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CANADIAN ARCHITECTURAL BOOK RECEIVES AWARD

Tucson, Ariz.--Martin Segger and Douglas Franklin, of Victoria, British Columbia, were selected to receive an award in the nation's most prestigious competition for local history achievement.

The American Association for State and Local History, at its annual meeting in Tucson, named Segger and Franklin recipients of a Certificate of Commendation for stimulating awareness and interest in the architecture and history of Victoria, British Columbia.

Segger and Franklin were notified in a special letter of congratulations, in the form of a "History-Gram," sent following two days of deliberations by a national selection committee. The committee, composed of leaders in the history profession, screened over 100 nominations in its annual deliberations.

Nominations originate at the local level and are screened at the state and regional levels by a national network of judges. Only those nominees approved in these preliminary competitions are considered for national honors.

The American Association for State and Local History has given awards to local historians and historical agencies since 1944. It is a nonprofit educational organization with a membership of over 6,000 individuals and institutions working to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in the United States and Canada. The Association publishes books, technical leaflets, HISTORY NEWS, a monthly magazine, and holds seminars, workshops, and other education programs for professional and volunteer workers in the field of state and local history. The Association's headquarters is in Nashville, Tennessee.

Richard Cunningham Windeyer (1830? - 1900)

Recently, descendents of R.C. Windeyer made a copy loan to the Ontario Archives of the Architect's scrapbook, and some other papers. These materials provide important information on his career, spent largely in Montreal and Toronto, and on one of his principal commissions, the Toronto Custom House.

Windeyer is said to have been born about 1830, one of several children of Archibald Charles Windeyer. Almost certainly he was born in England, possibly near Plymouth where his father and mother were living in retirement in the 1850's. He died at his home, 270 Avenue Road, Toronto, on March 24, 1900.

Contrary to what might be expected, Windeyer's architectural training came not in England but in the United States. At the time of his marriage in 1854, he seems to have been working as a clerk in the Army's Ordnance department at Woolwich. Shortly after his arrival in the U.S., he and his wife went to Cleveland. Between 1854 and 1858, he spent time in Canada (1855), Washington and Richmond, Va. (1856), and in England (1857-58), returning to Canada again in the spring of 1858. It is not known what he did for a living during this period, but by June, 1858, he had begun to study architecture and was thinking of going to work for Jonathan B. Snook (1815-1901), an architect in Brooklyn, N.Y.

By the autumn of 1858 Windeyer had become a student in Snook's office where he was employed until at least January, 1860, before he left to go into partnership or practice on his own. Two years later he pulled up stakes in New York and came back to Canada, settling in Montreal. It was shortly after his return, perhaps during the summer of 1862, that he entered into a partnership with Joseph Savage, a civil engineer and land surveyor, which lasted until November, 1865. During this period, Windeyer and Savage had a co-partnership with Charles Legge, a civil engineer and patent solicitor. Windeyer seems to have practised on his own from November, 1865 until he moved to Toronto in August, 1871 when he joined forces with William Malsbury, a civil engineer with whom he had worked on the Montreal and Ottawa Junction Railway earlier in 1871. They went their separate ways within a year. Again in 1874, Windeyer was in a brief partnership with Savage, but following this appears to have practised on his own until 1885 when he and John Falloon became partners. This arrangement survived until 1887 or 1888 and then Falloon left Toronto for points unknown. In 1889, Windeyer's son Richard joined his father's office as an architectural student. The firm was known as R.C. Windeyer and Son between 1893 and 1896, when the younger Windeyer gave up architecture to become a commercial traveller.

There is little doubt John Falloon was Windeyer's step-son and the natural son of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Falloon and his wife Amelia French. Probably John was born in Melbourne, Que., where his father had gone in poor health from the Montreal parish of St. Ann's (now St. Stephen's) Chapel in 1848. Dr. Falloon died in 1862.

Another step-son was Caufield D. Falloon who worked with Windeyer on the Montreal and Ottawa Junction Railway project, and who a few years later was living a few doors away from Windeyer on Bleeker Street. Later still, both C.D. and John Falloon were boarders in Windeyer's home, the latter staying there for at least 10 years. In 1879, Falloon was in partnership with A.R. Denison. By 1882, he had moved back to share an office with Windeyer, but they do not seem to have entered into partners agreements before 1885.

Another student in Windeyer's office was S.R. Badgley, who in opening an office in St. Catharines in 1876, advertised that he had worked for Windeyer and had an arrangement whereby he could obtain his advice and assistance. (St. Catharines

Evening Journal Mar. 9/76). Twenty years later, another student in Windeyer's office was Vaux Chadwick.

Windeyer is well known as the architect for the Toronto Custom House, which he designed in 1872; what may not be generally known is that he was dismissed from the job in late 1875. In the legal suits which followed, the government alleged a lack of professional conduct on the architect's part, while Windeyer and his friends claimed political motives lay behind the actions of the Liberal Mackenzie government in breaking a contract made by their Conservative predecessors.

It would seem that Windeyer's honour and reputation were vindicated by his subsequent work for the government of Canada on such buildings as the St. Catharines Post Office (1881) and the University Avenue Armouries, Toronto (1891-95).

He was an early member of the Ontario Society of Artists and later an associate of the Royal Canadian Academy.

This collection establishes Windeyer's connection with a number of buildings including numerous houses in Montreal and Toronto, Zion Congregational (Montreal), Toronto Custom House, Churches in Toronto, Post Office, St. Catharines, and many other buildings.

Submitted by Steven Otto, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Toronto, Ontario.

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JOHN CHIVERS

Mr. John Chivers has just recently notified us of his retirement from the field of architectural preservation. Members who attended the 1975 Annual Meeting will remember well his presentation on "Icelandic Settlements in Manitoba". During his career, Mr. Chivers also worked for the Historic Resources Branch of the Department of Tourism, Recreational and Cultural Affairs, Manitoba, where he was involved in the restoration of the Icelandic Lutheran Church on Hecla Island. We wish Mr. Chivers many enjoyable days tending his garden on Vancouver Island!