

# Évaluation

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## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Teeple, PNA  
Chair, NAAB Board of Directors

Despite the ongoing impact of COVID, restrictions seem to be lifting and public institutions are starting to re-open with the necessary protocols in place. In the meantime, NAAB has continued to stay the course over the summer and into the fall. Since the May newsletter, there are several updates to pass along.

In July and August NAAB hosted a series of knowledge sharing sessions for its members, in part to recognize NAAB's fifty-year history which began when its precursor, the Document Appraisal Committee, was established in 1971. The last year and a half witnessed a marked decline in appraisal activity as a result of COVID so we felt it was time to bring everyone together to reconnect on a more informal basis to listen to the stories, the experiences and the insights of our NAAB pioneers – to whom we owe a lot! This proved to be an excellent opportunity for NAAB appraisers to meet those individuals who have long been involved in monetary appraisal and its myriad issues. This series of webinars was well attended and both presentations and ensuing discussions covered a wide range of topics – from past and current developments to various options for NAAB's future. Several of the sessions were led by Ian Wilson, former Librarian and Archivist of Canada and Elwood Jones, archivist and historian, both of whom shared their recollections about the early years of NAAB, their auction and appraisal experiences, as well as their reflections on NAAB's relationship with the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board. Another of the webinars was focused on what a book dealer brings to the table. Stephen Lunsford, veteran book dealer and long-time appraiser for both NAAB and as an independent, provided a dealer's perspective based on the ebb and flow of archival materials in the marketplace with an understanding of the intrinsic and research value of archival materials to any given institution. The last of the webinars was a roundtable discussion with six participants, intended to explore the future of NAAB and the

various options to better prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. The speakers included Curtiss Sassur, Simon Rogers, Stephen Lunsford, Marcel Caya, Elwood Jones and Ian Wilson, all of whom provided their insightful remarks and contributed to a critical discussion for NAAB's consideration.

NAAB is very grateful to all the speakers who were more than willing to share their knowledge, experience and ideas to make these webinars truly engaging and thought-provoking.

Other updates:

On October 4th, CCA held a meeting with several archival institutions and stakeholders to further discuss CCPERB's recent decisions and the long-term negative effects to the Canadian Archival System including its donors. The summer months and the recent election suspended more organized efforts to address the issues with CCPERB but we are hoping to have further meetings with them as soon as possible.

Initially NAAB had taken a position that it can no longer conduct appraisals of archival fonds for applications being submitted to CCPERB because it could not satisfy its requirements for sales comparatives as proof. We have modified that position and will do appraisals, especially for documents with sales comparatives with the understanding that institutions are aware that there is no guarantee that CCPERB will accept the appraisals. Equally important is that institutions communicate the situation regarding CCPERB's recent changes to their donors and let them know that the alternative would be to go the CRA route.

At the September meeting of NAAB's Board of Directors, it was agreed that a peer review committee be established in an effort to standardize, and oversee the quality of appraisal reports across Canada. The Monetary Appraisal Review Committee (MARC) will review appraisal reports prior to being submitted to the institution and put the necessary checks and balances in place to address the disparities and inconsistencies in the report writing. This standing committee will begin its work by reviewing the report template and developing guidelines for its contents thereby creating a standard for all appraisal reports. The terms of reference were sent out in mid-October and the committee will soon be up and running with Lara Wilson as the Chair.

The Board is starting to look ahead to the Monetary Appraisal forum to be held in early March 2022. As NAAB will be holding its first Annual General meeting since the formation of the Transition Board in July 2018, we will be looking to fill some vacancies on the Board. To assist with recruiting new members, the Board approved the establishment of a Nominating Committee with Christine Dupuis as the Chair. As above, the terms of reference were sent out in mid-October and the committee will be actively searching for recruits over the next couple of months.

Last but not least I am pleased to announce the appointments of three new regional coordinators. Mario Robert, the former Head Archivist at the City of Montreal is now the regional coordinator for Quebec, Joanna Aiton Kerr, Deputy Director at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick is the regional coordinator for the Atlantic, and David Sharron, Head of Archives and Special Collections at Brock University is the regional coordinator for Ontario. We are delighted to have them on board to oversee the planning of appraisal panels in their respective jurisdictions.

On a final note, please feel free to contact me with any ideas, suggestions for webinars, or issues that may warrant further attention. We are always looking to improve our practices and look to you for your input and feedback.



## REPORT OF THE NAAB PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Gordon Burr, PNA  
School of Information studies, McGill University

Members of the Professional Development Committee, all PNAs, include Dominique Foisy-Geoffroy, Regina Landwehr, and Melanie Hardbattle. Karen Teeple is the Board representative on the committee. The administration of the committee is supported by Christina Nichols, CCA Executive Director and Louise Charlebois, CCA Staff (Recorder). I serve as Chair.

Currently we are recruiting a new member to replace David Sharron, who has taken on a new role in NAAB as a Regional Coordinator.

Since May of this year have been working on a NAAB training manual and are awaiting the results of our application for funding to further this project.

We are also developing educational seminars for current PNAs, and as Karen noted in her report from the Board, we presented a very successful series over the summer. [Editor's note: first two sessions from this Knowledge Sharing series are in this newsletter.]

The Professional Development Committee will serve as the Program Committee for the NAAB 2022 March Monetary Appraisal Forum. To begin the process, we met on 21 October with the NAAB Ad Hoc Committee on the Monetary Appraisal of Electronic Records (MAER) along with members of the Chelsea Group who will be organizing the logistics of the event.

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## REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NAAB AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE MONETARY APPRAISAL OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS (MAER)

Richard Dancy, co-chair  
Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management  
Jeremy Heil, co-chair  
Queen's University Archives

The Ad Hoc Committee on Monetary Appraisal of Electronic Records (MAER) was established in January 2019, with a mandate to research and develop a framework of guidelines and best practices for monetary appraisal of digital archival records.

Over the past three years, MAER approached this work through literature reviews, communication and presentations to the archival community, an analysis of appraisals that included digital content, and a meeting with CCPERB. In addition to considering current approaches to monetary appraisal, we also considered issues such as curation, preservation, the cost to institutions to acquire, process, and preserve archival collections, and institutional capacity to do so with digital records. We also looked at alternative sources for determining monetary value, including consulting with accounting and audit organizations to discuss bankruptcy and acquisitions or mergers and the valuation of digital assets in those situations.

The Committee submitted its consultation draft report, "Dollars for Digital: Evaluating Strategies for the Monetary Appraisal of Digital Content in Archival Donations," to the NAAB Board at the end of October and the report has been accepted and finalized. The report is now available online at:

[https://naab59175.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/MAER\\_Report\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](https://naab59175.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/MAER_Report_EN_FINAL.pdf)

## 2022 PNA MEMBERSHIP FEES

\*IMPORTANT REMINDER\*

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to upend the world in ways we could not have imagined. While this time has been filled with uncertainty and challenges, NAAB has responded and adapted operations where necessary to ensure strength and continued progress towards our mission.

Like most businesses and industries across Canada, archives were not immune to the economic effects of the pandemic and we realize that it will take time for monetary appraisal work to safely resume.

To respond to the financial impact and to help ease the financial burden of PNAs, at its meeting on September 27, 2021, NAAB's Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion to provide a one-time 50% fee discount on each PNA membership renewal, effective for one (1) membership year.

The 50% discount will be added to membership renewal invoices automatically. If you don't see the discount applied on your invoice, please contact Isabelle at [naab@archivescanada.ca](mailto:naab@archivescanada.ca).

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## ARCHIVAL MONETARY APPRAISAL FORUM [NAABFORUMCNEA.CA](http://NAABFORUMCNEA.CA)

**National Archival Appraisal Board (NAAB)**  
*in partnership with the  
Canadian Council of Archives (CCA)*

is pleased to announce that planning is  
underway for a two-day national

### ARCHIVAL MONETARY APPRAISAL FORUM

to be held  
**March 7-8, 2022**

Since the safety of the speakers and participants is our top priority, due to the potential ongoing COVID-19 public health or travel restrictions, this event will be held as an online event.

At this event, you will join your peers from across Canada as we explore the changing landscape of archival monetary appraisal. Held over two days, the Archival Monetary Appraisal Forum will feature intensive professional development opportunities, networking, and fruitful discussions and recommendations to address critical challenges, such as the monetary appraisal of electronic records.

The Monetary Appraisal Forum will be a must-attend event for Practising NAAB Appraisers and other appraisers of archival records who are looking for education and networking in a relaxed atmosphere. It will also be an ideal learning opportunity for mid-career and senior archivists and other emerging leaders in the heritage community to strengthen and develop their monetary appraisal skills. The content will be relevant to those who are looking for new ways of thinking and new ideas to sustain and grow their professional expertise.

We are sincerely grateful to **Library and Archives Canada** for helping us to make this event possible through the **Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP)**.

Please visit [naabforumcnea.ca](http://naabforumcnea.ca) to register!

## DR. HÜBNER'S HAMMER PRICES

### "Recent Sales of letters related to Sir John A. Macdonald"

Dr. Brian Hubner, PNA  
University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

*"Hammer Prices" will be an ongoing column, devoted to interesting and recent auctions and/or sales of Canadian or Canadian-related archival material.*

In this installment of "Hammer Prices," I will examine some letters related to the most well-known "Father of Confederation" who in recent years has not been so much celebrated for his mid-19th century nation-building as reviled for his part in the creation of the residential school system which victimized generations of Indigenous children. Statues of Macdonald have been wrapped, painted red, toppled and removed in cities from coast to coast, including Victoria, Regina, Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Montreal, and Charlottetown. Though Macdonald's ultimate historic legacy is currently in turmoil in a time of reckoning for the role of colonialism in the establishment of Canada, in the collector's market his letters and papers remain probably the most sought after of any prime minister, and they fetch some high prices.

One example from this year is the letter, dated 31 March 1871, from Macdonald to Dr. John S. Helmcken, a British Columbian "Father of Confederation," written when Macdonald was in Washington DC helping to negotiate the Washington Treaty which settled US-British disputes resulting from the American Civil War, including American shipping losses inflicted by Confederate British-built privateers. The letter and cover which was auctioned off came from the "San Juan Islands Collection" of prominent BC stamp and document collector Gerald E. Wellburn.

Sold by: All Nations Stamp and Coin (Vancouver, BC), Milestone 1,300th Auction, Lot 69 1871, 27 February 2021, price realized: \$20, 000 CAD.

Website: <https://www.allnationsstampandcoin.com/1871-letter-from-john-a-macdonald-to-helmcken-in-our-milestone-1300th-auction/> (accessed 26 Oct 2021)

Also sold this year was a series of 20 handwritten letters written to a friend of Macdonald's and prominent Conservative politician Alexander Morris, from 1847-1889 (and copies of two notes from Morris to Macdonald). They cover a wide topics and exhibit Macdonald's candidness, humour, and confidence in his eventual return to power during the administration of Alexander Mackenzie. Morris, a close associate of Macdonald, had articulated under him. Morris served as Lieutenant Governor of both Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and is remembered today for his prominent role in the negotiations of Numbered Treaties 3, 4, 5 and 6. He was also one of the founders of the University of Manitoba; and the town of Morris, MB, is named for him. The asking price for the documents was \$46, 000 USD, or \$55, 405.32 CAD; and I believe this was realized.

Sold by: Lord Durham Rare Books (St. Catharines, ON) May/June 2021. [E-mail of Duncan McLaren to Brian Hubner, 8 June 2021].

Over a decade earlier these letters had been auctioned off by Bonham's in London, originating from a private collection. Once owned by a Canadian they been passed down and eventually ended up in Britain. See Randy Boswell, "John A.'s letters put on the block", Winnipeg Free Press, 16 October 2009:

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/john-as-letters-put-on-the-block-64477712.html> (accessed 26 October 2021)

The pre-auction estimate was \$13, 000, but they eventually sold for \$42,991 CAD, including premium. That is: the 2021 figure obtained was nearly a 29% increase in just over 11 years. See:

Bonhams : CANADA – SIR JOHN MACDONALD <https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/16869/lot/17/> (accessed 26 October 2021)

[Also email of Simon Roberts (Senior Valuer, Books & Manuscript Dept. Bonhams), to Brian Hubner, 10 June 2021].

Sold by: Bonhams (London) lot 17, 10 November 2009.

Sellers are receiving healthy prices for Macdonald letters, which seem to be rising in the short term (due to the controversy his name now invokes?). One intriguing aspect of these sales/auctions is that a single Macdonald letter sold for almost for almost third of what 20 + letters did. An explanation may be that the Macdonald-Helmcken letter is associated with an important event in US history, and so would attract American collectors with deep pockets. This in turn may be an interesting comment on the worth of such archives for research as opposed to what they might bring in, at a single moment in time, on the commercial market. I propose that the Macdonald-Morris letters should be valued even more than these sales indicate in comparison with the Washington Treaty letter.

Take care and stay safe, until the “Hammer Comes Down” again.

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## CHALLENGING CCPERB

Marcel Caya, PNA  
Vice-Chair, NAAB Board of Directors  
Chair, NAAB Research Committee

After adopting its new *Guide for Monetary Appraisals* in November 2020, the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB) published a document entitled *Communication to Archival Stakeholders*<sup>1</sup> to respond to submissions made by the archival community regarding its draft *Guide* dated July 2020. The Board argued that “*there were a number of recommendations...that CCPERB was unable to integrate due to restrictions and limitations imposed upon CCPERB by the provisions of the Cultural Property Export and Import Act (the Act), jurisprudence binding on CCPERB, and requirements of administrative law*”. The document identifies the recommendations that CCPERB “cannot accept” and further explains why, “with reference to statutory provisions, jurisprudence and requirements of administrative law.”

With such an introduction, the reader expected CCPERB’s explanations to provide credible and relevant legal justifications for changing its handling of monetary appraisal for archival fonds after more than 40 years of precedents since the creation of CCPERB in the late 1970’s. A review of the *Communication* document unfortunately fails to demonstrate how the Act, the jurisprudence and the requirements of administrative law forced the Board to narrow its interpretation of the definition of “Fair Market Value.”

As a result, only cultural property currently exchanged on commercial markets can be recognized as having a “monetary value.” Even when they qualify as having outstanding significance, donations of archival fonds to designated heritage institutions are rejected by CCPERB because their value is expressed in the framework of the institutional market. The *Communication to Archival Stakeholders* remains the main document providing CCPERB’s reasons for rejecting appraisal reports of cultural property, such as archival fonds, that are not totally based on recent comparative sales of similar material.

A document providing a critical review of CCPERB’s *Communication to Archival Stakeholders* is being completed to outline NAAB’s position in the current context. It will be presented shortly to the NAAB’s Board of Directors for approval.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ccperb-cceebc.gc.ca/en/resources/principles-olicies.html#communication\\_archival\\_stakeholders](https://ccperb-cceebc.gc.ca/en/resources/principles-olicies.html#communication_archival_stakeholders) (accessed 10 Nov 2021)

Responding to the details of the CCPERB's *Communication* document, it explains why CCPERB fails to justify most of its conclusions that contribute to their rejecting the certification of archival fonds for lack of public transactions on a public market. This decision to narrow their interpretation of fair market value will affect all designated archival and heritage institutions by restricting their ability to allow potential donors some benefits for donating archival fonds.

NAAB's document *Challenging CCPERB* will be available to members of NAAB shortly. This text simply intends to provide a preview of NAAB's response by focussing on the three following problems of CCPERB's arguments:

- the confusion of "fair market value" as an equivalent of "market value;"
- the requirement that all types of cultural property should only be supported by comparisons with recent market prices; and
- the assertion that past appraisals can no longer be used as precedents.

### 1. The confusion of "fair market value" as an equivalent of "market value"

CCPERB does not acknowledge that "market value" is only one possible component of "fair market value." It is misleading to suggest that it is its equivalent. As we all know, the CCPERB's official definition reads as

*The highest price, expressed in terms of money, that the property would bring in an open and unrestricted market between a willing buyer and a willing seller who are each knowledgeable, informed and prudent, and who are acting independently of each other.*

The wording suggests a conditional situation replicating a hypothetical transaction (*the highest price an asset might reasonably be expected to bring*) that must apply to all types of markets in need of the determination of a monetary value. The expression "would bring" is significant and differs substantially from "has brought" and certainly makes it conceivable to assess a value in dollars, even when it is not possible to compare it with recent public monetary transactions.

### 2. The requirement that all types of cultural property should only be supported by comparisons with recent market prices

NAAB's document indicates in its reply that "*Given the differences between the various categories of cultural properties covered by the act, this is an odd statement since it is not supported by any article of the law or jurisprudence, and certainly not by the price fixing methodologies of the real world. Why should any specific type of cultural property not be appraised according to its nature, specific characteristics, uses, and its usual market?*"

The CCPERB's definition is based on a judgment by Justice Cattanach in *Henderson Estate v. Canada* (Minister of National Revenue) (Henderson). In proposing the definition of "fair market value" in 1973, Justice Cattanach certainly meant it to adapt the appraisal to various types of objects covered by using the conditional "*might reasonably be expected to bring*" and the phrase "*in the normal method applicable to the asset in question in the ordinary course of business...*" when stating:

*... "That common understanding [of the expression "fair market value"] I take to mean the highest price an asset might reasonably be expected to bring if sold by the owner in the normal method applicable to the asset in question in the ordinary course of business in a market not exposed to any undue stresses and composed of willing buyers and sellers dealing at arm's length and under no compulsion to buy or sell."*

### 3. The assertion that past appraisals can no longer be used as precedents.

All Canadian courts still consider precedents as a sound basis upon which they can refer to judge the facts presented in any trial. Why should an administrative tribunal, which insists on its status as that of a quasi-tribunal, be justified in declaring all its past decision as invalid to establish future opinions of past appraisals of similar cultural property. As NAAB's response argues,



While it is rarely used as the sole approach to estimate Fair Market Value, the use of previous appraisals not only provides consistency for evaluating accruals of archival fonds, but also creates a necessary knowledge foundation for future appraisals in the same way that precedents form the basis for monetary value of many objects for sale.

Archival fonds are unique organic aggregations of records created by individuals, families and organizations sought by archival and other heritage institutions for their research potential for all types of users interested by various aspects of the Canadian experience. For CCPERB to insist on prior market evidence is limiting the value of donations of archival fonds to collectible objects sold on public markets, as opposed to institutional markets. To recognize research value only as a contributing factor “in determining outstanding significance,” not as a factor in determining its fair market value<sup>2</sup> is evidence of the CCPERB’s longstanding and ongoing misunderstanding of the *raison d’être* of archival and other heritage institutions acquiring archives. Discrete items or small groupings of archival records may be offered for sale on public markets from time to time, but do not do justice to the “value expressed in dollars” of whole archival fonds.

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## INTRODUCTION: NAAB KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We are very pleased to include the first two sessions of our Knowledge Sharing series below. These were originally created as presentations for zoom - not written as formal articles. We are grateful to Ian Wilson and Elwood Jones for providing us with their notes, and collaborating on the texts below.

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## KNOWLEDGE SHARING – SESSION 1: REFLECTIONS ON APPRAISAL

Ian E. Wilson, OC  
Former Librarian and Archivist of Canada

Originally prepared for NAAB, 23 June 2021

Archivists should be interested in the process of monetary appraisal: it is essential in acquisitions, and, I would suggest, in justifying and defending public investment in archives.

More recently, archivists have reason to be concerned with the future of monetary appraisal. None have been undertaken while we collectively attempt to cope with the pandemic; but perhaps of longer-term concern, is NAAB’s fundamental disagreement with CCPERB over the latter’s recently issued *Guide for Monetary Appraisals* (Nov, 2020) and their lack of engagement with the archival community.

Today’s discussion explores the early years of NAAB appraisals – largely via anecdotal stories and reflections, from my perspective not only as an appraiser but also as head of several institutions, each with a strong commitment to private sector acquisitions.

There is a false dichotomy between “official” and private records. The Canadian tradition of “total archives” is often misunderstood, but let’s use Laura Millar’s definition: “that publicly funded archival institutions...would acquire, preserve, and make available for public use both government and private sector records in all media... ”<sup>3</sup> Douglas Brymner and

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<sup>2</sup> See, for instance, <https://ccperb-cceebc.gc.ca/en/resources/news-updates.html>. (accessed 10 Nov 2021)

<sup>3</sup> “Discharging our Debt: The Evolution of the Total Archives Concept in English Canada”. *Archivaria* 46, p. 104.



Arthur Doughty understood that this approach was essential: both official and private perspectives and, in the absence of a national library, all documentary media were required to understand how Canadian society governs itself.

First: a reflection on the use of the word *asset*, the key concept in Arthur Doughty's oft-quoted statement, asserting that "of all national assets, archives are the most precious: they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization." And if we consider archives as assets, there are many ways to present and justify investment in archival services:

- For their cultural value...memory, identity
- For their research value, supporting advanced research or drawing scholars to a university;
- For their legal value. This holds true for all institutions and levels of government, and can impact everything from borders, ownership of real and intellectual property; and includes legal requirements for records... This was at the heart of our successful justification of the Archives of Ontario (AO) budget during the severe budget reduction process in July 1995, following the election of the Harris government.
- As a means of accountability. The Harper government's first legislation was the Federal Accountability Act (February 2006) and by linking recordkeeping to that the LAC received additional funding for the government records program.
- Efficiency/savings in handling corporate records. As part of the budget justification in 1995, the AO produced a detail cost analysis, showing funding the archives resulted in savings across all ministries.

And if we focus on archives as an asset: records management can be reconceptualized as asset management. Executives and managers are used to managing assets.

Under modern accrual accounting: no value is put on information or archives. When senior federal executives were made directly accountable for their annual financial statements tabled in Parliament, I at first refused to sign off on the grounds that under 'accepted accounting practice', the massive collection of the LAC was shown as nil monetary value. I explained to the Comptroller that this was ludicrous and while it may be valid under accounting rules, it was obviously contrary to reality. As compromise, we added a footnote to the statements noting the legal, cultural and monetary values of the collection but without trying to assign a dollar value. The argument was heard and had continuing impact.

I am participating in this session as my tribute to Bob Gordon. He paved the way, opened and led the discussions with Revenue Canada and essentially, invented NAAB. Late 1960 Bob opened discussions with Revenue Canada. There was some hesitation on their part, and uncertainty for the (then) Public Archives of Canada (PAC) on how all of this might work. During the first Documentary Appraisal Committee (DAC) meetings, we explored how to appraise different types of records. And, with Revenue Canada, Bob worked out the triangulation system of historian, archivist, and dealer. The initial issue was in getting dealers to buy in. Appraisers in those first years included Bob Gordon, me, Fred Thorpe, Elwood Jones, Bob Morgan and Jack Heisler.

We weren't completely starting from scratch: precedents for appraisals were available from a variety of sources, including Bernard Amtmann of the Montreal Book Auctions. Some archival institutions had participated in sales: the Bertrand Russell Papers had been bought by McMaster University, for example, and there was then, an active university market for literary papers.

The recent article in *Archivaria* by Simon Rogers and Curtis Sassur touches on the continuing key challenge...how to link research and monetary values. In the late 1960s as new universities were emerging, the Down's Report established the link between adding graduate students and the consequent impact on library budgets<sup>4</sup>. Early NAAB appraisals used this, assessing how many graduate theses a fonds might support and relating that to the research library budget formulae considered by Downs.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.worldcat.org/title/resources-of-canadian-academic-and-research-libraries/oclc/36995>

From the start, we established some key requirements: in order to receive a monetary appraisal, collections must have been donated; the institution must provide the appraisers with a suitable description of the material in advance; and appraisers must be able to see the material. Initially, appraisals were considered a service from one institution to another. After several appraisal sessions the committee came to Kingston to appraise the donation of the Canada Steamship Lines fonds to Queen's University Archives. Only travel expenses were claimed.

The formation of NAAB occurred when archivists were still a "section" within the Canadian Historical Association (CHA). Bob was long time treasurer of the CHA and I was President of their Archives Section; but CHA had little idea of what we were up to.

The Lac Beauport meeting in June 1976 was vital to development of the methodology and to building a sense of cohesion within NAAB as it formed regional committees. We compared our approach with that of our international colleagues and while we hoped for some clear guidelines on values, we learned that appraisal is more of an art than science, and we learned to understand and respect each other. I urge you to read the proceedings as master class in appraisal. The main disagreements were between antiquarian book sellers (Bernard Amtmann) and the archivists. Bernard knew the market and felt his judgement alone should suffice for monetary value. To Bernard appraisal was an art, based on his assessment of rarity, importance and appeal to collectors. He argued that archivists tended to devalue material, as they already had hundreds of similar items lying dead on shelf. Bob and Elwood were working to make appraisal more of an evidence-based science, with extensive notes on sales, autograph values and any possible evidence of the market. Bob created a DRAFT of Point Rating Appraisal System with 12 factors, each divided into multiple factors and weighting.

The Lac Beauport meeting was summarized for me in the remarks of Bernard Amtmann:

"In my opinion ...to pioneer the field of Canadiana and to give Canadians some sense of pride and pleasure...I believe that in this historical context one day, in fifty years from now, in a hundred years from now, when the history of Canada is written of this period, in my book Bob Gordon will be number one because he has...done more for Canadian scholarship, for Canadian archivists and for Canadian librarians than any other before him including this admirable, gentle, noble man Kaye Lamb whom I personally like very much but who, in a historical sense, I would not put in the same bracket as Bob Gordon." (*Proceedings* 1976, page 82)

Bernard and I continued our discussion in an article in *The Canadian Archivist*, with his "An Open Letter to Canadian Archivists" (vol. 2 no. 4, 1973) followed by his "Conspiracy Against the Canadian Identity" (*Archivaria* 5, 1977) and my response: "A Conspirator Replies" in the following issue (*Archivaria* 6, 1978). His was an informed critique of an aspect of Canadian archival practice and deserved to be taken much more seriously than it was by the profession.

Bob was deeply involved in preparation of the Cultural Property Import and Export Act, 1977 with Ian Christie Clark in Canadian Heritage, earning the trust of Revenue Canada in maintaining the integrity of the system.

### **Some anecdotes:**

#### Winnipeg

While I was in Saskatchewan, from 1976-1986, every year we would be called to head to Winnipeg for appraisal session, trying in a day or two to appraise recent donations in several of the major archives around the city. These sessions were inevitably scheduled in mid-January, with Winnipeg's famous wind blowing. Shirlee Anne Smith of the HBCA and Stan Hanson from USask were the other appraisers, and we always had lively sessions, full of good humour and a chance to talk about recent developments.

We had to see to believe the T.G. Hamilton Collection at the University of Manitoba, given its scope note: "*The subject matter of the records includes rappings, clairvoyance, trance states and trance charts, telekinesis, wax molds, bell-ringing, transcripts and visions, as well as teleplasmic manifestations.*"

This of course brings me to the necessity of a proper finding aid, available prior to the appraisal session. In one nameless institution, we had been sent a basic, rough file listing in advance. This was for an extensive literary collection of national significance. The team began going through the liquor boxes in which the papers had arrived, and began to find the file listing was selective, and omitted reference to some key correspondents. We asked the archivist what on earth had happened, and received the explanation that it had been done hastily by unsupervised students. There was no organization to the papers, related materials were scattered throughout the boxes, haphazardly. We told the archivist we could either spend a week organizing the papers and preparing a proper listing or we could come back in some months once the work had been done properly. We left and billed the archives for our time and travel.

On another occasion we asked to see the donation agreement, which in part read "*in consideration of the payment of the sum of \$1 the sufficiency whereof the buyer and seller acknowledge...*". We shocked the archivist by pointing out that he had already agreed to the value. We proceeded to appraise the donation with the note that this would have been the value if the agreement had been worded as a donation, and not as a sale. The agreement was replaced.

### Toronto

I was informed in no uncertain terms that the archives of the T. Eaton Co were going in the garbage unless the O took it. This was an extensive collection, including full catalogues and film of Santa Claus parade, going back to 1860s although the modern records were missing. We hesitated due to the cost involved, and made it a condition that the Eaton Foundation give \$100,000 to enable the Archives to process the material and create a finding aid which was justified, as a good comprehensive finding aid would help with the full appraisal.

### Responsibility of the institutional head in signing application to CCPERB

I read all of them, and wanted to feel that I could defend the appraisal as clear, reasonable and justified. Some were sent some back to NAAB to be rethought. One major donation I felt had been seriously undervalued...the collection had some major new political revelations that the person's biographer told me he had uncovered. Two appraisals had been done and submitted to CCPERB. I asked that they be delayed and commissioned another, using two dealers and the historian/biographer. That evaluation was far above the NAAB appraisal and I wrote to the CCPERB chair to ignore the first two, and use the latest based upon a better informed knowledge of the contents. CCPERB agreed.

### HBC Archives

This was a donation to government of Manitoba early 1990s. In the summer of 1993 Bob and I were asked to each do an independent appraisal of the extensive textual records (others were organized for maps and for artifacts).

It was an extraordinary experience. The collection included Radisson's journal, written as he travelled around Lake Superior. Written in 1682, and given to HBC in 1685...the collection had material dating from 1670 to WWII, including new material regarding a shipping contract with France in WWI.

Some of the appraisal issues:

**The collection's value as legal evidence:** a billion-dollar claim was resting on a few pages from 1821. Land rights in Red River valley depend on land grants given by HBC. These were documented in a massive register: and we discussed whether to say these should have been turned over to the Crown in 1870.

**The Archives was established in 1920...**not for cultural reasons (250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Charter) but in response to legal cases regarding their monopoly of liquor sales and of the fur trade; taxation of HBC lands in Saskatchewan; the Labrador boundary dispute; etc. Records had been created to demonstrate the Company was fulfilling its responsibilities under its charter.

But it is a rich source of material regarding Native identity, social history, issues including sovereignty of Arctic... Essentially, it was a national archives...HBC held full powers of the Crown over much of Canada and parts of Northwest USA.

**Philatelic values:** urged hiring a specialist in stampless covers.

**CCPERB discussion: Whether the whole is more valuable than the sum of the parts...** I argued that a fonds is one thing, not a collection of disparate items...must be considered as a whole...a record keeping system deliberately created and maintained intact and with integrity for over three centuries.

HBC demonstrated a commendable generosity in donating their tax savings to establish the HBC Foundation which continues to fund preservation and research.

#### Role re: in-house appraisal for purchases

Archives deal with many offers to purchase documents, and must know approximate values often relying on colleagues (for example, Jim Burant was the expert for Winkworth collection...\$6 M then \$4.5M)

Acquiring material can be essential: some documents clearly MUST find an archival home (e.g. story of Riel Diary, or McCrae medals). My sense in spending money on archives acquisitions, provided we saw them as essential, was that no one in the future would ask about the cost but simply appreciate the fact they have been preserved and accessible.

We should be concerned with Laura Millar's conclusions that the major government archives are no longer actively seeking out private fonds but most initiative in this area is now with university archives (at Queen's, the archives helped Library spend their annual acquisition budgets in March). But as Brymner and Doughty knew, the history of this country is not confined to the official record. As archivists, we must take a creative approach, as we did with the Eatons archive, or get donor, as with the John Beverley Robinson papers at AO, or explore other sources of funding within government, as was the case with the acquisition of the Louis Riel 1885 diary. Or as we did with the Winkworth collection, where we used the national unity fund for first lot; then when that fund was abolished by Mr. Harper, bought the archives over 2 fiscal years both for funding and to avoid Treasury Board requirement for approval of purchases over \$1.5M and then had the National Gallery buy one major album. We knew it was borderline compliance with Treasury Board policies but checked with Auditor General. Or again, with Elgin, a combination donation and purchase. Argument with UK cultural property authorities on allowing the export of the Elgin family papers, ignored in the UK but essential to Canada.

In my view, Institutions may not have a budget for acquisitions, but *must* acquire... I used to give a short lecture on priorities in institutional spending, asking simply: What do you think will be relevant and remembered in 100 years? Desks, computers, travel expenses? The *collection*.

And we must fight to have the deduction of fair market value of donations.

REMEMBER: Of all national assets, archives are the most precious...

As archivists, we must daily work to demonstrate the reality of that proud statement.

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## KNOWLEDGE SHARING – SESSION 2: THE HUNT FOR HISTORY

Elwood Jones, PNA  
Archivist, Trent Valley Archives

Originally presented on 15 July 2021

*The Hunt for History* was the title of Nathan Raab's book on his 15 years as a manuscripts and rare books dealer based in Philadelphia. The book highlights how the buying and selling of manuscripts helps uncover forgotten or neglected history. His examples might be more remarkable than some of my experiences, but I was struck with how my history has been about the hunt for history, too.

Before I start I have one loose end following Ian's \$65,000 speech. The point was raised late on [during Q&A] how libraries work together to acquire materials. The *Toronto Star* had two stories (26 May and 19 June 2021) based on stories from Jennifer Schuessler for the *New York Times*, on a series of auctions Sotheby had scheduled for 5-9 June, and agreed to postpone. They announced that the auction would be stalled because a consortium of British libraries was hoping to raise US\$21 million to acquire the collection collectively. The consortium included the Friends of the National Library; the British Library; the National Library of Scotland; the Bodleian Libraries of Oxford; the Brotherton Library at the University of Leeds, as well as museums dedicated to Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Robert Burns and the Brontës.

The particular collection included over 500 manuscripts, letters, rare books gathered by two Victorian industrialists and apparently not seen since the 1930s. The plan was to sell them over three online auctions. Some items mentioned include:

- Walter Scott's *Rob Roy* literary manuscripts
- Robert Burns' first "Commonplace Book"
- Several manuscripts by the Brontë sisters
- Brontë family letters and annotated books
- 31 poems by Emily Brontë (d. 1848) in 1844

So this fresh example confirms the two points from near the end of Ian's presentation:

1. Archival documents do have monetary value; and
2. Libraries do work together to preserve nationally significant collections.

With respect to Raab's *Hunt for History*, one example illustrated several points about the work of a manuscripts dealer. William H. Crawford had an influential career in American politics in the years surrounding the War of 1812. When Raab was told of the remarkable collection, he, his father and his wife flew to Houston and spent seven hours poring over the documents. The first letter passed the blink test, and they viewed many interesting documents. Particularly, while a diplomat to Napoleon's court Crawford received documents from both sides of the treaty negotiations in Ghent. There were diplomatic dispatches; the British were 666 in the secret correspondence. There were letters from the Duke of Wellington; exceptional letters from Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay, John Marshall, Marquis de Lafayette, and more. Each item was examined for authenticity.

The Raabs offered nearly a million dollars for this collection; the family asked for an additional \$100,000. The Raabs matched the request, and ultimately found good homes for much of the "vast archive:"

- Newberry Library in Chicago bought the documents relating to Crawford's negotiations with Native Americans in the South;
- College of William and Mary acquired 45 letters of James Monroe, as president writing to his secretary of the Treasury;
- Lafayette College bought the Lafayette letters.

The rest were sold to private collectors for prices ranging from \$10,000 (the Wellington letter) to \$325,000 for the Jefferson letter on the War of 1812.

Much of Raab's experience with hunting for history resonated with me. I reflect on the observation that without archives there is no history.

I also have seen that the opportunity to offer income tax receipts for donations has saved some important collections for historians.

One of my earliest experiences with the value of authenticity in documents came when I purchased for \$80 from a book catalogue a collection of pamphlets bound together. The collective title was *Proceedings of Synod, Diocese of Toronto, 1851-8*. I was surprised when I opened the cover and saw the signature of J. Hillyard Cameron and his dating 6 June 1859. It was a collection of pamphlets all related to the first Anglican synod that included lay delegates as well as clergy. J. Hillyard Cameron was the Chancellor of the Diocese, and so the leading layman. He was also the rival to John A. Macdonald for the leadership of the Conservative party in the mid-1850s. This was serendipity and a terrific find, as at the time I was part of a team writing a history of the Diocese of Toronto. The importance of the signature and the date cannot be overstated.

I had earlier experiences that were important to me. The *London Free Press* newspaper volumes were in the basement of the University of Western Ontario law library, and became the basis for my MA thesis.

Near Christmas 1964 Ed Phelps, a legend in archival circles, and I went to Goderich to rescue a large run of the *Huron Signal* which had been stored in the attic of a mill, and had fallen two storeys to the basement. Western arranged for its microfilming.

In those early days of looking for newspapers, the most fascinating story was of a garbage collector in Ingersoll who rescued the publisher's run of the paper, which had been placed for garbage pick up. To the chagrin of his wife he took them home and they were on the dining room wall when I used them.

I have considered newspapers to be the most reliable source for community history, and am proud to say that the archives, notably the photographs taken from 1960 to 2002, as well as the newspapers for the *Peterborough Examiner* are at the Trent Valley Archives. We offered to appraise them for an income tax donation, but the business people at the *Examiner* were happy to have the rent that would be saved if the archives were removed. Fortunately, we had just acquired our annex, and had lots of room for accepting the collection and for processing it, with the help of 40 volunteers.

One that comes directly from the NAAB experience is the Eaton's department store collection, important to our national history, in several ways. This was really a huge collection and required more than a day for a NAAB appraisal. What still resonates with me is the variety of documents. There were the corporate records; the records of the various departments over the years; catalogues stretching over three generations; films of the annual Eaton's Christmas parade, an institution that outlasted Eaton's; there were personal records relating to the family. And there was the Eaton's archives which operated as a distinct entity for many years and was used by historians of Toronto and of department stores. I had a particular interest in department stores which in the literature were the models for the development of museums, and which defined the centre of the business district, the transportation nexus, the world of women, and more. Eaton's was a national organization, with stores in nearly every major city and catalogue order offices in the smaller places. And the key to all of this was in our hands.

I was sorry that Eaton's archives could not remain a company-run archives. Much of my experience as an archivist has been to encourage large companies to have archives. However, I did not suspect that Eaton's was on its last legs and that thanks to some good negotiations, such as Ian described, the archives was saved and expanded and that money from Eaton's paid for archival positions.

From my perspective, the income tax system had saved the Eaton's collection. As for the appraisal work of the Document Appraisal Committees, I was struck by how we did not argue about small differences, as each individual ranked the importance or fair market value of each series differently. This was the value of triangulation practice that we had developed.

In one of the pre-Lac Beauport sessions a Labrador fur trade journal was appraised. I said I would not go above \$375; Bob would not go below \$400. We decided that only three of the four members had to sign the evaluation, and a new NAAB

principle was enunciated. Of course, as an historian I loved three: past, present, future; the importance of collaboration from three sources, etc.

With the voluminous Eaton's collection, differences of \$25 evaporated; when totalling our values the overall value was similar even when the parts differed.

This also confirmed that the best way to appraise a large collection is from the bottom, item by item, file by file, series by series. We cannot assume that if one collection is worth a given amount, that collections by similar people or organizations will be the same. The truth is there are many variables.

The Boyd family papers offer another example in which the income tax receipt system encouraged the saving of history.

The Boyd family was based in Bobcaygeon, and featured two generations of timber family when the Kawarthas was a major timber producing area. The earliest locks of what became the Trent Canal served the Boyd operations which stretched from the forests of Haliburton, down the rivers of the Trent system, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence, Quebec City and shipping to Britain. Later the family converted to lumber, much of the milling down locally and then shipped by rail and steamboat to Albany, New York, and to the skyscrapers of New York City.

The papers of Mossom Boyd, the founder, were placed in the (then) Public Archives of Canada (PAC) in the 1960s through the agency of local historian Howard Pammett. This is one of the largest private collections in the Library and Archives of Canada, and might have stayed in the Peterborough area had there been archives in the area; our local archives mainly date from about 1967, and the Trent Valley Archives, 25 years later.

I was asked on behalf of the Peterborough Centennial Museum to view records of the Kawartha Lakes Shipping Company at the Boyd mansion sitting on the waterfront of Bobcaygeon. I was quite disappointed as the records were kept outside and were buried in pigeon guano, which I felt was a health risk; and the records of the company in the Boyd papers in Ottawa were quite complete. However, I asked for a tour of the house which was being prepared for an international auction for which there was wide interest in the artwork collected by Mrs. Boyd during her tours of northwestern Europe when she was escorting her two sons to Oxford and her daughter to an elite women's school in London.

The tour of the house was amazing. It was shaped like a large E and each time someone got married a wing was added to the house; this was a timber family, after all. The rooms included an attic room with only hats, and a small closet on the main floor containing all the lighting fixtures from the day they went electric. As well, the art work was still on the walls; Mrs. Boyd had good taste.

But the highlight for me was the pile of boxes in the dining room which were being set aside in case there was philatelic value. However, I could tell immediately and with a bit of poking that these were the family records. The first generation business records and diaries had gone to Ottawa, but the local historian said there was no value in the subsequent generations.

I persuaded the executor to donate these manuscript materials to Trent University and said that I could arrange a NAAB appraisal; they could get an income tax receipt for materials that might otherwise go to a dump. That is what happened. The collection proved to be a boon to the Canadian Studies and Canadian History programs at Trent University. It was regularly visited by my classes on Everyday Life in the Past. Highlights for me were the household records for managing the household; it seemed as if everything was kept. As well, three generations of the family kept detailed diaries in large format volumes, including of the two boys who studied at Oxford University. The material included:

- Correspondence and family papers, 1868-1940
- Diaries, 1876-1910; 1903-1938
- Photographs
- Family account books, 1868-1920



Gardening records  
Christmas cards, 1870s to 1910  
Cowichan Lumber Company (BC), 1908-1945

Altogether 20 metres of records intertwining the second and third generation of a family that kept everything; and which complemented the even larger collection of materials about the first generation at LAC.

One similar experience came when I was asked to look at a fur trade scrapbook in a house in Peterborough. Apparently, I was not the first to see this scrapbook as someone from elsewhere had been courting for it for some time because of his interest in the fur trade. I looked at the scrapbook and was immediately disappointed. I said it looked like a scrapbook that had been assembled quite recently by tucking in documents from some other source. Well, I was right, the lady said. The documents were out of a trunk upstairs. I asked to see the trunk and was blown away by its contents. It contained material by the fur trader, a factor for the Hudson's Bay Company who had retired to Peterborough where he became a financial advisor working in a team. The three of them were golfing in Peterborough by 1870, and it is my claim that Peterborough is the St. Andrew's of North American golf.

However, the trunk had more riches. There were the diaries and other papers of RB Rogers, who was the engineer for the building of the Peterborough Lift Lock, which opened in July 1904. As well, there were photos related to a steamboat captain whose career was in the area of Niagara Falls.

I suggested that all of these materials should be donated to the Trent University Archives, and that I could arrange a NAAB appraisal for income tax purpose. The diaries can be searched on the website for the University Archives, and these were more archives for use by history students, and others.

Those who have taken Masterclasses with me will know about the story of the Roy Studio Photography Studio in Peterborough; again, three generations of a family of photographers, nearly complete except for what must have been lost in a 1904 fire at the studio. The family and an agent wanted to sell the extensive collection, which was a major well-known community resource that documented a large part of the history from 1890 to 1940; not so much later when wedding pictures came to dominate.

I, with Jerry Sherlock, arranged the inventory and the appraisal of the collection and made a report to the City of Peterborough. A local committee sought donations from the community and nearly achieved the amount that the report had given as its value. The photo agent moved the goal posts, the committee was abandoned and the donations were returned or if donors wished, given to the Museum. A local auctioneer persuaded [Jim] Balsillie to buy the collection and donate it to the city for its museum. The museum took the collection to CPERB and declared this a nationally significant photo collection, not as comprehensive or valued as the Notman collection, but otherwise unmatched in Canadian archives. This has been an unbelievable asset to the history of Peterborough and the Kawarthas, and included photos of England in 1937, including the coronation.

The George Woodcock collection was appraised by me for a client. As I was travelling to Vancouver, Al Purdy advised Woodcock that NAAB appraisers assigned a value to everything including grocery receipts and laundry tickets so 'save everything.' I assured Woodcock that it did not work that way, but the Purdy-Woodcock correspondence has been published and the *Peterborough Examiner* asked me to review the book because I was mentioned in it!

I have appraised other literary collections, including those of Al Purdy, Ralph Gustafson, Farley Mowat, Pierre Berton, and Margaret Atwood.

One of the great advantages of the NAAB appraisal system is that we get to share opinions with others who draw upon their rich experience in the book trade and in archives and in historical research.

In some of our early appraisal sessions we sometimes used outside experts for particular aspects of the appraisal process. I think, for example, of appraisals by a Jewish rabbinical scholar from Cincinnati. Sometimes we had art experts or photo specialists work from outside, although after a few years we decided to bring them on to the appraisal team. There is much to be gained by seeing how other professionals approach their appraisals.

#### Imperial Oil archives - June 2005

The experience with Imperial Oil papers has parallels both with the Eatons experience and the Roy Studio appraisal. The papers had been maintained by a professional archivist for 25 years and were then destined for the Glenbow.

The appraisal was done by John Moldenhauer and myself. This was a valuable and diverse collection covering all aspects of one of the pioneers in Canada's gasoline world. Even though this had been kept well by a professional archivist (the collections were processed between 1980 and 1998) there was considerable appraisal work to be done. This was a great help, and the archivist was close at hand.

Some of the items are sought by appraisers and some idea of values could be gleaned from various price guides. The collection had the corporate records of several companies that were absorbed by Imperial Oil (now Exxon) and of subsidiaries. Earlier companies included Home Oil, Texaco (McColl Frontenac).

The multimedia fonds included photographs, film, A-V, maps, financial ledgers, legal papers, media promotion and relations, records of geologists, refinery records (Sarnia, Dartmouth, Montreal East), Leduc, Oil Springs, an extensive vertical file collection; scrapbooks and albums, 35mm slides, significant periodicals collection, and a wide range of artifacts.

There were over 4,000 photos, mostly by professional photographers, covering the first century of its history, as well as other photo collections. There were photos of service stations (2,000), Vancouver, BC (600) and Ontario (about 600 linen back 8x10).

The films included ones produced for use in schools and TV, and training films. There were some 786 films in the collection, and 500 TV ads.

Mostly covering 1870-2003 there were 420 metres textual and mixed; 27,718 photos; over 6,000 master videotapes; 786 films; over 2,000 audiotapes; architectural plans; and advertising materials.

The report was an extensive description (pages 2 to 6) consisting of an overview, and then summaries by series as created by Glenbow, which included dates, extent and content summaries. Later, following a detailed statement of justification, we listed all the series (37 plus some documents and advertising not in those series) and included a price for each series.

#### Markets

At the ACA Institute (Montreal, June 2004) Art of Monetary Appraisal of Archival Records, an insightful 8 page report provided useful background on the issuing of income tax receipts; discussion from three central figures on Fair Market Value of archival records; roles and responsibilities in the appraisal process and the issuing of receipts; and of CCPERB. There were exercises for the 12 participants and comments by the principals.

There was still difficulty discussing the use of "market." My contention was that there is a market for Canadian archival materials but archives are by their nature singular items and cannot be broken up and sold in other markets. Sometimes the market operates with different proxies. For example, universities will place high value on archives that have great potential for research and that might prove essential in differentiating their abilities to provide good opportunities for students (such as in polling data) or for graduate students (such as political, literary and business archives). As well, the market is skewed because the acquisition by libraries, archives and museums reduce the documents able to be sold by auctions, bookstores or antique dealers. There seemed to be consensus on the concept of fair market value as used by CCPERB and Revenue Canada. Because the actual market cannot be tested since the archives has been donated to an institution then we must reason the market; reasoned justification was acceptable to CCPERB. This concept arose over the

years as efforts were made to have appraisal reports that were more transparent and touched areas where CCPERB board members had experience. Reasoned justification could include quantity, rarity, quality, historical significance, and reasonable bench marks either in the market or by previous appraisals of comparable items.

One significant difference between archival collections and other categories of materials (such as art and music) being certified is that aside from literary manuscripts, archival materials were not created for sale.

In 2004, CCPERB dealt with 1,200 applications for certification as cultural property of national significance; of these 225 were for archival collections.

Over the course of these early years with NAAB (30 or so years) there were many lessons learned.

1. Authentication is very important.
2. Descriptions have to match what is viewed.
3. Triangulation process was tried and proven.
4. Research has to be undertaken by appraisers; we expected finding aids more than two weeks in advance.
5. Donations must be solid, and supported by donation report.
6. Archives have to do appraisal of collections with due respect to archival, provenance, and mandate considerations.
7. Collections should be appraised from the bottom up, series by series, media by media.

Personally, I enjoyed the work of appraising. It was a way to keep abreast of what was current in the archives world, and to see how other archives or historians dealt with their records.

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## **OBITUARY**

### **RICHARD SPAFFORD**

November 9, 1938 - October 6, 2021

Our deepest condolences to our friend and colleague Leah Spafford, whose father, Richard (Dick) Spafford, died a few months ago.

Starting in the early 1980s, Richard served as an appraiser for the National Archival Appraisal Board, developing along the way a keen sense of the fragility and importance of historical documents. He amassed one of the largest collections of Indigenous, Prairie, and Canadian history material in the country, which were sought after by academic libraries throughout North America. When his daughter, Leah, moved back to Regina, she worked closely with her dad in bookselling and appraisals. After a stroke left him partially paralyzed in 2005, Leah cared for her dad and the business, the two continuing a lifelong relationship based on deep love.

In addition to books, Richard was a consummate and gifted collector of fine art, ceramics, and antiques. He had a special eye for picking out rare and historical items and recognizing emerging artists. Many of the pieces he collected over the years can be found in the permanent collections of the Mackenzie Art Gallery, Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Canadian Museum of History, and the Glenbow. Richard was a charismatic person, an engaging raconteur, and an endlessly interesting individual whose sense of humour was unmatched. He was a creative thinker with a strong sense of self and devotion to family and his many close friends.

Over the years Richard was involved in many major initiatives that helped to foster a rich and creative environment for Saskatchewan artists. After the death of his wife, artist and arts administrator Jane Turnbull Evans, Richard continued her

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DONATION OF ARCHIVAL RECORDS

TAX RECEIPTS

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DIGITAL RECORDS

VALUE

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vision for supporting the arts through an agency endowed to hold gifts and bequests. The Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts was established by the Saskatchewan legislature in 1999 and now has an endowment of \$2.2 million. In 2005, Richard was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award for Leadership for his contributions to the arts and culture in Saskatchewan.

Among others, Richard is survived by his daughter Leah Spafford and his sister Janice Shoquist; and was predeceased by his brother-in-law Garry Shoquist. Many in the appraisal community, especially in the prairie provinces, will have had the good fortune to have worked with, and learned from, all four of these exceptional appraisers.

(Excerpts from the obituary written by Shirley Spafford).

**NAAB Newsletter Committee**

The committee members (in alphabetical order) are:

- Cheryl Avery, University of Saskatchewan Archives & Special Collections
- Evelyn Fidler, Kings Landing
- Sophie Morel, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec - Trois-Rivières
- Simon Rogers, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto
- Leah Spafford, Spafford Books

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