There he again planned to leave for France to settle his estate and there, once again, the governor of New France (who was now Louis de Frontenac) found him too valuable to allow him to leave. This blow was softened, however, when Lahontan became a close advisor to Frontenac and part of his administration. Finally the governor relented. He made Lahontan his official ambassador to the French court and sent him to Paris to tell the king the glad news that an English invasion of New France via the St. Lawrence River had been frustrated. Lahontan was rewarded for being the bearer of such joyful news. He was made a captain and then a knight. These honors proved empty, however, as Lahontan’s petition to restore his estate was quickly dismissed. He was also soon informed that he had to return to America, but it appears that Lahontan was ready to leave France. Convinced that he would never be able to regain his estate, Lahontan seems to have been eager to leave behind him the bitter memories of his ill-treatment by the courts in Paris.

Lahontan was again welcomed by Frontenac and was granted a place of honor, if not financial reward, in the governor’s administration. Lahontan happily spent the winter of 1691-1692 in Quebec. During that time, drawing on his extensive experience in the Great Lakes area, he developed a plan to defend the region from the Iroquois. Governor Frontenac found great merit in Lahontan’s proposal, and in the summer of 1692 he ordered Lahontan back to Paris to urge its adoption. But before Lahontan could begin his journey across the Atlantic, he was dragged into the desperate defense of Plaisance (today Placentia), Newfoundland.

Plaisance had been used by the French for more than a century as a seasonal fishing station. A permanent colony had been founded in 1662. When Lahontan arrived there in the fall, as was customary, a French frigate was in Plaisance’s harbor awaiting the return of the fishing boats from the Grand Banks. The warship would protect the small fishing vessels when they sailed in a convoy back to France. Lahontan was on board this ship when fishermen related the news that five British frigates were sailing up Plaisance Bay, intent on capturing Plaisance. Lahontan helped rally the outnumbered and outgunned French, who won a surprising victory. Shortly after the battle, Lahontan found himself bound for France bearing not only the plan to defend the Great Lakes that Governor Frontenac had blessed but also the excellent news that Plaisance had successfully repelled a British attack.

*LX. Solanum à trois feuilles du Canada.*

Charlevoix, *Histori.*
Once more the bearer of glad tidings, Lahontan was again rewarded for bringing good news. This time he was given the command of a company of one hundred men and the title “Lieutenant of the King for Newfoundland and Acadia.” This meant that he was second in command of the colony and subject only to Newfoundland’s colonial governor, Sieur de Brouillon, but Lahontan felt that these were hollow honors. His military plan received little attention. The king was not interested in spending money to defend a remote western wilderness.

Lahontan’s welcome was a cool one when he arrived in Plaisance with his men in the fall of 1692. Governor de Brouillon planned to use his position as colonial governor to advance the fortunes of both himself and his family. He saw no advantage in having a second in command unless it was one of his relations. Soon a public feud broke out between the two men. Lahontan made matters worse when he wrote lampoons of his superior. His conduct bordered on the foolhardy when he allowed his handiwork to make its way into the local pubs. The lampoons, which were soon set to music, infuriated the governor. In the end, de Brouillon and a group of men broke into Lahontan’s house, destroying almost everything Lahontan fled to France, which turned out to be a serious error. De Brouillon, who had already complained to the French king about Lahontan, now maintained that his insolent second in command had deserted his post.

When he abandoned Fort St. Joseph, Lahontan escaped punishment. This time, however, he found himself in serious trouble. De Brouillon’s version of events had been accepted in Paris, and although no charges were filed against him Lahontan dared not even enter France. He began what was essentially a self-imposed exile. Eventually, Lahontan convinced the French ambassador to Denmark that de Brouillon’s stories were untrue. Bearing letters from the ambassador on his behalf, Lahontan returned to Paris in 1695 to seek a pardon. The king, who twice before had granted favors to Lahontan when he had brought good news to the court, was not inclined to be forgiving this time. Lahontan fled France one step ahead of an arrest warrant. He would live the rest of his life in exile.

Virtually penniless, Lahontan hit on the idea of publishing a book about his experiences in the New World. Europeans were hungry for information about that exotic place, and Lahontan, with his years of experience there and his writing skills, was well-positioned to assuage that craving. Lahontan’s book first appeared in 1703. Although it was written in French, the book was printed in Holland as no French publisher would dare risk the king’s wrath by publishing it. Even before the French version appeared, Lahontan must have been hard at work preparing an expanded English edition because this edition also appeared in 1703. In many ways the English edition was superior to the French version because it expanded on the earlier text. Lahontan appears to have died in Germany in 1715, although the exact date of his death is unknown, as are so many things about his complicated life.

The Clarke Library is pleased and grateful to add an English first edition of Lahontan’s New Voyages to North-America to its collection of material about the French period in Michigan.

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**Speakers in the Library**

This spring the Clarke Library will sponsor talks by four authors in the Park Library. Three of these speakers will appear in conjunction with the Library’s exhibit, “When France Claimed Michigan, 1608-1763,” while the fourth will visit the library as part of the Michigan Notable Book program.

- **April 9: Tim Kent**, “A Voyager’s Life.” Tim Kent, a well-known reenactor, will speak in costume about the life of a typical French trader living in Michigan in 1700. This presentation will also formally open our exhibit “When France Claimed Michigan, 1608-1763.”
- **April 23: Steve Brisson**, “The French at Mackinac.” Steve Brisson, chief curator for the Mackinac State Historic Parks, will discuss the French presence in the Straits region from approximately 1671 to 1763.
- **May 12: Susan Sleeper-Smith**, author of *Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes*, will discuss her research. Professor Sleeper-Smith is a faculty member at Michigan State University.

All presentations will be in the Park Library building at 7:00 p.m.
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Staff Changes

Although we are sad to announce the retirement of two longtime staff members, we are also pleased to introduce three new employees who will help advance the Library's work.

Irina Ionin retired in September 2007. Ms. Ionin served the Clarke Library for more than a decade as the Library's catalog database specialist. She was responsible for much of the cataloging that describes the Library's printed collection. Her diligence and hard work were admired by all, and her labor benefits everyone who makes use of the online descriptions of our holdings found in the catalog. She is greatly missed.

Barbara Kirchner has also retired. Ms. Kirchner, who served the University for thirty years in various Library positions, spent the last years of her CMU career in the Clarke as our microform services specialist. She implemented the recently completed National Endowment for the Humanities microfilming grant, and she was extraordinarily efficient and productive in fulfilling that task. The 740,472 pages of filming Ms. Kirchner oversaw represented 163,843 more pages filmed (approximately 28 percent) than the 576,629 pages that the grant proposal estimated would be preserved. We miss Ms. Kirchner as well. A large number of newspaper users will benefit from her industry.

Tanya Fox has been hired to replace Ms. Ionin as the Library's catalog database specialist. Ms. Fox previously held a half-time reference-specialist position in the Clarke. Ms. Fox has worked in school media libraries for many years and has gained considerable experience working with the Clarke's collections through her service on the reference desk.

Samantha Minnis has taken Ms. Fox's position at the reference desk. Ms. Minnis has an undergraduate degree from CMU in anthropology. She has worked at the Chippewa River District Library (the public library in Mount Pleasant).

Finally, Kimberly Hagerty has replaced Ms. Kirchner as the Library's microform services specialist. Ms. Hagerty has worked with various types of microfilm at the Dow Chemical Company in Midland.
In 2007 Michigan celebrated the 50th anniversary of one of the state's most well-known structures: the Mackinac Bridge. First opened to traffic on November 1, 1957, the "Mighty Mac" is as much a part of the state's image today as tulips in Holland, Henry Ford’s first Model T, or cherries in Traverse City. However, the Clarke Library’s recent exhibit, “The Mackinac Bridge: A Political History,” focused on a different theme. It examined the political history underlying the bridge’s creation and reminded visitors that for many years building a bridge over the Straits of Mackinac was a controversial idea, passionately supported by some but bitterly opposed by others.

For much of the 1930s state-government leaders discussed building a bridge at the Straits and were diligent in their efforts to accomplish this goal—engineers were hired, plans were drawn, and federal funds were sought. But federal dollars proved to be unobtainable, and the United States’ entry into World War II in 1941 meant that “for the duration” it would be impossible to obtain the necessary steel to build a bridge. In 1947 concerns about the technical feasibility of this venture and its high cost led the state legislature to officially abandon the project.

Although the push to build a bridge was dead in Lansing, it was not dead in Mackinaw City. W. Stewart Woodfill, the general manager of Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel, formed the Mackinac Bridge Citizens Committee in 1949 to lobby for a bridge. The committee worked in conjunction with G. Mennen Williams, Michigan’s newly elected Democratic governor, who also supported building a bridge. The main difference between Woodfill’s committee and the supporters of the project the governor gathered together was party affiliation. Woodfill recruited Republicans who were willing to lobby the Republican majority in the legislature on behalf of a bridge. Williams supplied votes from among the legislature’s Democratic minority. Working together, these legislators passed Public Act 21 of 1950, which created a Mackinac Bridge Authority empowered to study the feasibility of building a bridge at the Straits of Mackinac.

The Mackinac Bridge Authority worked hard and made considerable progress. In September 1952 the Authority asked the legislature for a $2 million loan to pay engineers to design a bridge. The proposed legislation to provide this loan failed. The reason it failed was straightforward—leading officials were convinced that the bridge would require a permanent state subsidy, which they steadfastly opposed. One of the bridge proposal’s most outspoken critics was State Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziegler. Although Ziegler argued publicly that he did not oppose constructing a bridge at Mackinac, stating that “I have always supported the best possible connection [between Michigan’s peninsulas], whether it be by bridge, tunnel or ferries,” Ziegler consistently argued that a bridge would be too expensive to pay for itself through tolls alone. Ziegler estimated that the annual bridge bond payments, plus the yearly operating costs, would be $4.7 million. In 1950, annual automobile-ferry revenues at the Straits of Mackinac were approximately $1.1 million. Ziegler concluded that even if (as was proposed) the bridge toll was set 25 percent higher than the ferry toll, a bridge at the Straits of Mackinac would require an annual state subsidy of several million dollars.

Instead of the $2 million loan the Mackinac Bridge Authority had requested, the legislature adopted Public Act 214 of 1952, which
authorized the Authority to sell revenue bonds to pay for all of the expenses related to the bridge project. Tolls collected from bridge users would be used to repay these bonds. No money would be taken from the state's general-revenue fund. The legislature had given the Mackinac Bridge Authority permission to build a bridge, but only if it could find someone other than the state's taxpayers to pay for it.

On March 18, 1953, 225 financial representatives assembled in New York City to hear a delegation led by Governor Williams offer $96 million in bonds to finance the Mackinac Bridge. The meeting was decidedly awkward. The governor attempted to sidestep questions regarding why the state legislature refused to help finance the project. Unfortunately, Wall Street financiers knew only too well that back in Michigan the state highway commissioner and several other leading officials had questioned the project's financial viability. With the bridge's finances uncertain, two-thirds of the bonds went unsubscribed. Many potential purchasers remarked that they were unwilling to invest in a public-works project that the state of Michigan would not support financially. If it was too risky for Michigan's taxpayers, it was too risky for them.

To answer this criticism, a bill was introduced in the legislature to appropriate $417,000 annually for a bridge—if the bonds were sold by December 31, 1953. This amount was equal to the state's subsidy for ferry service at the Straits, and supporters of the legislation argued that this was not a "new" expense but rather a redirection of existing funds already being spent to move automobiles across the Straits. It was a clever argument that proved totally unconvincing. The bill went nowhere. However, when Republican leaders in the legislature desperately needed votes to pass a proposed tax bill that was the centerpiece of their agenda, Representative Emil Peitz of Rogers City proposed a deal. He would supply the votes needed to pass the tax bill—but only if the bridge appropriation bill was passed first. The pact was made, handshakes exchanged, and the Mackinac Bridge was guaranteed on paper $417,000 in annual support from the state—if the bonds could be sold by the end of the year.

With this subsidy in hand, and after much discussion and delay caused by concerns over the best way forward, the Mackinac Bridge Authority planned to offer its bonds for sale again in late December 1953. A few days before the event, Senator Haskell Nichols from Jackson County, in a last-ditch effort to stop the bridge, petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court to prohibit the bond sale until a hearing could take place. Nichols knew it was unlikely that his petition would be granted, but being a smart politician he also knew that a hearing on his request could not be scheduled until after the December 31 legislative deadline had passed. Thus, an order to stop the bond sale would effectively kill the bridge regardless of the court's ruling on the merits of the senator's petition.

After hearing a story on the radio about Nichols's petition, Prentiss Brown, a former U.S. Senator and the chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, immediately drove from St. Ignace to Lansing, entered the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court, and asked for a "brief meeting" with the justices that afternoon. Such a request was highly unusual, but the justices agreed to meet with Brown. At the meeting Brown pointed out that although the bonds would technically be sold in December, because of the paperwork involved, money from the sale would not actually change hands until February 1954. Thus, the court could allow the sale to occur, hear
Nichols's case in January, and, if the justices found in Nichols's favor, effectively ban the transaction before any money actually changed hands. The justices scheduled a hearing for Nichols's petition, but they agreed to allow the sale to proceed. The bond sale was successful. The court heard arguments regarding Nichols's petition in January 1954, but the justices denied it in a unanimous vote.

Prentiss Brown's visit to the Supreme Court climaxed a thirty-year effort on his part to build a bridge across the Straits of Mackinac. Born in St. Ignace, Brown credited this resolve to a crossing he made between Michigan's two peninsulas in the winter of 1919-1920. Brown had to get across the Straits to catch a train at Mackinaw City, but the ferryboats were stuck in the ice. He and another hardy traveler, who also had important business on the other side of the Straits, hired a horse and a cutter. They started across the ice. When they ran into ice hummocks ten-feet high they sent the cutter back to St. Ignace and proceeded on foot. The two men ran into a large expanse of open water and had to circle it. The wind picked up and became a small gale. By the time they finally arrived in Mackinaw City, Brown had missed his train. He recalled this trip in 1954: "That bitter hike across the Straits made a lasting impression on me—for the need of a bridge across the Straits."

With Brown's help the bonds were sold and the court challenge beaten back. The Mackinac Bridge Authority was at last able to begin construction of the Mighty Mac. The project was immense: 350 engineers prepared 4,000 drawings and 85,000 blueprints that guided 3,500 onsite construction workers and 7,500 employees at other sites. The workers used 931,000 tons of concrete, 11,840 tons of cable wire, 4,851,700 steel rivets, and 1,016,000 steel bolts, all of which made it possible, beginning on November 1, 1957, for a car to drive 26,372 feet over the Straits of Mackinac. It was an immense undertaking, but the political struggle that preceded this engineering feat was equally grueling.

Reflecting on the whole process, Clarke Library Director Frank Boles noted, "Perhaps the most important thing documented through the exhibit is that despite all the failings people often associate with state government, controversial public-policy decisions can be made. It is not a question of a single, charismatic leader, 'showing us the way,' but rather it is a question of ordinary people, in and out of state government, doggedly working to accomplish very difficult objectives. In a wonderful way the political history of the Mackinac Bridge, for all its odd turns, is a shining example of how state government often works, and works successfully."

Board of Governors
The membership of the Clarke Historical Library's Board of Governors has changed recently. After eight years of service, Senator Robert P. Griffin has chosen to resign. We will miss his advice and wise counsel, but we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Sadly, longtime Board member Robert M. Warner died in April 2007. Dr. Warner served in many positions at the University of Michigan and also in Washington, D.C., as the Archivist of the United States. He was always a source of useful information, and frequently he could be counted on to tell a good story as well. Dr. Warner will be greatly missed.

Susan Clarke and Michael Federspiel have joined the Board to fill these two vacancies. Susan Clarke (no relation to the Library's founder), of Harbor Springs, has long had an interest in historical subjects, and we are delighted that she is bringing her expertise and experience to the Board. Michael Federspiel, who lives in Midland, has been a great friend of the Clarke. He has been particularly helpful in planning our Hemingway-related activities. Mike claims to be the first Board member who has also worked as a student assistant in the Clarke.
A Final Word

It has been some time since we have had the opportunity to share news of the Library with our friends. Although I regret that we have been less-than-regular correspondents, I am happy to say that the reason for this shortcoming is because we have been so busy. In the spring of 2007 the Library was given a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Michigan Humanities Council and play a major role in the council's first "Great Michigan Read" program. The council had selected *The Nick Adams Stories* by Ernest Hemingway as the book around which it would focus the program. Over many years of effort the Clarke Library has assembled the largest collection of Hemingway material in the state. The council and the Clarke obviously had overlapping interests.

But as it turned out, we had even more in common. The Clarke Library, the Michigan Hemingway Society, and the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey had collectively agreed to develop and mount an exhibit about Ernest Hemingway at the center in the summer of 2007. Planning for the exhibit was well under way, and clearly such a show would complement the Great Michigan Read Program.

After discussing the matter, Mike Federspiel, the president of the Michigan Hemingway Society, and I put together a package of seven ideas that linked the society, the Clarke, and the forthcoming exhibit to the council's program and then sought its support. We assumed we would never get all seven ideas funded, but it was a nice package and with a bit of luck perhaps two or three of our concepts might become realities. In February we spoke to Jan Fedewa, the council's Executive Director, and made our pitch. When we finished our presentation, we were in shock. All seven of our ideas had been approved "in concept." Never in our wildest dreams had we planned to do them all, particularly because of the late July deadline the council had set for using our Petoskey exhibit as the backdrop to formally announce the Great Michigan Read program's first book selection. It was a good example of the old advice about being careful about what you wish for because you just might get it.

In roughly four months, we needed to expand and modify the exhibit at the Crooked Tree Arts Center, make part of the exhibit a touring show that would travel to venues around the state, develop two printed publications, and work with WCMU television to create a thirty-minute documentary. It was a huge effort that involved in one way or another almost everyone working in the Clarke as well as various friends, whose assistance was essential. At times it was not clear if we would be able to meet the deadline.

In the end everything did come together on the evening of July 27, 2007, but we did not have any time to spare. Sarah Adams of WCMU, who produced the video, drove to Petoskey the morning of July 27 with the only copy of the show, which she had finished editing only a few hours before she left Mount Pleasant. The exhibit catalogs, with the ink still somewhat damp, traveled to Petoskey that afternoon with Brian Palmer, the Library's Director of Development and Community Outreach. He had to wait until the last possible second to pick up the catalogs at CMU's Printing Services because a catastrophic mechanical problem with the press had played havoc with the printing schedule. By the time Brian finally contacted me with the news that he had arrived with "the goods," a bad cell-phone connection added to the suspense about where he was, what he was actually bringing, and when (if ever) he would arrive. However, we still had at least two hours before the opening event. No worries (except for the ulcer I was fast developing!)

It turned out to be a very pleasant evening, in no small part because Liz Ahrens and the staff of the Crooked Tree Arts Center did a wonderful job hosting the opening reception. In addition, the Michigan Hemingway Society, which had served as a consultant for the documentary, and Sarah Adams presented a very interesting program—both on videotape and in person. Afterwards the Clarke Library created a successful fundraising event for the Library's Michigan Hemingway Endowment by building onto this exhibit. Through the kindness of Ernest H. Mainland, this event featured a rare opportunity to tour the Hemingway cottage on Walloon Lake.

It was a busy time, but I would not have missed it for the world. It is important to remember, however, that these events would not have happened without the generous support of our Friends, who made possible the acquisition of the superb Hemingway materials we were able to use in this partnership. Thanks go out to each one of you.

Frank Bleds
Friends of the Library

The CMU Friends of the Library is a membership organization that supports, through contributions and volunteer activities, the programs of the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library, and Off-Campus Library Services.

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