

The Archives of the Engineering Institute of Canada

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Past Chair: EIC History & Archives Committee

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Primary archival material belonging to the Engineering Institute of Canada and its predecessor, the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, was submitted for safe storage and research access to the National Archives of Canada until 2005, when the Archives (now Library and Archives Canada) changed its rules for the acquisition of new material. Most of the material submitted up until that time has been retained by the Archives, and may still be accessed for research purposes under Finding Aid No. 1115.

The part of the original collection that is no longer in the Archives consists of the books that belonged to EIC's own library. These are now held in the EIC Collection at the library of the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, where they may be accessed.

Library and Archives Canada also holds material for a number of individual engineers, who were members of CSCE and EIC. For access to these archives - as well as to the CSCE/ EIC archival material - for research purposes, application should be made through the LAC website, www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, steps were taken to collect from EIC's national headquarters, its former regions and branches, officers and committee members, such primary archival material as remained uncollected and was pertinent to the policies, operations and programs of the Institute as a whole. This activity continued for the next 15 years or so, after which the collected material was sorted and prepared for permanent safe storage and access for research. In view of the LAC decisions on acquisitions, several possible alternative locations were considered. However, in 2009 - with the cooperation of EIC president and founding dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Dr. Marc A. Rosen - the collected material was offered to, and accepted by, the Library of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology at Oshawa. The archival staff of the Library undertook to prepare the collection finally for storage and research purposes. Since then, a start has been made on the digitizing of part of the collection for on-line access. The Finding Aid is No. F-9000. For access to this collection, the archivist responsible should be contacted (Brenda.Jackson@uoit.ca).

The UOIT Library has also accepted archival material from two of the EIC's member societies, the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering and the Canadian Geotechnical Society, for safe storage and research access. The other member societies of the Institute are encouraged to make similar arrangements. As well, it has been agreed that

the Library will consider accepting the personal working archives of individual engineers for storage and access. Again, contact should be made with the archivist - as above - or with the UOIT & Durham College Library, 2000 N Simcoe St., Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7K4; tel. (905) 721-8668 x 2348; fax (905) 721-3029.

The intention is that the UOIT Library will in time become the principal depository for the primary archival material of Canadian institutes and societies in the engineering field.

It should be noted that elements of the archival material belonging to the Engineering Institute are currently stored in provincial and other formal Archives across Canada. Generally, they reflect the activities of the Institute's regions and branches. They have not, however, been inventoried and the individual Archives should be approached for further information.

Finally, current EIC activities and those of its History & Archives Committee can be found on-line at www.eic-ici.ca.

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