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**SHERK (Lawrence) Papers**

Gift of Lawrence C. Sherk, 2011 and 2017

**Dates of creation:**

1997-2016

**Extent:**

4 boxes (.5 metres)

**Biographical note:**

From his book, *150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels*:

Lawrence (Larry) Carl Sherk was the last Sherk to be born in one of the many Sherk family farmhouses around the village of Sherkston, now part of the town of Port Colborne, Ontario – where he grew up and went to school. From there he went to college in Guelph, post-graduate school at Cornell University, and then spent a year visiting gardens and nurseries in Europe. After several years with Agriculture Canada in Ottawa, he joined the staff of Sheridan Nurseries in Etobicoke, Ontario.

In February 1972, a holiday in San Francisco turned everything upside down when he visited a house where the walls were covered with various kinds of advertising nostalgia and breweriana. Returning to Toronto, he decided to find a few advertising signs to decorate a stairwell. Soon he acquired several beer trays to decorate his kitchen. Then, “all hell broke loose!” as dealers started offering him ashtrays and bottle openers; before long, his passion for collecting Canadian breweriana was in full swing.

Larry’s first sixty labels, circa 1890-1910, were acquired in January 1975 when he found an old printer’s sample book. He added to this cache by purchasing other labels through contacts in breweries spanning from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and by trading with fellow collectors from across Canada.

In 2011, Anne Dondertman, then acting director of the Fisher Rare Books Library at the University of Toronto, convinced Larry to donate the pre-1945 portion of his label collection to the library. Anne went on to have it declared a National Treasure by Heritage Canada, and a large number of labels were scanned and made available for public viewing on the university’s website. In 2016 he published a book showcasing his collection of beer labels from the 1870s-2016 entitled *150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels* (2016).

**Scope and content:**

This accession of Lawrence (Larry) Sherk’s papers includes early correspondence, travel, European horticultural materials, materials, photographic slides, and drafts of his book: *150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels* (2016).

*Contains series:*

1. Correspondence
2. Travel materials
3. European horticultural materials
4. Other slides
5. Files for book: ‘150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels’

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**Custodial history:**

Papers were donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library by Larry Sherk in 2011 and 2017.

**Notes:**

Folder descriptions are taken directly from titles given by Larry Sherk.

<b>SERIES 1: Correspondence</b>	
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>
	Letters sent by Sherk to his mother, father, and sister while in Europe. Filed chronologically. September 1960 – September 1961.
	1960:
1:1	5 ALS, 1 telegram
1:2	8 ALS
	1961:
1:3	8 ALS
1:4	10 ALS
1:5	9 ALS
	Letters received by Sherk while in Europe. Filed chronologically. October 1960 – July 1961.
1:6	2 ALS
	Miscellaneous
1:7	Envelope in which the above letters were kept by Sherk.
1:8	1 ALS sent from Mrs. Carl Sherk to Marion in Austria, dated January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 1964.
1:9	Shipping waybill, dated September 1961, arranged by Sherk, in order to ship 1 Volkswagen car from Amsterdam to New York.
<b>SERIES 2: Travel Materials</b>	
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>
1:10	1 small, leather-bound notebook, in which Sherk kept a handwritten journal of his travels. Entries begin Sept 7, 1960, and end Sept 23,

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	1961. At the back is an alphabetical address book, in which Sherk has listed various European (mainly horticultural) contacts.
1:11	1 Esso Touring Service folding map of Western Europe, used by Sherk in his travels.
<b>SERIES 3: European Horticulture Materials</b>	
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>
1:12	Contents of a small black binder, where Sherk recorded horticultural notes throughout his travels.
1:13	Empty black binder that contained the above horticultural notes.
1:14	18 typewritten pages in which Sherk outlines the proposed itinerary for his trip, provides a summary of the purpose of his trip [though the first page of this section is missing], and lists the gardens he intends to visit, along with a brief description of each garden.
1:15	24 loose-leaf lined pages that had been kept in a binder. Sherk used these pages to record each photograph he took during his travels, and the entries here correspond to the horticulture slides below [though the slides were kept by Sherk in a different order].  Also included are notes made by Sherk, dated Nov. 22, 1961, for a horticulture lecture he was to give [location unknown].
<b>Box 2</b>	
2:1-3	509 slides of individual plants, along with greenhouses and gardens, visited throughout Europe by Sherk during his 1960-1961 trip. Most of the slides are titled and dated, and correspond to the descriptions in Box 1, folder 15, however they were filed in a different order by Sherk, and that order has been maintained.
	The main locations listed on the slides are: London, Surrey, Wales, Norfolk, Cornwall, Dorset, Devon, Windsor, Kent, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Loch Ness, Balmoral, Glasgow, various locations in the Highlands, Northern Ireland, Dublin, Switzerland, Versailles, Orléans, Montpellier, Nice, Paris, Lyon, Alps, Monaco, Elmshorn, Berlin, Hannover, Stuttgart, Munich, Frankfurt, Wageningen, Rotterdam, Leiden, Nordwijk, Lisse, Boskoop, Brussels, Ghent, Villa Taranto (Italy), Pinya de Rosa (Spain).
<b>SERIES 4: Other Slides</b>	

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<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>
2:4-5	246 "tourist shot" [title provided by Sherk] slides of the European places visited by Sherk during his 1960-1961 trip. These images focus on plant life, landscapes, famous monuments, and urban centres. Most of these slides are titled with the location and some are dated.
2:6	28 slides of Canadian gardens, mainly in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. All are titled with the locations, and are dated between 1962-1965.
<b>SERIES 5: Files for book: '150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels'.</b>	
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>
3:1-3:3	Draft – Round 3 [with revisions]. 2013-2015
3:4-3:18	Three drafts of '150 Years of Canadian Beer Labels' in various stages of editing. [2013-2016]
4:1-4:10	Notes, drafts, edits for book. Includes a biography for Larry Sherk, images for his book, and correspondence about his contract and editorial schedule for his book.