

Good evening everyone,

As you know I represent archival interests on LACH.

More often than not there is nothing pertaining to archives which comes to our attention.

This evening I have something of great concern to a number of us in the field of research.

Yesterday morning it came to my attention that the senior administration of the London Public Library has been in negotiations with the Western Archives and plans to dispose of all its Seaborn Collection, including scrapbooks, microfilm rolls, index cards and duplicate copies thereof to be transferred from the London Room to the Western Archives.

People like Cindy Hartman and Stephen Harding have spoken with Arthur McClelland and at least one other staff member of the London Room. It would appear that this decision has been made over their heads and without their blessing, to say the least!

The bottom line is that the Seaborn Collection was deposited with the London Public Library by Dr. Edwin Seaborn and this was one of six depositories he had selected for his materials. One of the five others was the Smithsonian Museum in Washington.

The Seaborn Collection at the London Room represents the very core or backbone of the contents of the London Room.

Personally, I have used the Seaborn Collection on a frequent basis for at least 50 years! Much of my research, articles and books have, in part, been based on the Seaborn Collection.

Certainly the Collection would be well preserved at the Western Archives. But at what cost?

The Western Archives is open for only a few hours each weekday, but not in the evenings or on weekends. Someone working 9 to 5 during the week has no opportunity of using the Western Archives. Then there is the cost of parking at Western which is only surpassed by the cost of parking at University Hospital and the Victoria Campus on Commissioners Road.

If the senior administration of the London Public Library can dispose of the core collection in the London Room, it can then dispose of the London Room.

I have notified The London & Middlesex Historical Society, The London & Middlesex Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, James Reaney of *The London Free Press* and other interested individuals.

I would like to see this issue of the disposal of the Seaborn Collection put on the agenda for our December LACH meeting and discussed as to what action, if any, LACH will take in this matter.

In the meantime I'll keep the members of LACH apprised of anything further I learn relative to the Seaborn Collection.

All the best,

Dan Brock