

Views

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
Michigan Tech University
1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931
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Friends Annual Meeting Features Tech's Jonathan E. Robins' work on "Cotton and Race Across the Atlantic"



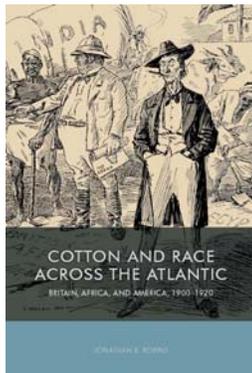
Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Friends will be Professor Jonathan E. Robins, from Michigan Tech's Department of Social Sciences.

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library will hold their 2016 Annual meeting on 20 October 2016 from 4:30-6:00pm. The meeting will be held in the East Reading Room of the Library. All members and the public are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Professor Jonathan E. Robins on his first book, *Cotton and Race across the Atlantic: Britain,*

Africa, and America 1900-1920. In 1902, British business launched an ambitious program to transform Britain's African colonies into major cotton producers, in the hopes of ending Britain's century-long reliance on the American South for raw materials. In *Cotton and Race across the Atlantic*, Professor Robins explores the complex history of this British project, which brought European industrialists, African-American scientists, and African kings together to reshape the ways in which millions of African farmers worked. Robins will present an overview of the book, and he will discuss how his work in a number of very different archives and libraries shaped his writing process.

Jonathan E. Robins is Assistant Professor of Global History in the department of Social Sciences at Michigan Tech.



Robins is a historian of commodities, examining the connections between agriculture, industry, and consumers around the globe. He has published articles and book chapters on food history, agriculture, colonialism, industrial organization, and consumerism. His first book, *Cotton and Race across the Atlantic: Britain, Africa, and America 1900-1920*, is being published in the "Africa and the African Diaspora" series of the University of Rochester Press in November 2016.

In addition to Robins' presentation, the Friends will hold Board elections. Nominated for Board membership are:

Karen Hubbard
Mary Marchaterre
Susan Martin
Faith Morrison

Nominated for officer positions are:

Amy Hughes, Chairman
Susan Martin, Vice Chairman
Kelly Luck, Treasurer
Mary Marchaterre, Secretary

Nominations for board membership and for officer positions will also be accepted from the floor; there are positions open on the Board for interested volunteers. Please contact a Board member to find out more about joining the Friends Board.

Michigan Tech Archives Travel Grant Recipients for 2016-17

Steven A. Walton, FMTL Board Member

Each year the FMTL sets aside a sum of money to assist scholars in travelling to the Michigan Tech Archives to use our collections, which are rich on the history of the Copper Country, mining history, and Michigan Tech. A committee of three—this year Larry Lankton, Susan Martin, and Steven Walton—meets in coordination with Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist, to consider the various applications, the relevance of the Archives' holdings to the proposed research projects, and the comparative need of the researchers. Each

year a fascinating mix of proposals passes before the committee, and this year we are pleased to have been able to fund three researchers' visits to Michigan Tech.

The committee received nearly a dozen proposals for travel support, and we were able to offer three grants totaling \$1,400. All of our recipients are asked to give a public talk on their work at the time of their visit, so watch for announcements through the usual channels of the FMTL and Archives email-lists, Michigan Tech Library webpage, and the FMTL Twitter account (@FriendsMTULib).

The recipients of the 2016-17 Friends of the Michigan Tech Library Travel Grants are, in alphabetical order:

Gordon Andrews, Associate Professor of History at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. As an historian who works on race, labor, and the law, Prof. Andrews applied to the fund to cover a research trip to Michigan Tech to investigate the Ford Motor Company's involvement in the Upper Peninsula. This project on the rise and fall of labor in the 20th century focuses on the United Auto Workers Local 600 at Ford's River Rouge plant in Dearborn. Although Ford was the last of the major auto makers to unionize in 1941, there were serious attempts to organize beginning in the 1930s throughout the company. This research project investigates how that unionization effort finally succeeded, creating the largest local in the country (with 100,000 members). He plans to look at issues of race, gender, class, and identity and their intersection with the unionization process.

Prof. Andrews is also interested in examining how working conditions at Ford changed over time and how that affected the workers sense of agency. The connection of the Copper Country to an investigation of River Rouge comes through Ford Motor Company's holdings of vast timberlands and especially the Ford sawmill at Alberta, MI (just south of L'Anse), now owned by Michigan Tech. The western Upper Peninsula contributed considerable amounts of raw materials and labor to the success of the Rouge plant and the Ford Motor Company, and Prof. Andrews hypothesizes that labor from the Upper Peninsula helped shape the labor movement in both the UP and Detroit. His work will feed a book proposal that he has tentatively titled "The Strength of Steel: Life, Labor, and Politics at the Rouge, 1941-1991," analyzing the arc of UAW members from economic triumph in the post-War years and having to find meaningful existence in industrial and post-industrial life.

Gabe Logan, Associate Professor of History at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI, for his project on Copper Country association football (i.e., soccer), from 1909-1914. Prof. Logan has a specialty in sports history and has previously investigated recreation, immigration, and labor in Chicago through the lens of the football pitch. He will use the Archives Travel Grant to visit the Michigan Tech Archives for evidence of immigrant soccer teams in local records and their connections with national associations. He is also interested to

explain why other sports supplanted soccer as a spring and fall recreation in the communities. There were organized teams in Mohawk, Quincy Mine (the 'One and All' team), Baltic and Calumet, which played two seasons per year as well as non-league matches ("friendlies") against aggregates in Iron Mountain, Ishpeming and Marquette. The main organizer of these clubs was the Calumet's YMCA Physical Director, John Johnston, who used his position and the Y's facilities to keep soccer alive in the Copper Country before, during, and after the Copper Strike of 1913. However, the miner's failure in the strike (and subsequent blacklisting of the pro-union miners) resulted in a mass exodus of the many soccer players from the area and ended soccer in the region for the next seventy years. Records from Calumet & Hecla and local newspapers also are expected to provide valuable information on soccer in the Copper Country. This research will feed into an article in vol. 4 (2016) of *Upper Country: A Journal of the Lake Superior Region*, published annually by Northern Michigan University's Center for Upper Peninsula Studies. At the time of this writing, Prof. Logan has visited the Archives once for two days and expects to come up again for another two days this fall.

Mary Doria Russell, Author, most notably of *The Sparrow* (1997), *Children of God* (1999), *A Thread of Grace* (2005), and most recently, *Epitaph: a novel of the O.K. Corral* (2015). Her next novel will be one based on the life of Annie Klobuchar Clemenc (AKA "Big Annie Clements," 1888–1956), well known locally as one of the most important and larger-than-life participants in the 1913 copper strike. As a labor activist, founder and president of the local Women's Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners, and member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, Big Annie was born and lived her life in Calumet. She has inspired generations of activists and women to stand up for their rights and continues as an icon of the resolve and resilience of the immigrant community in the U.P. Winner and nominee for dozens of literary awards, Russell expects to visit the Michigan Tech for two weeks in the spring of 2017 to immerse herself in local histories, primary source material in the Archives, and perhaps interview some people in the area who knew Big Annie late in her life. This will provide her forthcoming novel both historic accuracy and an accurate sense of the U.P. environment and atmosphere.

Since 1998, the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections has offered travel grants to non-local researchers and scholars who wish to conduct research in the Archives. The Travel Grant Program is designed to increase awareness of the Archives' collections and encourage the use of lesser-known collections.

The Travel Grant Program is funded by The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library. For more information about the program see <http://www.mtu.edu/library/archives/programs-and-services/travel-grants/>.

Michigan Tech Archives Summer Intern Report

Submitted by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

This past summer the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library once again sponsored an intern in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections. Ryan Welle, a recent graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of



The attached image is Ryan Welle in the Michigan Tech Archives, July 2016. (Photo courtesy of Lindsay Hiltunen)

Wisconsin-Madison, worked for seven weeks on a variety of projects in the Michigan Tech Archives. A key component of Ryan's time was working on the reference desk to provide genealogy assistance and research support services during our busy summer season. He quickly became acquainted with our collections and served researchers from all over the country and a few from Canada. In addition, Ryan made a significant impact on collections processing, including the arrangement of a large personal papers collection and the successful arrangement and description of another collection related to the United States Navy's ELF Project in Republic, Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

A few notable stories came out of Ryan's internship. A great success story of Ryan providing stellar reference was when he helped a patron who was looking for information on a miner, but only had the company and employee number and did not know the name or years the employee had worked. Since the

collection does not include an index of employees based on employee number, this required some sleuthing through the collection. It just so happened that through some investigation, Ryan was able to locate the employee number in a box of employee ID badges that even had a photo of the miner! When Ryan shared this information with the patron, he was very pleased and could not thank the Archives enough. Everyone had a great day because of it. Another great success came when Ryan helped the Archives plan and implement a *Pokemon Go* event, tying in campus history with the popular application-based interactive game.

Overall, Ryan was a tremendous asset to the Michigan Tech Archives this summer. It is great to see we've been able to continue this partnership between the Friends and the Archives!

Library Art Collection Grows

The Friends of the Michigan Tech library were proud to add four pieces to the Library's Art Collection this year. Two photographs by Paul A. Rose, *Louie's Sheep* and *Winter Storage* have been purchased and are now on display. Two pieces by Max Seel were also purchased. His *Singularity (trypticon)* is displayed on the second floor near the north stairwell. The second Seel piece, *Integrated Systems*, is located near the reference station on the Library's first floor.

The Friends have no immediate plans for additional art purchases as the collection has grown sufficiently to meet display needs in the library. Art committee members Karen Hubbard and Ellen Marks (Library Director) are commended for their excellent work in growing this excellent collection for the community.

Renew with the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library

You can renew your membership in the Friends online and you can also buy Friends notecards and the beautiful Friends Michigan Tech Blanket. All this with a few clicks beginning here:

www.mtu.edu/library/friends/

The Friends website shows photos of all the notecards, including the popular train in snow (look under announcements). Each pack contains 12 distinct historical cards. The 4 foot by 5 foot cotton blanket in blue and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus (design shown on the website) and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping. All items make great gifts for Michigan Tech alumni and friends. All proceeds of items for sale benefit the Van Pelt and Opie Library.

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
Van Pelt and Opie Library
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
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www.mtu.edu/library/friends/

It's time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$20-49
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Benefactor	\$100-249
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Senior Citizens and Students may join for \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Donation Amount: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please go www.mtu.edu/library/friends/ or send your contribution with this form to:

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
c/o the Michigan Tech Fund
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Tech Fund-FMTL. All contributions to the FMTL are Federal tax deductible. ***THANK YOU for your support of the Michigan Tech Library.***