In celebration of the great leaders of the Indian Nations, the Michigan State University’s Native American Institute presents the McKenny & Hall Lithograph Collection, “A History of the Indian Tribes of North America” and lecture to the Mid-Michigan community on Friday, April 17, 2015.

This collection features 120 artistically vibrant lithographs representing one of the largest and most exquisite collections of Native American art in the world. These prints blend the art advanced printing processes and hand-painting from the art of Charles Bird King during the 19th century. Reprints feature the portraits of prominent American Indian men and women, many of them from the Midwest, who visited the President of the United States on official business for their tribes. The original paintings were hung in the Smithsonian but burned in the tragic Smithsonian fire of 1865. Today, the lithographic prints are all that survive.

To highlight the importance of this work we have asked Dr. Herman J. Viola to present “The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King.” Dr. Viola is the former curator emeritus with the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution. He is an authority on American Indian history and culture history, as well as the exploration of the American West.

Dr. Viola’s lecture on “The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King,” recognizes the McKenny & Hall hand-colored lithographs as some of the most stunning records of American Indians ever produced. The portraits, as artifacts, are intended to document a “vanishing people” and serve a greater purpose for American Indian people today.

Dr. Herman J. Viola, Presenter
“The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King”
Former Curator Emeritus with the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution

The McKenny & Hall prints are on loan from the Michilimackinac Historical Society in St. Ignace, MI.