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MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Peter B. Hirtle

Subject: Back to East 29th Street, by Imre Sutton

Date: 23 December 2008

On 17 December 2008, I sent the following email message to Dr. Imre Sutton and Mr. William Routa (the distributor of the book cited above):

Dear Mr Routa and/or Dr. Sutton:

We have received the CD of Professor Sutton's Memoirs, and I am glad to be able to add them to the collection.

I must admit I am a little worried about the long-term stability and usefulness of the CD-R format. May I have your permission, therefore, to place a copy of the files on the Library's institutional repository: eCommons@Cornell (found at <http://ecommons.cornell.edu>)?)?

There are several options for access:

- I could, if you prefer, keep the file inaccessible except in the event the CD-R you kindly sent me failed, at which point we would make a replacement CD-R.
- I could make the file accessible to authorized members of the Cornell community (faculty, students, and staff).
- I could make it completely open so that anyone in the world would be able to find and read the text. I would also have a permanent URL to identify the work. The text would also be indexed by Google. An example of a work for which we received permission to post is found at <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11219>.

Please let me know if you would be open to any of these three options, or if you would prefer that we merely place the CD-R on the shelf.

Sincerely,
Peter Hirtle

On 18 December 2008, Dr. Sutton responded as follows:

Mr. Hirtle:

I appreciate your considerable interest in my geographical memoir. And I appreciate the potential long-term problem with the CD. Let me outline my perspective...

I would rather go with you on the first two suggestions, but at this time not with the third. If my little memoir were to have "planetary" or cyberspace distribution, I would want to edit the volume and send you another CD, perhaps well into January. I am currently coediting a very large and complex book dealing with American Indians (my primary research field dealing with land tenure and cartography). We have the book at a publisher and I must give most of my time to it.

I have another volume that is online and I have considered redoing it for the same reasons -- typos, misstatements, errors of other kinds, and the need to add omissions and some acknowledgments. I would do the same for that volume as well. (Visit: <http://thorpe.ou.edu/treatises.html>. click on "Indian Titles."

Perhaps my alternative suggestion works for you as well. I have explored the Cornell online materials and in fact informed the library director of my university, who was unaware of that site.

As an aside, could I ask if you are an alumnus of PS116 and that is how you discovered my book?

Cordially,

Imre Sutton

In light of Dr. Sutton's response, I replied that we would place a copy of the book on eCommons, but only as a security measure in case the original is damaged.