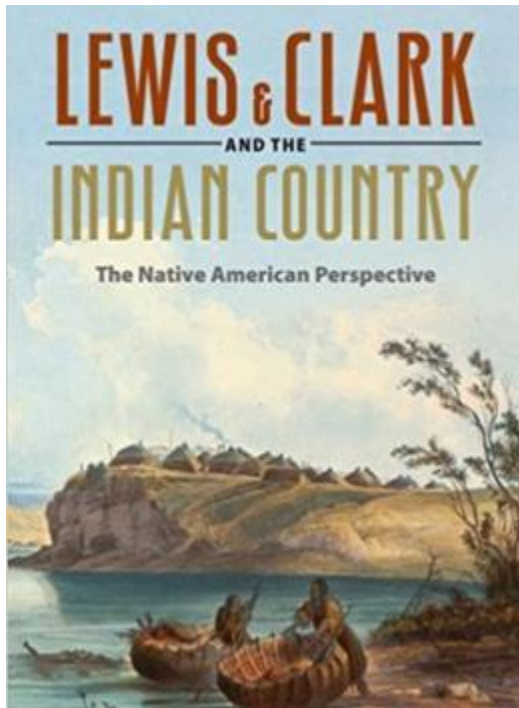


# Lewis and Clark seen from a different angle

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Saturday, January 28, 2012

*Lovejoy Library hosts traveling exhibit*



The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Elijah P. Lovejoy Library is hosting a traveling exhibition, "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country." It is on display through March 2.

The library is also hosting one of two free programs for the public in connection with the exhibition. The first one is at 3 p.m. on Jan. 29.

The exhibition tells the story of the explorers' historic 1804-1806 expedition from a different point of view - that of the Indians who lived along their route.

During the explorers' journey to the Pacific Coast and back, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their small group of voyagers crossed the traditional homelands of more than 50 Native American tribes. The exhibit examines this monumental encounter of cultures, and the past and present effects of those events on the lives of the tribes which still live in the

region.

"What often gets lost in the story is that Lewis and Clark did not explore a wilderness - they traveled through an inhabited homeland," Frederick E. Hoxie, the exhibit's curator and Swanlund Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign said. "This expedition is part of the history of the native peoples the explorers met, and the exhibit offers us an opportunity to understand an Indian perspective on our shared American past."

"We are pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," SIUE Dean of Library and Information Services Regina McBride said in an SIUE press release. "The story of the Lewis and Clark expedition is well known to most Americans, thanks in part to the recent bicentennial celebrations, but the Native American perspective on their voyage is not as well known. It is important to understand that although this great journey essentially opened American eyes to the West and encouraged national expansion, it also contributed to a dramatic change in the well-established cultures of the Indian tribes already living in the region."

"Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" draws upon original documents in the rich Native American collections of the Newberry Library, and in the collections of the Washington State Historical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society and other institutions. Photographs of handwritten documents, maps, paintings and drawings provide a colorful background for the story of the encounter.

Organized by the Newberry Library, Chicago, in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life. Additional support came from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Sara Lee Foundation is the lead corporate sponsor; Ruth C. Ruggles and the National Park Service also supported the exhibit.

The library will host two free programs for the public in connection with the exhibition: A lecture by historian Carolyn Gilman of the Missouri Historical Society at 3 p.m. on Jan. 29 and a panel discussion led by SIUE faculty Gregory Fields, Rowena McClinton and Robert Paulett, and Lewis and Clark Center Director Brad Winn, will be presented at 3 p.m. on Feb. 26. Parking for the two weekend programs is free.

Contact Library and Information Services at 650-4636, for additional information or by email at [kbouman@siue.edu](mailto:kbouman@siue.edu).