THE FERDINAND BACH COLLECTION
OF
NATIVE AMERICAN MATERIALS

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FOREWORD

The volumes in the Bach Collection represent a collecting effort spanning seventy years. My father, Ferdinand Bach (1888-1967), bought the first book in 1917, soon after his arrival in the United States from his native Switzerland.

Father, along with many Europeans, had developed a fascination for the Native Americans. As soon as he had established a home in Michigan, he left on an extended train trip through the regions of the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming. This journey west in 1917 proved a sobering experience compared to common romantic myths and legends about the Indians and the Western frontier. He had embarked upon what would prove to be a life-long quest in search of knowledge about the Native American peoples and the land in which they lived.

A major focus of this collection is on the Old Northwest Territory and the Woodland cultures of the Native Americans of that region. The skills of the Indian tribes of the Great Lakes region, living in harmony with their environment, won the admiration of my father. Inspired by their examples, Ferdinand Bach, trained as an architect and skilled as an artist, emulated their skills of woodsmanship and became an acknowledged master in birch bark canoe building. He spent several summers with the Chippewa tribe at Golden Lake, Ontario, to perfect his skills. Two of his canoes have been donated to the State of Michigan. One is preserved at the Michigan State University Museum and one is in Fort Michilimackinac at the Straits of Mackinac. He expanded his skills into boat building and decoy carving, and he is now recognized as a major decoy carver in the Detroit and Lake St. Clair tradition.

The study of the American Indian remained his enduring passion and he collected as much published material as was available. He was advised in building the collection by Chester A. Ellison of Lansing, Michigan, a dealer in rare books and a scholar of impeccable taste.

My interest in Father’s collection was assured in the 1950s when I studied anthropology at Michigan State University. From then until his death in 1967, Father and I planned and collected together.

My wife, Beverly Small Bach, and I have placed this collection of much loved volumes with Miami University to insure that the books remain accessible to future scholars. The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, King Library, already has impressive holdings of materials on Native Americans generally and the Old Northwest Territory in particular. We wished to add to that material and give the University the most complete reference resource possible.

The dedication of the staff has assured us that future generations of readers will be able, through these volumes, to learn to better understand and appreciate the Native American.

Ferdinand Bach III
Oxford, Ohio
November 23, 1988


Butterfield, Consul Willshire. *History of the Girys: Being a Concise Account of the Girty Brothers Thomas, Simon, James and George, and of Their Half-Brother, John Turner: Also of the Part Taken by Them in Lord Dunmore’s War, in the Western Border War of the Revolution, and in the Indian War of 1790-95 with a Recital of the Principal Events in the West during These Wars, Drawn from Authentic Sources, Largely Original*. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke and Co., 1890. F517 .G52


Cranz, David. *The Ancient and Modern History of the Brethren: Or a Succinct Narrative of the Protestant Church of the United Brethren, or, Unitas Fratrum, in the Remoter Ages, and Particularly, in the Present Century: Written in German by David Cranz, Author of the History of Greenland; Now Translated into English, with Emendations; and Published, with Some Additional Notes, by Benjamin La Trobe*. London: Printed by W. and A. Strahan; and Sold by J. Robson, T. Cadell, and C. Dilly, 1780. BX8565 .C713 1780


Harmon, Daniel Williams. *A Journal of Voyages and Travels in the Interior of North America, between the 47th and 58th Degrees of N. Lat., Extending from Montreal Nearly to the Pacific, a Distance of About 5000 Miles: Including an Account of the Principal Occurrences during a Residence of Nineteen Years in Different Parts of the Country.* Toronto: George N. Morang, 1904. F1060.7 .H28 1904


Hinsdale, B. A. *The Old Northwest: With a View of the Thirteen Colonies as Constituted by the Royal Charters.* NY: Townsend MacCoun, 1888. F479 .H64 1888


Laut, Agnes C. *Cadillac: Knight Errant of the Wilderness, Founder of Detroit, Governor of Louisiana from the Great Lakes to the Gulf.* Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1931. F574 .D4 C128


Martin, Edward G. *Early Detroit:* St. Mary’s Hospital, 1845-1945. Detroit: St. Mary’s Hospital, 1945. F574 .D435 M37 1945


M’Kenney, Thomas L. *Memoirs, Official and Personal: With Sketches of Travels among the Northern and Southern Indians; Embracing a War Excursion, and Descriptions of Scenes along the Western Borders.* 2 vols. in 1. NY: Paine and Burgess, 1846. E77 .M14 c.2


News from New England: Being a True and Last Account of the Present Bloody Wars Carried on Betwixt the Infidels, Natives, and the English Christians, and Converted Indians of New England, Declaring the Many Dreadful Battles Fought Betwixt Them: As Also the Many Towns and Villages Burnt by the Merciless Heathens. And Also the True Number of All the Christians Slain since the Beginning of That War; As It Was Sent over by a Factor of New England to a Merchant in London. London: Printed for J. Coniers, 1676. E83.67 .N56 1676


Perkins, James H. Annals of the West: Embracing a Concise Account of Principal Events, Which Have Occurred in the Western States and Territories, from the Discovery of the Mississippi Valley to the Year Eighteen Hundred and Fifty. 2nd ed. St. Louis: James R. Albach, 1851. F351 .P45 1851


---. The Indian in His Wigwam: Or, Characteristics of the Red Race of America. From Original Notes and Manuscripts. NY: W. H. Graham, 1848. E77 .S381 I53 1848


---. Journal of a Tour into the Interior of Missouri and Arkansaw: From Potosi, or Mine à Burton, in Missouri Territory, in a South-West Direction, toward the Rocky Mountains; Performed in the Years 1818 and 1819. London: Printed for Sir Richard Phillips, 1821. F466 .S35


**ARCTIC CULTURES**


**MISCELLANEOUS**


The Knickerbocker Gallery: A Testimonial to the Editor of the Knickerbocker Magazine from Its Contributors. Illus. NY: Samuel Hueston, 1855. PS555 .K5 1855 c.2