Taylor Hours

March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday to Thursday: 8:00-11:00</th>
<th>InfoDesk: 9:00-5:00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fridays: 8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>InfoDesk: 9:00-5:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturdays: Academic study hall with self-service available 10:00—9:00</td>
<td>InfoDesk: closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundays: 10:30 - 9:00</td>
<td>InfoDesk: 10:30-5:00</td>
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Research Help Room Staffed: Research Help: tayref@uwo.ca

March 2018

1 in 10,000 Odds Edition

By Elaine Kirk

The four leaf clover is one of the most common good luck symbols of the Western world. The four leaves are believed to represent Hope, Faith, Love and Luck. Four leaf clovers have been considered lucky for centuries. This is a very old superstition. A common belief during the middle ages was that a person who carried the rare four leaf clover would have the ability to see fairies.

A quatrefoil is a shape designed as a four leaf clover. The quatrefoil was quite popular in Gothic architecture. Quatrefoil comes from the Latin words meaning four leaves; quattour meaning four and folium meaning a leaf.

References to lucky four leaf clovers have appeared in literature and music.

John Melton an English writer wrote the following in 1620 about the four leaf clover: “That if any man walking in the fields, find any four-leaved grass, he shall in a small while find some good thing.”

In 1927 Mort Dixon wrote a song called “I’m looking for a four leaf clover” Harry M. Woods composed music to the song and Art Mooney and his orchestra turned this song into a major hit in 1948.

Good Luck is not always easy to find and if you are relying on finding a four leaf clover the odds may be against you. The estimated statistical odds of finding a four leaf clover is 1 in 10,000. As Scientific American explains, around 200 clovers can be found in a 60 square centimeter plot of clover grass, which means, on average, a square of about 1.2 square metres should contain a four leaf clover.

So, when scanning that clover patch, don’t examine every one of those 10,000 leaves. Instead, stare at the patch, without focusing on any one detail. This increases the odds that a four leafer – which deviates from the overall pattern of leaves – will jump out at you. Good Luck!

References