## The Northern Mariner / Le marin du nord

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#### From the Editor

As part of the observances of the journal now having turned "25" it is a pleasure to offer as the lead article a retrospective by Alec Douglas, who of course was the first recipient of the Society's honorary membership in recognition of his many services both to CNRS and to maritime history, on the formation of the Canadian Nautical Research Society and a review of the origins of this journal. Readers will remember that the first issue of this year included an article by Tony Dickinson who had also contributed to the very first issue.

This issue will be the first of several to publish articles that had been given as papers at the meeting of the Society of Military History held in Ottawa in April of this year. I am grateful to all those involved in getting those papers to the journal. In this issue, the articles by John Kuehn and Michael Moir came to us from the SMH conference.

Dr. John T. Kuehn holds the General William Stofft Chair for Historical Research at the US Army Command and General Staff College. Relevant to his

article here, he has written on the military history of Japan, A Military History of Japan: From the Age of the Samurai to the 21st Century (2014), as well as other books and numerous articles. He was awarded a Moncado Prize from the Society for Military History in 2011.

Michael Moir, is a CNRS member and our secretary. By his account, a day trip on the brigantine Pathfinder while in primary school sparked a long-standing interest in things nautical that found expression in research on the history of Canadian shipbuilding through the support of York University Libraries. He is the university archivist and head of the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections.

Phillip Reid brings a contemporary approach, (and hence is last in the chronological order for presentation of these articles), to the study of the operation of sailing vessels. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a graduate of the MA program in maritime history and nautical archaeology at East Carolina University. He has been a recreational sailor for twenty-five years, and has studied sail theory and navigation.

I have seldom used this space to editorialize, but Moir's article indirectly arises two issues. One year from now he probably would have been unable to write it, given his reliance on the archives of the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston. About the time that readers receive this issue, it will have been shuttered. The Harper government sold the national historic site that was its location, and they have been evicted. That action provides us all a salutary reminder of in fact how fragile our maritime heritage is. Are we, as interested individuals, doing all we can to ensure the proper governance and funding of the institutional resources, wherever they might be, upon which we rely?

Second and of very real concern to Canadians, is the fate of specific collections within the MMGLK archives. At the time of gift some were designated cultural property by the Canadian Cultural Properties Review Board. Donors are given a federal tax receipt worth 100 percent of the assessed value (whereas a gift to the United Way, as an example, has an effective tax value of 28 percent of the gift) and the receiving institution has a responsibility to ensure public access. The CCPRB, although alerted to the closing of the museum, seems remarkably unconcerned about the future custody and availability of these designated collections. Will this failure to protect cultural property erode the support for a tax credit program which is obviously unpopular in some circles of government? What will be the impact for future work of historians?

William Glover June, 2016