The Northern Mariner / Le marin du nord

Volume XXVII, Number 3 (July/Juillet 2017)

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From the Editor

Clarke

Sometimes the articles that join together when ready for publication as an issue have a common theme which, while wonderful for those interested in that subject, may leaves others less satisfied. That is certainly not the case for this issue; indeed the eclecticism of the subjects explored might almost resemble the diversity of a scran locker. That said, two were well received as conference papers that have since been revised, and the third won strong reviews from the referees.

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This issue opens with a review by Bill Dudley of the links between the diplomatic issues relating to the Barbary states and the origins of the United States Navy. He is no stranger to regular readers. He is a former NASOH president (whose tenure overlapped with my term as CNRS president) and a retired chief historian of the USN. He currently serves on the boards of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the National Maritime Historical Society.

Those looking for commonality with the second article will find it in the time period of the topic. It is a pleasure to welcome to the journal Manuel-Reyes García Hurtado. He is an associate professor of modern history in the University of A Coruña and director of the Department of Humanities. He has studied in both France and Spain, and specializes in the Spanish navy and army of the eighteenth century. A referee observed that "maritime infrastructure is a little-explored topic and this paper is a major contribution to the field." That such a rare topic is presented in French adds to the diversity of this issue!

The eclecticism is further enhanced with our final article, for local history is also under represented in our pages. But our mandate is clearly defined as including the navigable rivers leading to the oceans. Merlin Blunt and Trevor Williams have examined the impact of steamboat traffic on the Fraser River (by whose banks I sit at Hope, BC, as I write this) on the development of a First Nations community that attracted European settlement. Merlin was born and raised in Chilliwack, and as a fifth-generation Chilliwackian, is a direct descendant of a number of the community's founding pioneers, who boarded steamers at Chilliwack Landing well over a century ago. He is a Chilliwack historian and a member of the board of directors of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society. Trevor Williams is an archival researcher based in Ottawa.

Bruno LeGal has again assisted with French editing. Walter Lewis has had some learning opportunities with illustrations and layout. Meanwhile Faye has continued, seemingly unperturbed, to offer us another fine book review section.

Finally the summer season, now coming to a close, included the usual AGMs of both our societies, and with them the annual review of the editorial board composition. Rich Gimblett has returned to the post of CNRS president, therefore remaining on the board as an ex officio member, but vacating the chair. Roger Sarty has stepped into that spot. Barry Gough, a CNRS honourary member, former president, and of course well published and highly respected maritime historian, has agreed to join the board as vice chair. There has been one change in the NASOH representation. Blake Dunnavent, a longtime member, is retiring and Ingo Heidbrink is stepping up. Ingo is also well known in maritime history circles. To all editorial board members, retiring, continuing and new, very many thanks indeed for your past contributions and in anticipation, for responding quickly and generously to my future calls.

William Glover August 2017