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CONTENTS

Articles
Peter K. H. Mispelkamp, “Pas de Marine”: F. D. Monk and Henri Bourassa’s Nationaliste Crusade against Canada’s Naval Policies 1909 to 1913 /109

Walter Lewis, Line Development and the Passenger Steamboat Trade on Lake Ontario and the Upper St Lawrence River, 1829-1875 /135

Historical Document
Walter Lewis, ed., Building of the Gore: extracts from the diary of shipwright Robert Gilkison /149

Book Reviews
Nick Ball and Simon Stephens, Navy Board Ship Models by Gina Palmer /159

G.H. Bennett, The Royal Navy in the Age of Austerity 1919-22: Naval and Foreign Policy under Lloyd George by Chris Madsen /160

Richard J. Blakemore and Elaine Murphy, The British Civil Wars at Sea 1638-1653 by Ian Yeates /162

Sheila Bransfield, The Man Who Discovered Antarctica. Edward Bransfield Explained–The First Man to Find and Chart the Antarctic Mainland by Ingo Heidbrink /164

R.A. Burt, *The Last British Battleship. HMS Vanguard 1946-1960* by Peter Mispelcamp /167

Michael Crawford (ed.), *Needs and Opportunities in the Modern History of the US Navy* by Corbin Williamson /170

Aidan Dodson, *German Battleship Helgoland. Detailed in the original builders’ plans* by Peter Mispelcamp /167

Norman Friedman, *British Submarines in Two World Wars* by Mark Klobas /171


Frederick H. Hanselmann, *Captain Kidd’s Lost Ship. The Wreck of the Quedagh Merchant* by Michael C. Tuttle /175

Brian Lane Herder, *US Navy Battleships 1886-1898. The pre-dreadnoughts and monitors that fought the Spanish-American War* by C. Douglas Maginley /177


Kerry Jang, *Large Scale Ship Models. From Kits to Scratch Building* by Richard W. Greenwood /179


Philip Kaplan, *Hitler’s D-Day Defences* by Robert L. Shoop /184

N. Jack “Dusty” Kleiss with Timothy and Laura Orr, *Never Call Me A Hero: A Legendary American Dive-Bomber Pilot Remembers The Battle of Midway* by James M. Gallen /185


Roy R. Manstan, *The Listeners: U-Boat Hunters During the Great War* by Louis A. Norton /189

Gabriel Paquette, *The European Seaborne Empires: From the Thirty Years’ War to the Age of Revolutions* by Robert Malcomson /193

Norman Polmar, Rear Admiral Thomas A. Brooks, US Navy (Retired), and George E. Fedoroff *Gorshkov: The Man Who Challenged the U.S. Navy* by Jan Drent /195

Alan Raven, *British Cruiser Warfare: The Lessons of the Early War* by Mark Klobas /198

Manfred Rech, *Das Bremer Schlachte-Schiff. Eine Proto-Kogge mit Heckruder aus der Zeit um 1100* by J.B. Hak /200

Tyson Reeder, *Smugglers, Pirates, and Patriots: Free Trade in the Age of Revolution* by Alicia Caporaso /201

John Roberts, *Battlecruiser Repulse. Detailed in the original builders’ plans* by Charles Ross Patterson II /202

Ken W. Sayers, *US Navy Auxiliary Vessels, A History and Directory from World War I to Today* by C. Douglas Maginley /204

Peter Schenk, *Operation Sealion. The Invasion of England 1940* by Joe Eanett /205

Greg H. Williams, *The United States Merchant Marine in World War I: Ships, Crews, Shipbuilders and Operators* by Walter Lewis /207

From the editor

As I write this, the editorial team is hopeful that this issue will be in the mail by mid-January. this issue again has two articles, a document and, of course, the book review section. (The tentative line-up for issue 2019/3 currently has three articles.)

The lead article is by Peter Mispelkamp. Like many who enjoy history and complete graduate work in the field, he must count as an avocational historian. That said, he has contributed to a number of different publications, and is a frequent reviewer here. It is a pleasure to welcome him back to the journal, for he previously published an article with us in 1996. Here, he examines the Monk/Bourassa relationship in the debate around the Naval Service Act. While I do not normally quote from referees’ reports, perhaps I may this time. The reader
said, “it’s a splendid examination of an important aspect, which the author rightly concludes has been overlooked.” Further, it “adds some deeper understanding” to that debate.

The second article quite literally comes from our archives. Some readers will remember that CNRS was established in 1982. The first conference was held at the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1984. A selection of the papers were distributed in a stapled, photocopied production of just over one hundred pages. Members of the editorial board and the council thought that where we are able to get permission to republish, some of the papers have indeed “stood the test of time,” and deserve a wider circulation. The editorial policy for these papers will be to publish them as they appeared in the 1984 booklet, “Canada’s Atlantic Connection,” with only minor revision. For example, footnotes are brought up to date, (the Public Archives of Canada is now the Library and Archives Canada), spelling where necessary is corrected, and more generally brought in line with our style guide. There are no substantive revisions.

The first of these articles, and the second one in this issue, is by Walter Lewis, our production editor, and well known in Great Lakes history circles. He has most recently published in this journal with “Lighthouses in Upper Canada, 1803 - 1840,” which was in the first issue of 2018. His contribution here examines the development of steamboat service on Lake Ontario.

The document has also come to us through Walter. It is the diary record of the building of a lake steamer named the Gore, built over the winter 1838-39 by Robert Gilkison at Niagara. Thus it is an easy complement to his article reviewing of lake steamboat service. It also provides a window on the shipbuilding business, the challenge of keeping employees occupied, design, and contractual issues. Although the nature of ships may have changed, perhaps the problems of building them have not!

It is, as always, a pleasure to thank those who have been of such material assistance in putting this issue together - authors, referees, book reviews, our translator, and the editorial team who volunteer their time and expertise.

Bill Glover
December 2019