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Editorial

This number, as promised, begins with two papers originally presented at the annual meeting of the CNRS at St. John's, NLF in August 2023.

Wes Cross reports how the British and Canadian ship badges that decorated the Ajax seamen's club and its successor Ajax Hospitality Headquarters in Halifax during the Second World War came to lie forgotten in storage at McGill University. Wes played a key role in the rediscovery and preservation of the badges as co-founder of the McGill Remembers project. The present article is part of McGill Remembers' endeavours to promote the collections in the McGill University Archives, the new home of the badges, for research and education.

Thomas Malcomson, whose work on naval history in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century will be familiar to readers of the journal, embarks on a new area of research with his study of the "Cookery Manual" distributed to stewards aboard ships of the Upper Lakes & St Lawrence Transportation Company in 1949. There is a personal connection. Thomas bought the manual

at an auction as it brought back memories of his summer employment when a student as the most junior crew member on the Scott Misener Steamships Company lakes bulk carrier SS *John A. France*. The 1949 manual, as the article demonstrates, was an initiative to improve the nutrition and thus the health and efficiency of the ships' crews. This was an example of the rise of government and business interest in public health that arose during the Second World War when the demands of military and industrial mobilization revealed the impact of poor nutrition during the Great Depression on the physical fitness of the working-age population.

The third article is the first part of a two-part history of the British Bank Line from the founding of the shipping company in 1875 by Scottish entrepreneur Andrew Weir until the firm's dissolution in 2016. The second part, which covers the decline of the firm from the 1970s in the face of the challenges of large bulk carriers and containerisation, will appear in the next number of the journal. Authors Roy Fenton and Hugh Murphy, leading specialists on wide ranging aspects of British merchant shipping, have covered the financial history of the company as well as the development of its fleet and the relationship between the firm and British shipbuilders. We are grateful to Pete Kikkert who began work on this submission and recommended it to us, just one example of his continuing support to the team during the transition in the editorship of the journal.

All four article authors in this number did exceptional research for illustrations, which illuminated the conference presentations and have been so capably integrated with the texts by production editor Walter Lewis. Jean-Michel Turcotte and Melissa Davidson, our new book reviews editorial team, have again organized a splendid group of reviews against tight deadlines even while learning on the job. As always we are also grateful to our peer reviewers, unnamed but not unsung, whose careful, timely work is essential to scholarly publication.

Roger Sarty and Richard Gimblett, Guest Editors