ARGONAUTA

The Newsletter of The Canadian Nautical Research Society / Société canadienne pour la recherche nautique

Volume XXIX   Number 4 Autumn   2012

ARGONAUTA

Founded 1984 by Kenneth MacKenzie
ISSN No. 0843-8544

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ARGONAUTA is published four times a year—Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn

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Our Website: http://www.cnrs-scrn.org

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Editorial

This autumn issue of *Argonauta* includes a blend of new and old with an article on social media by graduate student Sam McLean and an article in French on Quebec and the war of 1812 by Charles Nadeau. We hope both these individuals will continue to contribute their work in future issues of *Argonauta.* Nadeau, a retired naval officer, commanded the destroyer, HMCS *Algonquin* and the Fleet School in Quebec City and served as naval attaché in Paris. He holds a Bachelor degree in classics and attended the Naval Command Course at the US Naval War College in Newport, RI. Since retirement he has studied at Laval University and obtained Bachelor and Master degrees in history and his topic and style in French may be characterized as "classic" in every sense of that word.

In contrast, Sam McLean, a Canadian pursuing doctoral research in Britain, represents the generation who have grown up using computers and communicating very quickly in a relaxed fashion, often through the internet. McLean raises some controversial points. Some of us carefully divide our professional and personal lives and would not be comfortable using Facebook and Twitter on working time or for working purposes or even in the context of professional associations. This divide seems largely a matter of personal preference, but there may be gender, generational, and cultural factors that influence the interplay between our working lives and these new social media. If you use Facebook or Twitter, please send us your thoughts about how they affect your communication in your work and life.

On a different note, we observe that a number of our members have retired from government jobs, especially from the Library and Archives Canada. While we are saddened to see them leave, we want to thank them for their many years of devoted and outstanding service and to wish them many well-earned, fruitful years of retirement. We hope that they will contribute their thoughts on nautical research, on government cultural policies, and other matters of interest to our readers. We also welcome new members and hope that current CNRS members will encourage their retiring colleagues to join the Society and to send us their contributions. *Argonauta* wants to hear from you.

Set aside the first to the fifth of May 2013 for the forthcoming CNRS conference in Kitchener-Waterloo. The next issue of *Argonauta* will provide the precise date and readers will find a call for papers on the last page of this issue. CNRS executive member and secretary Robert Davison, is also involved with the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic, and Disarmament Studies and is willing to co-ordinate between our organization and theirs. We hope that our members will enjoy meeting the young graduate students who often give academic papers at the Laurier Centre, and will encourage some to become members of the CNRS.

As our President Maurice Smith points out, planning for a long term healthy future involves all of us. In line with that idea, the next issue of Argo will contain pieces by Joshua M. Smith, Kelly K. Chaves and Lincoln Paine on the future of maritime history. This important debate began in volume 2, no 2 (2011) *Coriolis*, an interdisciplinary on-line journal of maritime studies available at <http//ijms.nmdl.org>. These writers offer us vibrant perspectives on recent trends in maritime history. Our winter issue will feature a continuation of this debate. We urge our readers to consult the on-line version of the debate now to familiarize themselves with the discussion. Those without on-line access may find that their local public library is able to help them obtain copies of the *Coriolis* debate. That this debate opened in an on-line environment should alert us to the importance of on-line media as an increasingly essential communication tool for scholars. *Argo* is publishing a continuation of this important debate in print form partly to encourage use of the on-line media among our readers.

We also hope that our readers will feel free to send us their thoughts on the debate. Is maritime history best reserved for academics or is the participation of those who wish to promote particular policies an essential and desirable contribution? What is the right mix?

Finally, we want to thank members who send us announcements and ideas.

Fair Winds **Isabel and Colleen**

President's Corner

by Maurice D. Smith

First, to those who responded to my "eliminate the deficit appeal" for financial support, a heartfelt thank you. And yes more is needed so please consider dipping into your pocket and sending along a donation. CNRS does outstanding work in its publications. *The Northern Mariner* and *Argonauta* contribute to the advancement of maritime history at a national and international level. These publications give opportunity to established and emerging scholars - new ideas are tested before a readership that covers, putting it simply, most of the world. Your donation helps.

Plans are now moving ahead for the 2013 Annual General Meeting and of course another opportunity for papers to be presented. The two proposed sites, Alpena on the shore of Lake Huron and Waterloo in the heart of Ontario presented many competing attractions but in the end, Waterloo was chosen, in part because of the opportunity it gives for those new to maritime history to present. That does not mean that the more "mature" voices will not be heard. More information will follow. A team is emerging for the 2013 Conference - to date there are three of us including Chris Madson and Rob Davidson. We need a few more on the team so please feel free to get in touch.

Family matters have taken me to the UK in March and in September/October. Three history conferences were fitted in and in each case I was impressed by the quality of the papers, the enthusiasm of all in the room, and the diversity and background of the participants. If, as we sometimes celebrate, 'in maritime history is the history of the world' then economists, engineers, designers, scientists - they and many other disciplines and home based scholars, all have a part to play in advancing our field of maritime history. So please - seek these people out and encourage them to participate.

Maurice D Smith

Announcements

Government of Canada's search for lost Franklin ships delivers numerous collateral results

Here's an update on this summer's Arctic archaeological survey led by Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Service to find the ill-fated 1845-1846 Franklin Expedition vessels: HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*.

This year, the search team ruled out more than 400 square kilometres in Canada's vast Arctic waters, almost tripling the coverage of past field seasons and further narrowing the search for the elusive wrecks of the Franklin Expedition. With almost four weeks spent in the Arctic, the team compiled a multitude of scientific data that will also greatly benefit Canada's understanding and knowledge of the Arctic. Working from both the research vessel, *Martin Bergmann*, supplied by the Arctic Research Foundation, and Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, the survey time was significantly extended compared to previous years.

In addition to Parks Canada's underwater archaeologists searching for the Franklin vessels, the broader project team included the Arctic Charting and Mapping Pilot Project, led by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Canadian Hydrographic Service. This project allowed for the collection of data for the production of official navigational charts in the Arctic, while supporting marine archaeology and eco-system management objectives.

The survey also included the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology, again contracted through the Canadian Hydrographic Service, offering an additional 879 square kilometres of bathymetry records for more shallow areas, providing crucial depth information for conducting this survey work in uncharted waters.

The research team also included a terrestrial archaeology component, led by the Government of Nunavut, which led to the recovery of additional artefacts from a known Franklin archaeology site.

The Canadian Space Agency has also been acquiring satellite imagery of the shoreline, which will offer information on shoreline characterization. The Canadian Ice Service continued to provide both historical and contemporary ice condition information to support the physical survey period, while offering additional research material for narrowing down the possible location of the shipwrecks, based on ice movement and formation. Canadian Ice Service also provided ice information to Canadian Space Agency to support the acquisition of Satellite imagery, while providing weather information to the LiDAR program and meteorology team on board the vessels. This support created significant efficiencies in the acquisition of this critical data and in operational planning for the field work.

For additional information on these surveys, please visit Parks Canada's website at <www.parkscanada.gc.ca/franklin>

A full version of this article appeared on the Parks Canada website.

A Remembrance: The Great Storm Of 1913.

The Port of Goderich & Lake Huron Shores honour the lost souls & ships of “The Great Storm”. November 8th and 9th 2013.

Letterhead artwork “The Last Sighting” generously donated by artist Capt. Bud Robinson.

Dear Marine Heritage Friend,

By now you will likely have heard of the efforts of our core group to nurture a combination of local events and activities around Lake Huron, and the other Great Lakes, to commemorate the centennial of the Great Storm of November 1913.

Because the Port of Goderich was the key site for recovery operations set up by the Lake Carriers' Association of the time, we have devised a comprehensive schedule of events for Goderich and neighbouring communities. You should have received a detailed brochure at this event.

In our own case, we are hosting a series of symposia and film presentations beginning in September 2013, on Thursday nights at the local Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol. Our main events are scheduled for November 8 & 9 at the Royal Canadian Legion, and plans for church and cemetery ceremonies are unfolding for Sunday, November 10, 2013.

In this age of the Internet, we also recognize that there are a number of "virtual" organizations that host marine heritage information sites. We would very much like those entities also to become involved. The purpose of this letter is to ask for one of two things:

1. That you consider joining us in Goderich as an active participate by setting up some sort of display to promote your group or to share your marine interest in commemorating this and other significant maritime history events; or
2. That you work with your organization – and with other such groups in your home community – to mount some kind of appropriate remembrance for this key Centenary event in our Great Lakes maritime history. If you are an "Internet-based" group, please consider adding a special component to your web site(s) to profile this commemoration.

Either way, if you let us know what is going on, we will bring you under our broad umbrella for regional, Great Lakes basin, & Internet promotion – to help all of us celebrate this significant Remembrance.

Sincerely, Paul Carroll

<www.1913storm.com> <info@1913storm.com> Tel: 1-800-280-7637

Bluenose II

In honour of the relaunch of *Bluenose II,* the town of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia held a day of celebrations on 29 September 2012. Following a period of sea trials and testing, *Bluenose II* will return to Nova Scotia and begin her mission as an ambassador for the province in early 2013. As our readers know, *Bluenose*, a Grand Banks fishing schooner launched in 1921, brought fame to her builders, her captain, Angus Walters, and her crew in her role as a racing champion and Canadian icon. *Bluenose II* was first launched in 1963 and sailed upon the seas, acting as an historical link between the present and the historical past.

Following an extensive restoration, *Bluenose II* will continue to promote Canada's rich maritime heritage in the years to come. Beginning in the spring of 2013, the captain and crew of *Bluenose II* will teach young Canadians seamanship and life skills. Anyone wishing more information should explore the website which offers detailed information at < http://bluenose.novascotia.ca/ > Applications for crew open in February 2013.

Literature Review

by Tavis Harris

After an enjoyable summer spent on the West Coast engrossed in all things Navy and with Autumn now evident, it feels good to get back home and catch up on editing and scanning through journals for articles of note for readers of the *Argonauta*. The first two entries are found in recent issues of the "Mariner's Mirror" from our colleagues over at The Society for Nautical Research. The first is Stephen Davies' "A Winter in Yalong Bay" from the August 2012 edition. Davies, director of the Hong Kong Maritime museum examines material objects used to commemorate a December 1784 Dutch East India Company voyage to Yalong Bay from a nautical perspective to fully understand their significance as depictions of Chinese trade art. Davies' study is aimed at reinterpreting items held within the museum's collection to better understand their accuracy, identify the vessels and place the items within the general context of Dutch trading in the Far East.

The second offering is Benerson Little's "Eyewitness Images of Buccaneers and Their Vessels." Little is a former US Navy SEAL Officer who now serves as a author and consultant addressing piracy and terrorism who advocates understanding their historical antecedents. Little's work seeks to fill a gap concerning the appearance of late-seventeenth century buccaneer life. The author indicates that much of the popular view of these individuals and their ships are based on romanticized images and cinema which often only partially represents what is known from both artifacts and written accounts. Little examines the limitations of contemporary illustrations before analyzing several overlooked sources to confirm or contradict aspects of the visual representation of buccaneers during the "Golden Age of Piracy."

J. Philip London's "The Challenging Life of a Patriot Captain" (*Naval History* Vol. 26 No. 5, October 2012) seeks to bring attention to Captain Samuel Nicholson's impact on American naval affairs in the Revolutionary War era. While not entirely unheralded, London contends the full importance of Nicholson's career is under-appreciated. London is a former naval officer, retiring at the rank of Captain before beginning a career as an author and Information Technology executive. London's interesting, if brief, outline of Nicholson's career does suggest further study and increased incorporation into American naval lore.

A final offering is Louis Arthur Norton's "The Pacific in the War of 1812: Pelts Ploys and Plunder" from the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Maritime History* (Vol. 3, No. 1, 2012). Norton is a noted maritime historian and author of several works on Eighteenth and Nineteenth century naval topics. Norton observes that while the War of 1812 was fought primarily in the Atlantic and Great Lakes regions, the conflict had a major but overlooked impact on the Pacific Northwest. Much of this impact centers on the fur trade and competing territorial claims between British and American settlers who had recently descended upon the region. To this end, the Royal Navy and British privateers were authorized to seize American trading forts throughout the region. The article details these actions and their aftermath, offering interesting insights into an under appreciated component of the War.

And with that, another survey is concluded. I look forward to finding material for the next edition as we move towards the New Year. If anyone has conferences, publications or anything which may interest readers of the *Argonauta* do not hesitate to contact me at
< tavisharris@gmail.com >

Best Wishes for a Fruitful Autumn, **Tavis**

Social Media: Opportunities for New Conversations

by Sam McLean

Prior to my application to graduate school to pursue a career in history, I was strongly warned by my professors about the hard times ahead, the increasing scarcity of academic teaching positions, and the dramatically changing academic environment. While I thought that I understood the reality of the changes, it was not until the beginning of my PhD studies, and the chance to interact with more historians and academics from other disciplines in a more thorough way, that I realized how much history in particular, and academia in general have and continue to change. The population of academics continues to grow despite shrinking budgets, departments and academic employment opportunities. As a result, the traditional university-centric processes for the creation of academic audiences or communities are less effective than they have been in the past. Academics and organizations are adapting, and in increasing numbers are embracing online social networking as a means of establishing an internet presence and a wider audience. Social networks have facilitated the development of new academic communities and inter-personal networks. Organizations like the Canadian Nautical Research Society are also being affected by the developments in the academic environment, and like individual academics, they can take advantage of the benefits of online social networking. It is through the combined use of social networks like Facebook and especially Twitter that both individual academics and academic organizations such as the CNRS can tap in to developing online academic networks to establish a greater digital presence, to foster a larger academic audience, and specifically for organizations, to attract new members.

The internet age is well and truly upon us; for the generations who currently dominate academic communities, technologies like electronic mail and social networking may be an important and familiar part of academic communication, but are undeniably an addition to established methods. For the newest members of the academic communities, such as those born in the last two decades of the 20th century, online social networks are an integral part of how they communicate with others. Their emergence onto the internet and the processes for communication with others they met through the internet was guided by the development of technologies like internet messaging, online forums and early social networks. Given their penchant for digital communication and the use of social networking, it is only natural that this younger generation would continue to use social networking as they join the academic community. For previous generations, for whom a personal online presence and digital networks are not an intrinsic part of their social interaction, unfamiliarity with the concepts behind social networks and their use can obscure the inherent opportunities.

Social networks provide a unique ability to expand an individual's or organization's internet presence around the world. The social networks connect a diverse international community of scholars, academics and the interested public in an informal environment that encourages interaction between those who would not have had an opportunity or mechanism in established and more formal socio-professional structures, and people that they already know. For example, although adding an academic you don't know to your “friend” list on Facebook is frowned upon, sending a message to the same person on Twitter is an acceptable alternative to the formal introductory email and can occur between individuals whose socio-professional roles would otherwise discourage it, such as undergraduate students and faculty. Social networking makes the academic world a much smaller place and allows people with similar academic interests – but only the most distant connections – to communicate and explore their ideas in new and exciting ways. In exactly the same way, the ability for information to quickly proliferate across the world allows organizations to draw interest and possibly new members from previously untapped audiences. To put it another way, social networks like Facebook and Twitter allow academics and academic organizations to participate in conversations that would they would not have been privy to otherwise, or would not have existed without social networks.

Social networks provide an incredible opportunity for both individual academics and academic organizations, however, when considered independently, each type of social networking presents its own series of problems that must be overcome. Through answering the question of how to use websites, blogs, Facebook and Twitter these issues are addressed. Participants are no longer required to master the arcane arts of HyperText Markup Language and scripting languages to establish a modern internet presence as social media networks all provide straightforward interfaces for both profile and content creation. Anybody who is able to use a computer and navigate a web-page has the technical skills to take advantage of social networking. The issues of how to use social networking instead relate to the actual communication involved in the social networks and social media. These issues apply to both individuals and organizations but in different forms with different solutions.

The most significant issue in the adoption of social networking for academic conversations is that social networks, like Facebook and Twitter, promote informal communication which can blur the lines between the personal and professional persona. When a professional individual has a personal social-network account, the divisions between professional and private lives will be blurred or destroyed, depending on the social network. For example, a Facebook profile will alter those distinctions in a different manner than a Twitter account will. On a social network like LinkedIn, which was developed expressly for professional interaction, this is not an issue because it is understood that the primary social persona of members on that network is their professional identity. However, on networks like Facebook and Twitter, the assumed primary persona of users is the private persona.

This issue will generate the most discomfort for those who are unused to social networking, especially for users who normally maintain a strict division between their private and professional persona, and their respective relationships. For example, a faculty member at a university will be comfortable with interacting with students using formal established communication processes such as email. However, on Facebook or Twitter, the same member of faculty will be identified and related to first as an individual, without much of the authority they would have within a normal academic environment. For individuals to take full advantage of social networking, they must be comfortable relaxing the framework for communication with others when in the social-networking environment, and accept that other users may make no distinction between their official and their private persona, and will normally address the latter in a familiar way that they would not use when in a formal environment or in person. This artificial familiarity is strengthened on Facebook by the system mechanism or users being “friends” with each other, while on Twitter, the maximum length of messages puts a priority on content rather than formal structure.

At the core of social networking is the idea that each profile or account represents a single individual who is personally associated with that account. As organizations have embraced the internet, this has expanded so that they too can be represented on the networks by a single profile which personifies the corporate whole. Similarly, profiles can be associated with a specific political, academic, corporate or military office. Posts or messages to the corporate or office's account is communication with the organization as a whole or with the office, rather than the individuals who actively maintain the profile. Conversely if the account is attributed to an individual, communication to and from that account is generally considered to be with that individual, and not with their official socio-professional identity. For example, consider an individual who is the editor of a reputable academic journal, a professor at a university or a board member of an organization like the Canadian Nautical Research Society: although their personal profile would probably list the professional identities, the association of the profile is with the individual rather than their professional identity.

Once an individual or organization is comfortable with the informal nature of social networks, and have addressed how to create their presence on the social network, they then need to address how to use that presence. This strategy is dictated by the type of conversation that the presence will participate in, as well as the desired results. A passive approach to social networks is to use them essentially as a repeating frigate, only posting links to a website, blog or Facebook profile. In order to take the fullest advantage of social networking, both individuals and organizations must energetically and actively engage with the communities that already exist on the social networks that they join. The more frequently that an individual or organization interacts with the social network, the further their presence will be spread, and the greater their audience. This does not mean a user may simply inundate one's followers with frequent posts, but rather to mix regular posts with responses to other users, and to use the social network's inherent mechanisms such as Twitter's retweet function. The nature of these interactions is defined by the generally accepted culture of each particular social network. As an example, a common Twitter practice is Friend Follow Fridays, where users list their followers with certain common interests in an effort to create connections between users with similar interests who would not otherwise communicate.

A handy way to examine the use of social networking is through the metaphor of different types of conversations with which we are familiar. The metaphor of the conversation will be used to put the role of each individual aspect of an internet presence and social media into perspective. Different social networks represent different types of conversations that individuals and organizations can participate in. Although each type of social network or conversation is effective on its own, they each gain in effectiveness when combined with the others.

The most basic form of internet presence, and the foundation that all social networks are built on, is the website. The general use and importance of websites for individuals and organizations is well understood, and effectively has the same function for both individuals and organizations. Specifically, the website functions as a digital noticeboard, such as would be found hanging in a departmental hallway or on a faculty member's door. They are relatively static, and are best suited for the continued display of information that will only change infrequently. The role of the website is as a digital destination for new viewers or audience members who have been introduced to the individual or organization through something or from somewhere else, but who then remain as a member of the audience.

A basic and well-established modification of the standad website is the blog. While not technically a form of social networking in itself because of the lack of intrinsic connections to other bloggers, blogs play an important role in the development of an individual or an organization's web presence, as well as being a secondary type of homepage which can attract new users. A blog is a web-page that is regularly updated with new content but retains the previous content in a manner similar to journals. In addition to the posts which are displayed as discrete entries, blogs can allow for comments on each entry, therefore providing a method of discussion on the content of the blog.

As a medium, blogs suffer from a poor reputation as being inherently unprofessional, and unreliable sources of information. Increasingly, blogs are used by researchers and academics who are outside traditional academic structures, for example researchers without an academic post, those who do not publish, or the personal interdisciplinary projects of established academics. An example of the emerging academically sound blog is David Davies' blog “Gentlemen and Tarpaulins.” Once a week, Davies uploads a post, discussing topics that range from his travels and research experiences to thematic discussions of historical events and analysis. For example, Davies has written about the Royal Navy's warship naming practices, and discussed the individual naval officers who inspired the characters in his novels. Although not formally published, the analysis Davies presents is no less reliable than analysis in his published works. This type of interaction is important because these blog entries can more easily become part of or inspire online discussions of those subjects than an article or other published work would do.

Organizations can take advantage of the blog in a similar way. For example, an official CNRS blog could on a weekly or bi-weekly basis publish posts such as announcements, publicize the on-going activities of the members of the organization, and provide a forum for research requests and conversations. When an individual or an organization produces a blog post on a regular schedule, they then create a ritual for their followers who will anticipate the update, and look forward to reading the new one. The key to using a blog successfully is to use it primarily to generate discussions about ideas and events. When this occurs, readers will not only respond to the post and create a conversation, they can also share the post with others who may become new regular readers of the blog. To continue the metaphor of the conversation, the blog can be considered from the perspective of a seminar series: the content of the post itself is the more formal presentation or lecture, while the commentary by readers is equivalent to the relaxed and informal conversation in the pub afterwards. Blogs, like seminar series, need to be publicized. To this end, organizations and academics can use Facebook and Twitter to alert readers to the existence of the blog, and to generate traffic.

In terms of social networks themselves, the two that individual historians and organizations can take best advantage of are Facebook and Twitter. Although other networks like LinkedIn and Google+ also provide opportunities, the former is narrowly focussed, and the latter is not as widely used, and so are less important for this analysis; however, they should not be ignored or excluded in a general online presence strategy.

More than any other network, Facebook represents the difficulties and dangers of social networking, as well as the opportunities. Facebook is built around the idea of individuals creating connections with people who are their “friends.” As a form of conversation, Facebook is equivalent to academics who are friends as well as colleagues having a discussion over coffee. For individuals this enforced familiarity can be an issue, because profiles are associated with their private rather than their professional persona. This is already an issue for the academic community, for example when undergraduate students find their teaching assistants or professors through the site, and then ask to add them as their friends on the site. In the case of two individuals who would be interacting with each other through their socio-professional roles as student and faculty, a secondary non-professional relationship may be established. This creates privacy issues, because once friends on Facebook, strangers can have access to information such as addresses, contact information, and photographs that they would not have access to through the primary academic and professional relationship. In addition, because Facebook is based around the idea of friends talking to their friends, conversation tends to be very informal. There are ways around this; for example, individuals such as musicians, artists and celebrities can create a certain type of profile that is “liked” or “followed”, rather than “friended.” When the profile is updated, those who follow the profile are notified of the updates. Individuals who want to maintain a Facebook presence for their socio-professional persona that is distinct from a personal profile can also do this, and this will limit the ability of other users to communicate with them in an informal and overly personal manner.

The same type of non-personal profile will allow organizations like the CNRS to take advantage of Facebook. However, the key here lies with actively using the profile to communicate with followers to establish a wider audience. The biggest opportunity for organizations like the CNRS through Facebook is that a significant population amongst Facebook users are university students, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. If the CNRS can get those students to follow the organization's profile via their personal profiles, those students can reach out to other students and inform them of events and opportunities. To access the population of students on Facebook, organizations must first reach out to already established student user-groups. Groups dedicated to students of history, maritime studies, marine archaeology and graduate students essentially provide a captive audience, and if the CNRS publishes information about essay contests, conferences and opportunities for students on its profile, this information can then be quickly redistributed to established interest groups. Again, there are some limits to this, as membership in these groups and the ability to follow the organizational profile, is limited to those who already have or will in the future, have a personal Facebook account. In some cases, information on Facebook profiles is visible to viewers who do not have Facebook accounts; however, such viewers cannot receive the messages that are sent to group members. While Facebook presents an efficient way for organizations to interact and attract students, it is ineffective as a means of interacting with the large population of academics who currently do not have Facebook accounts, and will not have one in future.

This is less of a problem with Twitter, as default security settings allow feeds or profiles to be viewed like any other public website. Although based around the same idea as individuals with profiles posting information to a personal web-page, the actual communication cannot exceed 140 characters. In addition, the presence of a single post on a user's feed is fleeting, with older posts replaced once new content is created. Twitter is the conversational equivalent to people running into each other in a hallway. In Twitter, sentences are short and often refer readers to a website or a blog. Another way to consider it is as a ticker running across the bottom of a television screen or the edge of a building. Because of this, it must be used in a very different way than a website, blog or Facebook.

The single greatest advantage of Twitter for organizations or individuals is the functionality provided by the “retweet”. A user who agrees with, or likes a post that somebody they follow has broadcast can, with a click of the mouse, retweet (rebroadcast) the post to their followers. This can then be retweeted by their followers, and so the original post can eventually be exposed to a far larger population than the anticipated audience. Given this capability, and the 140 character limit, it is important to tweet efficiently. Information delivered in a single tweet can be repeated a number of times over the course of a day to maximize the number of people who view it, without endlessly bombarding viewers with the same information. For example, when a new blog entry is posted or new information has been posted to a website, then twitter can be used to post a link with a description. Twitter can also be used to broadcast an interesting photo or tidbit of information that followers will notice. Limiting broadcasts to single tweets facilitates easy re-tweeting, with whole, rather than partial messages being received by followers. It is also important to actively engage with established presences on Twitter in order to facilitate the growth of followers. For example, the CNRS could enter into informal and mutually beneficial arrangements with established individuals and organizations in order to gain a larger number of followers for both sides. Examples of organizations that take advantage of Twitter are the Institute for Historical Research (IHR) and the War Studies Department of King's College London, both of which use the service to distribute information regarding events such as seminars.

The second great advantage of Twitter is that a Twitter account is not generally required to view a user's profile, or read their tweets. Furthermore, anybody with a Twitter account can follow any other Twitter account, as even protected accounts permit follow requests. This lack of pre-defined social structure promotes the development of inclusive communities that reflect common interests. Twitter is actively used by academics of every discipline, and presents an opportunity for interdisciplinary organizations like the CNRS to explore this development in academic communication. This opportunity is amplified by the personal nature of Twitter because it provides an environment for individuals to communicate across disciplinary boundaries in informal discussions that a more formal or traditional academic environment would not encourage. Dr Nadine Muller, for example, uses Twitter to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions regarding doctoral studies as a whole. Similarly, independent academics such as David Davies, Dr Sam Willis, and Andrea Zuvich have begun to use twitter as a primary mode of communication and audience generation.

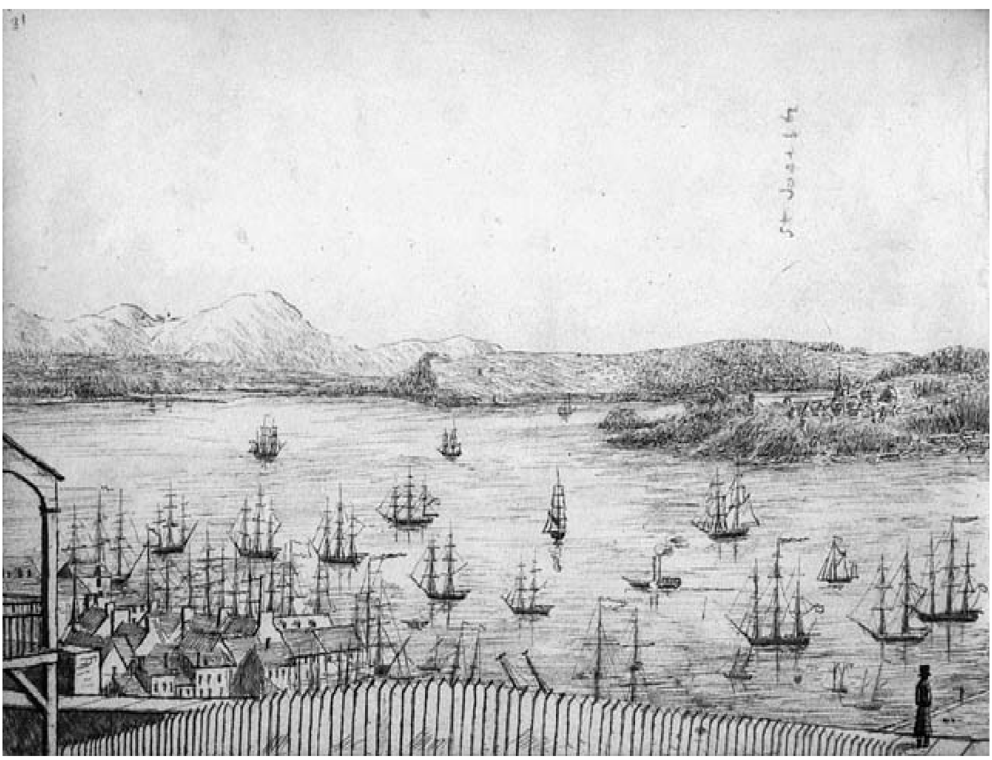
Despite the success academics and organizations have had using social networking sites like Facebook and especially Twitter, there remains, within the established academic community, an unwillingness to adopt these methods for the promotion of academic discussions. The changes being forced on modern academia by the development of new channels of communication, by shrinking university departments, and by interdisciplinary interactions between academics, are contributing to the development of unconventional academic communities on social networks. It is in the best interest of individual academics and organizations like the Canadian Nautical Research Society to become involved in developing online communities and to develop an active internet strategy that uses established methods like web-sites, as well as the newer methods of social networks like Facebook and Twitter.

Twitter Feeds:

Sam McLean	@EarlyModernist
David Davies	@QuintonJournals
Sam Willis	@NavalHistoryGuy
Andrea Zuvich	@AndreaZuvich
Nadine Muller	@Nadine_Muller
Institute for Historical Research	@IHR_History
KCL War Studies	@WarStudies

QUÉBEC ET LA GUERRE DE 1812

by Charles André Nadeau



Vue du port de Québec vers 1825. Un vapeur peut être observé au milieu des voiliers. Par Elizabeth Frances Hale

Bibliothèque et Archives Canada ICON181671 MIKAN: 2895873

La ville de Québec fut épargnée par les nombreuses batailles de la guerre de 1812. Néanmoins elle joua un rôle important dans la conduite des opérations qui marquèrent le conflit. C'est dans le château Saint-Louis que furent prises les grandes décisions politiques et stratégiques. C'est dans son port qu'arrivèrent les renforts, l'équipement et le matériel nécessaires à la victoire. Sa citadelle servit de bastion ultime pour assurer la défense de la colonie. Ses installations servirent au soutien de l'effort de guerre. Et c'est de Québec que vinrent les deux héros du Canada français qui s'illustrèrent le plus au combat.

Charles-Frédéric Rolette n'est pas aussi connu que son concitoyen Charles de Salaberry, le vainqueur de Châteauguay, mais ses exploits sont tout aussi remarquables. Il était lieutenant dans la Marine provinciale, la force navale qui patrouillait les Grands lacs, le Saint-Laurent et le lac Champlain. Il fut l'un des rares Québécois à se joindre à la *Royal Navy* sous le régime colonial anglais. Parti en service à un jeune âge, il participa à deux des plus célèbres victoires de Nelson, celles d'Aboukir et de Trafalgar. Il fut blessé à cinq occasions lors de ces deux batailles. Revenu au pays, il était, au début de la guerre de 1812, stationné à Amherstburg et commandait le brigantin *General Hunter*. Le matin du 2 juillet, la goélette *Cuyahoga*, avec à son bord le colonel William Beall, quartier-maître de l'armée américaine du général William Hull, et une trentaine de soldats, fut observée approchant l'embouchure de la rivière Détroit. Le lieutenant Rolette, au courant depuis la veille que les États-Unis avaient déclaré la guerre à la Grande Bretagne, se lança à la poursuite du bâtiment ennemi dans une chaloupe, assisté par une demi-douzaine de marins armés, et surprit les Américains. Alors que ces derniers hésitaient à réagir, Rolette tira de son pistolet pour les sommer de lui obéir. Ce coup de feu fut sans doute le premier de la guerre. La capture du *Cuyahoga* se révéla un trésor d'information car le colonel Beall avait en sa possession les papiers et la correspondance de son supérieur. Le général Brock tira profit des documents que lui fournit Rolette pour capturer Détroit, le 16 août.

Suite à la reddition américaine, l'état-major se retrouva avec 582 prisonniers alors qu'elle n'avait aucune installation dans le Haut-Canada pour les interner. Les captifs de Détroit furent donc transférés à Québec où deux transports, le *Jane* et le *Nautilus* avaient été convertis en bateaux-prisons et étaient ancrés au milieu du fleuve, en face de la ville. Le séjour de ces premiers captifs ne dura que sept semaines. Un échange permit leur retour aux États-Unis dès la fin octobre. Mais les bateaux-prisons continuèrent le à être utilisés durant toute la durée de la guerre. Les archives démontrent qu'en février 1814, par exemple, 408 Américains y étaient incarcérés.

Contrairement aux États-Unis, les colonies anglaises en Amérique du Nord ne formaient pas une entité politique commune en 1812. Les deux Canadas, Terre-Neuve, la Nouvelle-Écosse, le Nouveau-Brunswick et l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard agissaient indépendamment l'une de l'autre. Le gouverneur général en résidence à Québec, le général Georges Prévost, avait cependant juridiction sur l'ensemble des colonies nordaméricaines. De plus, en tant que commandant en chef des forces armées britanniques en Amérique, il contrôlait les régiments et les navires de guerre stationnés dans ces colonies ainsi qu'aux Bermudes et aux Bahamas. Les principales décisions quant à la conduite de la guerre furent donc prises à Québec. La plus importante législation adoptée dans la capitale fut la loi sur le financement de la guerre qui donna aux divers commandants de théâtres d'opération la flexibilité nécessaire pour prendre les mesures appropriées dans leur secteur. La plus importante décision militaire prise à Québec fut le choix d'une stratégie défensive qui demeurera valide jusqu'au milieu de 1814. Un élément de cette stratégie était le maintien d'une garnison importante dans la capitale pour soutenir une place forte devant servir de base pour la reconquête dans l'éventualité de succès américains autour des Grands Lacs et dans la région de Montréal. Il existait alors une citadelle à Québec, légèrement à l'ouest de la forteresse actuelle, et qui avait été bâtie sous les ordres du gouverneur Haldimand lors de la guerre d'Indépendance américaine. Elle avait été dessinée par l'ingénieur William Twiss, mais était de nature temporaire, étant construite en bois et en terre. Quatre tours Martello avaient été ajoutées à l'ouest à partir de 1802 pour améliorer le système défensif.

La contribution majeure de Québec à l'effort de guerre, toutefois, provint de sa position privilégiée sur le fleuve Saint-Laurent. C'est en tant que port d'entrée que la ville s'avéra d'une importance primordiale. Dès le 7 juillet, le sloop *HMS Savage* arrivait avec un groupe de navires en provenance du Royaume-Uni. Le système de convois avait déjà été activé par l'Amirauté britannique car l'Empire combattait la marine de Napoléon depuis plusieurs années. La nouvelle guerre ajoutait deux menaces supplémentaires pour la *Royal Navy*: les corsaires américains qui patrouillaient le long des côtes de la Nouvelle-Écosse, dans le golfe et l'estuaire du Saint-Laurent, et la marine de guerre des États-Unis qui opérait à la grandeur de l'Atlantique nord. Un des navires de la *US Navy* ne devait d'ailleurs pas tarder à remporter un succès éclatant. Le 11 juillet, au large des Bermudes, la frégate *USS Essex* découvrit un convoi transportant le régiment des Royal Scots en route vers Québec. À la faveur d'une nuit lunaire, son commandant, le capitaine David Porter, manœuvra son navire de façon à isoler le transport *Samuel et Sarah* ayant à son bord 159 soldats, et à le capturer. Il en coûta 7 000 dollars de rançon aux Anglais pour récupérer leur perte et le *Samuel et Sarah* arriva finalement à Québec le 12 août. En tout, durant les premiers six mois de la guerre, quatre convois avec escorte arrivèrent dans la capitale et cinq partirent en direction de l'Europe. Les plus importants amenaient des renforts dans la colonie. Durant la première année de la guerre, le 103e Régiment basée en Irlande, les Royal Scots en provenance de la Barbade et le 89e Régiment, parti de Gibraltar, vinrent débarquer dans la capitale. Le gouverneur général George Prévost, cependant, avait besoin davantage de soldats pour le Haut Canada. Ceci mena à un exploit remarquable dont Québec fut témoin. Réalisant que les provinces maritimes n'étaient pratiquement pas menacées, le général transféra à Kingston le 104e Régiment stationné au Nouveau-Brunswick. Ayant au préalable bénéficié d'un entraînement intense, le bataillon reçut l'ordre d'accomplir le déplacement en hiver, ce qui devait rendre le voyage plus facile étant donné l'absence de route jusqu'au Saint-Laurent. Le trajet suivit le fleuve Saint-Jean, la rivière Madawaska, le lac Témiscouata et le Grand Portage. Six compagnies partirent de Frédéricton en raquettes et tirant des traineaux. Le premier groupe se mit en route le 16 février 1813. Les cinq autres suivirent au rythme d'un par jour. Des Amérindiens précédèrent les troupes pour ériger des abris le long du chemin. L'hiver était rude cette année là, mais les hommes, la plupart descendants de vétérans installés dans les colonies de la côte atlantique, endurèrent le froid et la neige épaisse. L'hiver était, en fait, suffisamment sévère pour créer un pont de glace entre Lévis et Québec. La première compagnie du 104e Régiment le traversa le 16 mars.

Les effectifs demeuraient néanmoins insuffisants et la Grande-Bretagne dut recourir à des mercenaires pour la défense de ses colonies nord-américaines. Deux unités suisses arrivèrent au port peu après l'ouverture de la navigation du Saint-Laurent en 1813. Le régiment de Watteville débarqua le 4 juin en provenance de Cadix, en Espagne, ayant participé à la campagne de la péninsule ibérique. Il comprenait 1 455 militaires, accompagnés par 8 domestiques, 45 épouses et 38 enfants. L'unité n'était suisse que de nom et comprenait entre autres 321 Allemands, 238 Polonais et 120 Italiens. Le régiment de Meuron, comptant 1 105 officiers et soldats, accompagnés d'une vingtaine de femmes, partit de l'île de Malte à la mi-mai, à bord de trois bâtiments de guerre anglais armés en flûte, soit le *Regulus*, le *Melpomene* et le *Dover*. Après des escales à Gibraltar et Halifax, il arriva en rade de Québec entre le 22 et le 25 juillet et fut logé dans les baraques des Jésuites qui étaient situées où se trouve aujourd'hui l'hôtel de ville. Le régiment fut passé en revue sur les Plaines d'Abraham le dernier jour du mois puis participa à trois parades dans les rues de la ville dans les semaines suivantes. Les troupes se rendirent ensuite au fort Chambly pour en assurer la défense. À la fin de la guerre, plusieurs membres du régiment s'installèrent dans la région actuelle de Drummondville dans les Bois-Francs. Il faut toutefois attendre la seconde moitié de l'année 1814, soit après la défaite de Napoléon, son abdication et son exil à l'île d'Elbe pour que l'Angleterre puisse transférer aux Canadas des soldats aguerris en grand nombre. Les premiers effectifs arrivèrent à Québec au mois de juillet. Quatorze autres régiments d'infanterie et trois compagnies d'artilleurs s'ajoutèrent le mois suivant en provenance directement de la péninsule ibérique. En tout 16 000 réguliers de Wellington rejoignirent l'armée du Canada. Les forces terrestres au pays, qui totalisaient un peu plus de 8 000 hommes à la fin de 1812, atteignirent la remarquable somme de 38 000 soldats à l'automne de 1814.

Le Saint-Laurent fut témoin d'une première durant cette seconde guerre contre les Américains. En 1809, John Molson, le fabricant de bière de Montréal, ouvrit une ligne commerciale entre cette ville et Québec avec un navire appelé *Accommodation*. C'était le premier bâtiment à vapeur construit et opéré au Canada. Insatisfait, toutefois, du manque de puissance de son vaisseau, Molson l'avait remplacé au début de l'été 1812 par le *Swiftsure*, d'un déplacement de 400 tonnes et d'une longueur de 42 mètres, et capable de faire le trajet entre les deux villes en 22 heures. Dès le début de la guerre, les autorités militaires réalisèrent la valeur stratégique du nouveau navire. Il fut utilisé pour le transport de troupes et de matériel. En deux ans, le *Swiftsure* effectua 58 voyages aller-retour entre Montréal et Québec. On estime qu'il transporta 8 000 soldats durant ces périples. Il devint ainsi le premier bâtiment à vapeur à servir à des fins militaires.

Charles-Frédéric Rolette ne s'illustra pas seulement au début de la guerre. Il participa à plusieurs engagements, sur terre et sur mer. Malheureusement lors de la bataille du lac Érié, alors qu'il était commandant en second du *HMS Queen Charlotte*, il fut blessé et fait prisonnier. Néanmoins, à la fin de la guerre, les citoyens de Québec lui offrirent un sabre d'honneur d'une valeur de 50 guinées en reconnaissance de sa vaillance et de ses services. Aujourd'hui, cependant, même s'il est reconnu sur le site internet du gouvernement canadien comme l'un des héros de la guerre, il n'existe rien dans la capitale provinciale pour nous rappeler sa bravoure et son dévouement. Aucun monument, aucune plaque; même pas une rue qui porte son nom. Le Musée naval de Québec maintient le souvenir de la Marine provinciale et de sa participation à la guerre de 1812 dans une exposition appelée *Méandres* qui couvre l'histoire navale de Québec et du Saint-Laurent. Le souvenir de la Marine provinciale demeure également vivant dans la Réserve navale canadienne dont le quartier général est situé à Québec. Cinq unités des Forces canadiennes portent le nom de navires qui ont combattu sur les Grands lacs.

Citadelle Québec

Vue de la citadelle temporaire de Québec en 1783. Par James Peachey
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MIKAN: 2895298

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