



• TAMÁSTLIKT •

CULTURAL INSTITUTE

72789 Highway 331, Pendleton, OR 97801 USA

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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LEFT: Tamástslikt staff Randall Melton, left, and Jess Nowland set up the museum's new exhibit, the *Literature of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*.

RIGHT: The new exhibit at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, the *Literature of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, is open now through May 7.

(NOTE: These are low resolution photo files. For higher resolution files suitable for printing, please reply to this email.)

As we know from their journals, the Lewis and Clark expedition was one of the *writingest* expeditions in history. Now, in a new exhibit at Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, we learn that they were also the *readingest*.

The *Literature of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, which is now open through May 7, includes a selection of the many books the expedition carried by keelboat, canoe and horseback across early 19th century North American. But more than that, it includes maps, artwork, old newspaper articles and a large selection of the literature both before and since the expedition related to their labor of exploration.

Explorers carried practical books

Of course, the books they carried were practical—astronomy, botany, medical care were among the subjects covered. Books before the expedition, as presented in the exhibition at Tamástslíkt, presented Western North America as a big blank canvas, ready for someone to fill it in. Which is what the expedition did, at least in a written form, complete with illustrated maps, using dozens of small notebooks. The exhibit includes a couple of reproductions of those notebooks, as well as original copies of the journals published shortly after the expedition.

There are a number of interesting niche categories in the exhibit, such as the variety of books on Sacajawea or Sacagawea. The only woman to accompany the expedition began to gain fame in the early 20th century, when women suffragettes seized on her as a symbol of female determination. In the display of books on Sacagawea ranging over 90 years, she's presented in book jacket illustrations as everything from a demure and dutiful wife to a sultry temptress.

The exhibit was produced by Lewis & Clark College in Portland and is now on a national tour. Stephen Dow Beckham, Dr. Robert B. Pamplin Jr. Professor of History at Lewis & Clark College and a Lewis and Clark author himself, is the curator of the exhibit.

“The literature of the Lewis and Clark expedition is an integral part of world travel literature,” said Beckham. “This exhibition helps us learn about the people associated with the expedition literature and sets those publications in historical context.”

The exhibition features up to 60 items in 11 display cases and a number of framed wall pieces with items drawn from the college's unmatched library of expedition-related literature acquired over the past 20 years.

Jefferson pursued new knowledge

In February 1803, Jefferson described the Corps of Discovery's mission. “We are now actually sending off a small party to explore the Missouri to its source, and whatever other river, heading nearest with that, runs into the Western ocean; to enlarge our knowledge of the geography of our continent . . . and to give us a general view of its population, natural history, productions, soil & climate,” Jefferson wrote. Under the leadership of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the journey lasted 28 months and covered nearly 8,000 miles.

The college's collection includes editions of every journal in English, Dutch, French, and German, multiple printings of expedition narratives, maps, contemporary newspaper accounts, government documents, broadsides, review notices and secondary literature. The college also owns the only copy of the Coues-Anderson manuscript, which is an exact replica of the original Lewis and Clark journals housed at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Writer and copyist Mary Anderson created this word-for-word, drawing-for-drawing copy in 1892 for Elliott Coues, historian and scholar, and Francis Harper, a New York publisher.

Exhibit organized around six topics

The traveling exhibition is organized around six topics: the traveling library, early expedition notices, Patrick Gass's expedition journal, surreptitious and apocryphal expedition accounts, compilations and editions from Lewis and Clark manuscripts and general histories and centennial publications. The exhibition includes rare books, maps, and newspapers, photographs of engravings, hand-colored plates, a period compass, Indian artifacts and other items.

For more information about related Lewis & Clark College events and activities, visit www.thejourneycontinues.org or contact the college's bicentennial programs office at 503-768-7207.

EXHIBITION QUICK FACTS:

WHO: Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute and Lewis & Clark College

WHAT: Traveling exhibit: *The Literature of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*

DETAILS: The exhibition features up to 60 items in 11 display cases and a number of framed wall pieces with items drawn from the College's unmatched library of expedition-related literature acquired over the past 20 years. The traveling exhibition is organized around six topics: the traveling library, early expedition notices, Patrick Gass's expedition journal, surreptitious and apocryphal expedition accounts, compilations and editions from Lewis and Clark manuscripts and general histories and centennial publications. The exhibition includes rare books, maps, and newspapers, photographs of engravings, hand-colored plates, a period compass, Indian artifacts and other items.

WHERE: Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, located 5 miles east of Pendleton at I-84 exit 216.

WHEN: Tamástslíkt is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Sat through March and also on Sundays beginning April 2. The Kinship Café is open Mon-Fri through March, then every day beginning April 2.

INFORMATION: For more information: 541-966-9748 or www.tamastslíkt.org. Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and students, \$12 families up to five people. Group rate available. First Fridays are free! (Coming up March 3, April 7 and May 5.

Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is located at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton. From Interstate 84 take exit 216 and follow the signs five minutes to Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. Coming from the north, take the Mission exit from Highway 11 just northeast of Pendleton and follow the signs for about ten minutes to the Wildhorse Resort and the Institute. In addition to exhibits telling the story of the three Tribes' history and culture, there is also a Museum Store and the Kinship Café.

For more information: 541-966-9748 or www.tamastlikt.com. Direct dial the museum store at tollfree 1-866-282-2022. Tamástlikt is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation