

wonderful gadgetry of modern technology is around to help us. Why don't we use these tools to make clearer the subjects about which we speak and to add a little pizzazz to the proceedings?

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Archivists, Historians, and Conferences

I do not know quite how to state strongly enough my dismay that next year the ACA will again meet in glorious isolation, separate from the Learned Societies. My position hardened after a most remarkable performance by three archivists who spoke at the Canadian Business History Conference in Peterborough that immediately followed the ACA meeting in Toronto.

There, in what was admitted to have been a long-planned event, the three mounted a spirited, self-interested attack on historians and how they have failed to respond to the needs of archivists, both morally and logistically. That was fair enough: after all, some archivists have the distinct feeling they are an endangered species, and we probably have not been getting the support we would like from our users in the way of public commendation.

However, one of those archivists then unwittingly put his finger on a large part of the problem, when he rhetorically asked: "Where were the historians at our ACA meeting in Toronto?" (Although he had been heard earlier in the week to remark that there were too many historians around!) Well, they were *not* in attendance largely because they were scheduled to meet some two weeks later in another city, and they are *not* going to be there in any greater numbers next year, because we will be meeting at different ends of the country.

I cannot reconcile this attack on historians' non-involvement in our plight with our insistence on congregating at ever-farther points from their meetings. I shall not be going to Edmonton next year because of this. Indeed, I am willing to arrange an informal meeting of archivists and users to coincide with the CHA meetings in Montréal in 1985 to discuss what seems to me an unfortunate divergence of our paths.

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