

# The Northern Mariner / Le marin du nord

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## Editorial

I am very happy to introduce the first issue of 2023, which contains three interesting and well-argued research articles and a bevy of book reviews. The three articles are diverse in terms of aim and focus, but are loosely united by one overarching theme: they all explore aspects of British imperial history. Interestingly, the authors of each article offer important challenges and correctives to the established historiographies surrounding their topics.

The first article, “A ‘Small Vessel of Brisk Bostoneers’: The Life and Times of the Massachusetts Province Sloop *Mary*, c. 1688-1693,” by Benjamin Schaffer explores the relatively unknown history and impact of the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s provincial naval sloop *Mary* and its crew. This article was awarded the North American Society for Ocean History’s Clark G. Reynolds Student Paper Award, which is provided each year to the author of the best paper by a graduate student or students delivered at the society’s annual conference. Schaffer argues that the provincial navies of the English colonies in the Americas have not received the attention from historians that they warrant. He takes the reader through *Mary*’s involvement in a wide array of “transatlantic dramas ranging from the Glorious Revolution to the Golden Age of Piracy to the Salem Witchcraft Trials” providing a

rare maritime lens through which to view these major historical events. Schaffer's article reveals much about how colonial governments managed their naval defenses, examines the "oft-ignored role that provincial naval warfare played in the formation of the English Atlantic world," and reveals how these forces and initiatives laid the foundation for a colonial navy.

In "Force Projection in the Time of Scurvy: The Destruction of the 1740-42 West Indies Expedition," Craig S. Chapman recounts the large-scale British expedition to Cartagena de Indias during the War of Jenkins' Ear, which resulted in 13,000-15,000 deaths and absolutely no gains. Chapman points out that the expedition must go down as "one of Britain's greatest military fiascos" and serves as "a cautionary tale about the difficulties of mounting an overseas enterprise in the early modern era." Chapman makes an important contribution to the limited historiography on the expedition by examining how such a powerful offensive could have failed so disastrously. Using a careful examination of muster records, he challenges previous interpretations which emphasized that "the army's slow proceedings dragged on too long, allowing tropical disease, mostly yellow fever, to ravage the ranks and force a withdrawal." Chapman's analysis convincingly highlights the "two most decisive factors in the British failure at Cartagena: misconceptions about tropical illnesses and poor military leadership."

Finally, in "Admiral Jellicoe Goes to Sea: The Naval Mission and the Ambition for an 'Imperial Royal Navy,'" Ian Yeates examines the role that Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's 1919 Naval Mission to India, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada played in the development of each dominion navy. Historians have long dismissed the value and impact of Jellicoe's mission. Yeates, however, argues that the mission was "significant" and an "important milestone" in the development of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Australian Navy, and the Royal New Zealand Navy. After each visit, Jellicoe prepared reports detailing how local navies should be established to aid the Royal Navy in imperial defence. Yeates explains that although officials in Canberra, Wellington, and Ottawa did not immediately follow Jellicoe's advice, the basic principles and concepts he outlined, particularly on organization, training, equipment, and interoperability, went on to provide the foundations for the Second World War and postwar dominion navies. While the close imperial partnership envisioned by Jellicoe and other Royal Navy officials "was not achieved in fact," the admiral's mission helped to ensure that it was "effectively accomplished in practice and spirit."

We have a lot of great content lined up for the next few issues. I think we have a good chance of catching up to our publication schedule in the coming months. If you have an article, research note, commentary, or review essay that you are interested in publishing, I urge you to submit as soon as possible.

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