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From the editor

This issue offers articles from disparate sources. The lead is a new piece of work by Harry Holman. He is also new to this journal. Trained as an archivist and lawyer he was the provincial archivist for Prince Edward Island for many years. He has written numerous articles on aspects of Prince Edward Island history for both academic and popular journals. As an independent researcher and writer he has lately specialized in topics relating to the marine history of the province, including a lengthy series of on-line postings concerning steamship services in the region. His article here is indeed a specialized topic about a specialized ship. It may also be the first serious look at what in fact was Canada’s first icebreaker. It is a pleasure to welcome Dr Holman to these pages, and we look forward to his return here.


Finally, we are again reprinting a piece from the Kingston 1984 conference that was distributed in Canada’s Atlantic Connection. Hence a third source for this issue’s articles! The author, Ken Mackenzie, is of course well known in the society. A previous article by him won our Keith Matthews Award for the best article, and he was for many years editor of Argonauta. Despite the many variances in this issue, there are two coincidental, and therefore if I may, amusing, similarities.
Ken Mackenzie was for many years the corporate archivist for Canadian National Railways, and, like his provincial archivist author counterpart, his piece also examines an aspect of government subsidized steamer communications.

There is one final similarity amongst all our authors - they all live on islands: Prince Edward Island on the east coast, Guadaloupe in the Caribbean, and Salt Spring Island on the west coast.

As always, it is a pleasure for me to thank all the members of the team - Faye, Walter and Bruno - for their work, plus the many proofreaders pressed into service, referees and reviewers.

Bill Glover
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