*For Immediate Release*

Tour Grand Rapids’ historic cemeteries in The Art of Memory

DETROIT—June 15, 2014—Cemetery expert and frequent cemetery history lecturer Thomas R. Dilley has compiled a thorough history of Grand Rapids’ historic cemeteries in the new book *The Art of Memory* (available September 2014 from Wayne State University Press). Dilley traces the history of the American cemetery in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, when its look and feel changed dramatically, from a utilitarian burial ground to the serene parklike space that we know today. He also shows how cemetery development mimicked national trends and changing cultural beliefs about honoring the dead.

Dilley begins by outlining the history and evolution of cemetery design from its earliest days to the present, including information about key design elements and descriptions of important designers. He continues by introducing readers to the fifteen historic cemeteries located in the city of Grand Rapids, detailing their histories, formats, and developmental changes along with more than two hundred photos. The cemeteries are divided between public and private properties, and are discussed chronologically, according to the dates of their founding. Dilley also considers the artistic and architectural forms that appear in the Grand Rapids cemeteries, including a thorough discussion of the religious and decorative symbols used on markers, the use of sometimes florid epitaphs, and variations in the form, structure, and materials of cemetery markers of the time. A brief section on the future of the cemetery and an extensive list of bibliographic sources and suggestions for further reading round out this informative volume.

Readers with roots in Grand Rapids as well as those interested in social and cultural history will enjoy *The Art of Memory*.

**Book information:** Pre-order now! Available September 2014, 10” x 8”, 280 pages, 236 photos ISBN 978-0-8143-4019-6, $39.99 hardcover (ebook also available).

More information: http://wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/art-memory

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For more information on the book or to speak to the author, please contact Sarah Murphy, Promotions Manager, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6077 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; murphysa@wayne.edu. To learn more about the Press, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.