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Editorial

I am very excited to present the final issue of 2022. I know it has been a long wait and I greatly appreciate your patience. The good news is that the first two issues of 2023 are already in the production process and will be published by the end of July or in early August.

This issue contains two articles and two commentaries covering a broad range of topics. Chris Madsen’s article explores the life and times of naval officer, general, politician, and cabinet minister Auguste Gougeard who was a strong advocate for reform and organizational change in the French Navy in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Madsen details how Gougeard’s complicated and, at times, acrimonious relationship with the navy’s top leadership impaired his effectiveness as a reformer. In the second article, Trevor Laurie examines the major part that the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal played in developing the Potomac River valley and the capital region of the United States. While exploring the origins and the overall impact of the canal, Laurie focuses on the canal’s role in the formation and development of the two main ports that service the District of Columbia area and the middle Atlantic region – Georgetown and Alexandria.

The issue’s first commentary examines Sophie E. Porter’s account of the life of the whaling community over-wintering at Hershel Island (Qikiqtaruk) in 1894-1895. Edited and introduced by P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Porter’s account provides a window into this fascinating community, the experiences of its female members, and how notions of gender, race, and class positions shaped life on Herschel Island. The second commentary, by Brian Bertosa, reproduces and examines the minutes of two 1967 Defence Council meetings that discuss the creation of the Canadian Armed Forces Naval Jack – today’s Canadian Naval Ensign. Bertosa takes the readers through all the twists and turns in the jack’s design and explains the roles that the military’s top leadership played in the

complex process.

For the first time since I took over as editor in 2021, we are publishing responses to previously published content. In his response, Hugh Murphy notes his disagreement with the methods, tone, and conclusions of Mike Bender's article, "If Maritime Historians Are in Danger of "being left with their journals and not much else" (Lewis Fischer), What Can Those Journals Tell Us about Ourselves? A Ten-Year Study" (published in *TNM* 32, no. 1). Murphy also provides his own take on some of the current issues in maritime history. Harry Holman, on the other hand, shares Bender's concern over the state of the field and uses his analytical framework to highlight the lack of diversity in the research articles published by *The Northern Mariner* between 2011 and 2020. (Holman's piece was previously published in [Argonauta XL, no. 2](#) (2023) – I very much appreciate the willingness of the author and that publication's editor, Erika Behrisch, to give the greenlight for the article's reproduction in *TNM*.)

As editor, I will state that I disagree with several of Murphy's assertions – particularly his implication that scholarship on nautical archaeology is best left out of the pages of maritime history journals – and defend our decision to publish Bender's article in *TNM*. While I appreciate Holman's critique and acknowledge the need to diversify the content published in *TNM*, I would like to address his critique of the journal's peer review process. I often work closely with authors during the submission process to ensure that their articles are ready for peer review. At the same time, I – and other members of the editorial board – provide authors with support and assistance as they work through post-review revisions. As a result, we have had a low rejection rate in recent years.

If you have a research article, research note, commentary, or review essay that you would like to submit to *TNM*, please do so! We want to publish content that spans "the fields of naval, political, diplomatic, social, cultural, gender, Indigenous, economic, and environmental history." For research articles, we are looking for novel and interesting arguments, strong analysis, and the effective use of evidence, but are wide open in terms of topic. We have made some progress in diversifying the journal's content in recent years and I urge you to submit your work so that we can continue to make headway.

I hope you find this issue interesting and engaging. I want to thank the authors for their contributions. As usual, I would also like to thank editorial board members Roger Sarty and Rich Gimblett, book review editor Faye Kert, and production editor Walter Lewis for their assistance and guidance.

All the best,
Peter Kikkert
Editor, *The Northern Mariner*