New Purchase—Cherokee Phoenix: Advent of a Newspaper

The Labriola Center recently acquired a deluxe edition of the hand bound book *Cherokee Phoenix: Advent of a Newspaper*. The Cherokee Phoenix newspaper was published from 1828 to 1834 in New Echota, Georgia. In 1821 Sequoyah had completed the development of the eighty-five character Cherokee syllabary, and only seven years later, he saw his writing system printed for the Cherokee Nation in the first American Indian newspaper.

The beautiful calligraphic syllabary was cast into metal for printing, and the first edition of the *Cherokee Phoenix* appeared February 21, 1828. A replica of the Cherokee Nation’s print shop may be seen today at the New Echota State Historic Site, near Calhoun, Georgia. *Cherokee Phoenix: Advent of a Newspaper* explores the beginnings of this newspaper.

The text describes the printing press, metal printing type and paper used in the printing of the first American Indian newspaper. An analysis of original metal type has been conducted, and the exact type of printing press used by the Cherokee Nation is revealed.

In addition to the above book, the Labriola Center holds the *Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper on microfilm (call number E99.C5 C56 FILM.)

The Labriola Center plans to host a traveling exhibit entitled *Cherokee Phoenix: Advent of a Newspaper* in mid April of 2007—watch for further announcements.

Cherokee Syllabary Printing Type

The artifacts are from a collection of original metal printing type used in production of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper.

The bilingual newspaper was printed 1828-1834 at New Echota, now in northern Georgia.

Left: Character in the Cherokee syllabary for the vowel sound "o".

Right: Metal printing type

Two specimens of the Cherokee character "tle" with a larger font example of the Roman letter L.
Kudos for Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country


The Guide is an enormously valuable resource for our students in many disciplines: Indian Studies; Literature; History; Social Sciences; Justice Studies; education, and more. Moreover, it is very often the first book we offer to a student beginning study on one of the 562 Indian tribes in the United States since it contains a good, brief overview of a tribes’ history and culture, its location and land status, population demographics, economic development, tribal government, health care, education, and community facilities.

Tiller has visited almost every Indian nation, large or small, to gather material for her book, which includes some 245 pages dedicated to the numerous Alaska communities/corporations. It is loaded with photographs and maps along with an excellent index, bibliography and web sites. One can also consult the accompanying CD.

A special feature is, “Honoring Nations” a national awards program administered by Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government that spotlights tribal government programs and initiatives in addressing the many challenges that face the 562 Indian Nations. Because of that, the book is not only a natural for colleges and university libraries, in both the United States and Canada, but should be available in the offices of every Indian nation in the United States.

Indigenous Teacher Preparation Program Open House

Program Coordinator Maxine Roanhorse-Dineyazhe invited the Labriola Center to participate in the welcome back and open house program for the students participating in ASU’s Indigenous Teacher Preparation Program (ITP.)

The ITP program is a Bachelor of Educator program leading to teacher certification. The program emphasizes Indian education with a special focus on the unique cultural, language, and academic needs of Indigenous learners.

Participants enjoyed a lunch of posole, blue corn mush, fry bread and watermelon while various programs on campus explained their resources to the new and continuing education students.

Please see the Indigenous Teacher Preparation Program’s web site at http://coe.asu.edu/itp for further information or to obtain an application.

Labriola Center Orientations

Labriola Center Acting Curator Joyce Martin and intern Melanie Toledo will conduct orientations to the Labriola Center for several ASU classes this semester. To name a few:

- American Indian Research Methods taught by Dr. TallBear
- Introduction to Folklore taught by Dr. Scarsberry Garcia
- Studies in American Literature and Culture: Southwest Mythic Journeys taught by Dr. Scarsberry Garcia
- Native American Women’s Literature taught by Dr. Tohe
- Indigenous Poetry taught by Dr. Tohe
- American Indians in Cinema, Arts and Media taught by Dr. Lujan

Ceremony book cover
Native American Freshman Welcome Reception

The Multicultural Student Center sponsored a celebration welcoming the 2006 Native American incoming freshman to ASU. The reception was held Saturday August 19th in the Arizona Room at the Memorial Union. Michael Begaye from American Indian Student Support Services acted as host of the event. Nearly one hundred people attended this breakfast event.

Speakers included Dr. Eddie Brown director of the ASU American Indian Studies Department and Dr. Peterson Zah, Special Advisor to the President on American Indian Affairs.

The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) provides a central location for multicultural students to access services designed to assist them in their pursuit for academic success. Staff actively seek to recruit and retain multicultural students through a variety of support services and programs.

The Labriola Center, American Indian Student Support Services, the Parents Association, as well as various student organizations hosted information tables at the event.

Representing the Labriola Center, acting curator Joyce Martin spoke to many incoming freshman, encouraging them to use the Labriola Center and the ASU Library resources as they begin their careers at Arizona State University.

Ralph Cameron Oral History

The Ralph Cameron Oral History Collection contains seven audio tapes recorded by Mr. Cameron (Pima-Maricopa) of Phoenix, Arizona. It was donated to the Labriola National American Indian Data Center on August 8, 2000, by his son, LeRoy Cameron.

Mr. Cameron discusses education at both Phoenix Indian School and Sherman Institute in Riverside, California, World War military exploits, community activities, speaking to his grandchildren, and children’s stories. Transcripts are available for tapes 1-4. The call number is LAB LO-1:1-7

**Tape #1**

*Side A:* World War II military exploits from childhood to leaving for Panama

*Side B:* Sailing to Panama, arrival in the South Pacific. Combat on New Britain. Taped July 14, 1991

**Tape #2**

*Side A:* Ralph Cameron speaking on introduction to education at Phoenix Indian School.


**Tape #3**

*Side A:* Ralph Cameron receiving education at Sherman Institute, Riverside, California, 1931. Taped July 22, 1995.

*Side B:* Ralph Cameron speaking on community celebrations and social activities. Includes creation of 62nd Avenue ditch and community work crews.

**Tape #4**

*Side A:* Ralph Cameron speaking to grandchildren. Recorded at Salt River Community, September 1995.

*Side B:* Speaking to grandchildren

**Tape #5**

*Side A:* WWII Arizona Volunteers

*Side B:* Maricopa Songs and Stories

*“And these stories and songs were given like as a guideline for the future that all children will learn this...” Ralph Cameron speaking to his grandchildren*
The Labriola National American Indian Data Center was officially dedicated on April 1, 1993. The Center was made possible by the vision of Frank and Mary Labriola, whose generous endowment gift supports its work. It is their wish that “the Labriola Center be a source of education and pride for all Native Americans.”

The Labriola National American Indian Data Center, part of the ASU Libraries, is a research collection international in scope that brings together in one location current and historic information on government, culture, religion and world view, social life and customs, tribal history, and information on individuals from the United States, Canada, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Mexico.

New DVDs Ordered

The Labriola Center recently added to our contemporary American Indian film collection. We have recently ordered the following DVD's.

Looking Toward Home is a one-hour documentary which explains how government relocation programs in the 1950’s enticed significant numbers of Native Americans to leave the reservation for life in major cities such as, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The life and times of urban Indians is shown primarily through the eyes of these individuals and subsequent generations as they maintain their tribal identity far away from the culturally nurturing climate of the reservation.

Johnny Tootall winner of the Best Film at the 2005 San Francisco American Indian Film Festival. Johnny Tootall was directed by Shirley Cheechecho, co-written by Andrew Genaille, produced by Danielle Prohom Olson, with Bright-light Pictures executive producing.

Also ordered are two films by Sandra Osawa; Lighting the Seventh Fire and Pepper’s Pow Wow.

Lighting the Seventh Fire skillfully weaves together the issue of spearfishing treaty rights in Wisconsin and the Ojibway prophecy of the Seventh Fire, profiles some of the people trying to bring back the tradition of spear fishing, and vividly documents contemporary racism against Native peoples in the U.S.

Pepper’s Pow Wow documents the enduring musical and cultural legacy of Jim Pepper (Creek/Kaw), who was an innovator in jazz-rock fusion as well as world music. Pepper learned peyote chants at his grandfather’s knee and successfully fused Native music with jazz.