

The Northern Mariner / Le marin du nord

Volume 35, Number 1

(Spring/Printemps 2025)

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of volume 35, and to my first issue as General Editor. As I take up this role, I am struck by the strong legacy of scholarly publishing passed on by my predecessors. I have benefited from the good fortune of working with several of the previous editors: William Glover, who saved the journal when it was at its darkest hour; Roger Sarty, whose pen elevated the work of many authors and who continues to guide the journal as Chair of the Editorial Board; and Peter Kikkert, who oversaw the transition to an open-access digital journal that shone a bright light on the Arctic. I hope to build upon their work by charting a course that finds a balance between studies of naval issues and commercial shipping, and broadens the journal's scope to include the impact of human activity upon the natural environment, connections between ships and shore that can be found by exploring coastlines, harbours and ports, and a diverse approach to the social aspects of maritime history. It can be a challenge to navigate the steadily changing approaches to research and publishing in this era of digital humanities and evolving cultural priorities. Unlike navy rum, a maritime history journal must take care not to find itself upon the rocks.

This issue features the work of five authors new to the pages of the journal. We begin with the work of Malcolm Butler, a retired naval officer who studied the newspaper produced on the light cruiser HMCS *Uganda* for almost six months in 1945. He examines the important role the broadsheet played in developing cohesion and a sense of community among a ship's company drawn from across Canada, Newfoundland, and the United States with only a third having previous experience on board a cruiser, and discovers limits to the newspaper's impact when dealing with the highly contentious issue created by the Canadian government's decision that only volunteers would serve in the Pacific Theatre.

The second article is written by Peter Lloyd, Niall MacKay, and Christopher Price – two mathematicians and an historian – who use a computer simulation to test the findings of the British Admiralty's operational research upon German U-boat tactics of “ace” versus “browning” during the Second World War. Their innovative approach is an important addition to the literature on the Battle of the Atlantic and to recognizing the significance of operational research in military studies.

Our third article by Ambjörn Adomeit builds upon his graduate work at the Royal Military College of Canada and traces Canada's tortuous path toward procuring *Oberon*-class submarines from the United Kingdom during the Cold War. His work on the supremacy of political expediency over the strategic requirements of the Royal Canadian Navy and NATO is timely given the current debate in Canada over the purchase of new submarines to replace the aging *Victoria*-class vessels. Will the navy's campaign to acquire up to a dozen diesel-electric submarines once again fall prey to changing federal fiscal priorities and

a dithering procurement process as outlined by Ambjörn Adomeit? This article is also noteworthy for the contribution of Thomas Malcomson, President of the Canadian Nautical Research Society and the author of several previous articles and reviews, in the role of photographer. His images record the visit of HMCS *Okanagan* to Toronto in November 1990 during the first cruise of a Canadian submarine on the Great Lakes – an attempt by the Department of National Defence to build an appreciation for its submersible fleet among the Canadian public, a connection considered to be tenuous by the author.

Speaking of tenuous, my transition to the role of editor during the preparation of this issue has been made possible by the assistance of several people whose support I wish to acknowledge. The foundation for the issue was laid by Peter Kikkert, who reviewed and accepted these three articles for publication. Roger Sarty and Richard Gimblett, Chair and Vice Chair of the Editorial Board, provided much practical advice and wise counsel. I thank the authors, who patiently answered questions and considered revisions in a positive and constructive manner. This issue is also the first to use the services of a copyeditor at the parting suggestion of Peter. Shelagh Plunkett provided expert advice in negotiating the murky depths of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and offered informed responses to picayune questions about punctuation, the use of capitals and italics, and similar inquiries that stopped just short of considering the number of sailors that could dance on the head of a pin. These discussions were broadened to include the historians of the Directorate of History and Heritage at Canada's National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. In particular, I thank Melissa Davidson for sharing clear and insightful explanations based on her work with style guidelines at DHH.

As the issue began to take shape, Jean-Michel Turcotte provided more than 20 book reviews that reflect the wide breadth of both the current state of maritime history and the interests of our readers. The editorial team congratulates Jean-Michel on his recent appointment as Chief Historian at DHH, but we regret that this promotion will leave him no time to edit book reviews. His dedicated service to the journal has been greatly appreciated, including his efforts to find a successor. We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Murray, Literary Programs Advisor with Library and Archives Canada, is the new Book Reviews Editor. Rebecca's enthusiasm for history, books, and working with readers suits her well for this position. Finally, I acknowledge my good fortune to be making this journey toward publication with Walter Lewis, Production Editor. He has offered constant encouragement and responded to suggestions for revisions with grace and good humour as text and images frequently shifted across page breaks. The end result is now in the readers' hands, and we look forward to any comments or suggestions you may wish to offer.

Michael Moir
General Editor