March 2014
(Best viewed on-line)

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I Used This Because...

Last year, 3,622 people used the Clarke Library. What brought them to walk in the door, send an email, make a phone call or, in the case of 56 individuals, actually write an old fashioned letter? "I Used This Because...", the current exhibit in the Clarke Library, asks users why they, in a world full of information resources, come to the Clarke.

In discussing the Library’s holdings, user comments naturally grouped themselves around the three major themes documented by the Library’s history, children’s literature, and CMU history. Researchers identified many things that were important to them in each area. A library, particularly a library with such a body of holdings as this one, becomes a thing of beauty in its own right, something furnished every day through new acquisitions as well as new use. I hope our many users and friends are enriched by their association with the library. The whole of the Clarke Library is indeed a beautiful creation in which pride can be taken.

Come in to the Clarke from now through June to explore some of the wonders of the Clarke.

Upcoming Speakers

The Clarke will be welcoming a few speakers to speak on some interesting topics over the next two months.

On Wednesday, March 5, Don Faber, author of The Boy Governor: Stevens T. Mason and the Birth of Michigan Politics, will speak about Michigan’s first governor, who remains the youngest person in the nation’s history to serve as a state’s governor.

On Monday, 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, will talk about the story of this intriguing bird. It is a stirring example of how strong leadership, vision, commitment, sustained effort, and cooperation can come together to protect our natural world.

And in April, on the 14th, we will bring you a look back at a CMU tradition — Gentle Friday. The discussion will be led by CMU Alumni Association Director Marcie Otteman, Editor of the Connotation Magazine, Cynthia Drake, and Clarke Reference Assistant Bryan Whitledge.

All of the presentations begin at 7:00 pm in the Park Library Auditorium and a reception in the Centralight will follow all of the events.

Saturday Hours

Due to Central Michigan University’s spring break, the Clarke will be closed on Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, March 15. We will be open our normal Monday to Friday hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) during the week of spring break March 10-14.

Recent News Posted on the Clarke Blog

Make sure you check out the new posts on the Clarke News and Notes blog. Frank Boles wrote about 5000 Farm Diversity and its importance to a Clarke audience and she recently published book about being a photographer with Multiple Sclerosis. Archivist Marian Matyn has found several historical photos here in the Clarke and she investi- gates one of these unique items - a photo of a Wild West map. John Fierst got us in the mood for Valentine’s Day with his post about 120-year-old love letters found in the Clarke. Stay tuned through the blog for interesting posts recapitulating our speakers’ presentations, introducing us to a new Clarke acquisi- tion, and reflecting on how the city of Clare has celebrated St. Patrick’s Day of the years.

Past Issues of Clarke Newsletters Saved on the Clarke Website

Previous issues of Clarke newsletters - both electronic and paper - can be found in PDF format on the Clarke website. If you missed a previous issue or you want to peruse older issues, check out this webpage.