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With Us!

Upcoming Events
& Publications

The Society is pleased to announce the following publications are in preparation:

- *A Donnelly Sourcebook: An Ontario Vendetta*. James Reaney, ed. Fall 2004.
- Fr. Emile Petitot, O.M.I., *Arctic Travels: Around Great Slave Lake (1891) and Explorations in the Region of Great Bear Lake (1893)*. Paul Laverdure and John Moir, eds. Scheduled for 2005.
- *The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1842*. Dr. Adam Crerar and Mr. Thomas Crerar, eds. Forthcoming.
- *Documents in Canadian Jewish History*. Gerald Tulchinsky, ed. Scheduled for 2006.

EVENTS

Saturday, November 13, 2004. 2:00 p.m. The City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Road, Toronto. The Champlain Society Annual General Meeting including a presentation by Dr. K. Janet Ritch and Conrad E. Heidenreich on "Editing Champlain: Why is he still important four centuries later?" This will be followed by the presentation of the Floyd S. Chalmers Award, and a wine and cheese reception.

For almost one hundred years, **The Champlain Society** has increased public access to Canada's rich documentary heritage. Our goals are

- to publish documentary materials relating to Canada edited and produced to the highest documentary standards both for members of the Society and for the public at large;
- to assist the Canadian public to a better understanding of the nation's past;
- to serve as a watchdog for the proper care of and public access to Canada's rich store of historical records; and
- to increase participation in the work of the Society by enlarging and broadening the membership.



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www.champlainsociety.ca

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Pen & PADDLE

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Near the beginning of the summer blockbuster *Shrek 2*, moviegoers are treated to the constant chorus of Donkey asking, "Are we there yet?" as the characters journey to Far, Far Away. The scene brought back memories of my childhood, travelling with my own children, and frequent lectures about the importance of patience as a virtue of necessity.

Patience can be helpful when considering the Society's publications program. When Roger Hall discussed his work on *The Rising Country: The Hale-Amherst Correspondence, 1799-1825* at an annual

meeting of the Society, he remarked that the project took more than twenty years to complete and that his co-editor, S.W. Shelton, did not live to see its conclusion. Recent research by Conrad Heidenreich among the Society's archives uncovered a much lengthier timeline. Prior to World War I, Council considered publication of Father Emile Petitot's journals of his travels around Great Bear and Great Slave lakes; this initiative will finally come to fruition when the Society publishes these accounts in early 2005.

Scholarship often challenges

deadlines and expectations, particularly when the vagaries of life take their toll. Progress has been slow in preparing the volume for 2003—*The Donnelly Documents: An Ontario Vendetta*—due to the poor health of its editor, James Reaney. It has been difficult to avoid the temptation of asking, "Is it here yet?", but members will have the volume in hand for the annual meeting. Your patience and support is greatly appreciated by Council, and we look forward to discussing upcoming titles when we meet later this fall.

Michael Moir

"CHAMP"—THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN "MONSTER"

In 1998 the popular American science journal *Discover* ran an article by Dick Teresi about a huge reptilian creature thought to inhabit Lake Champlain.¹ Known as "Champ," this "monster" is described by those who have allegedly seen it, as being similar to the more famous Loch Ness monster, "Nessie." Most descriptions seem to point to a landlocked plesiosaur that somehow

escaped extinction. According to Teresi the first person to report this "monster" was none other than Samuel de Champlain, whom he quotes as seeing a "20-foot serpent thick as a barrel and a head like a horse."

A problem with many popular writers is that they do not look at the original documentary sources for their quotations. Here is what Cham-

plain actually wrote in June 1609, shortly after he entered Lake Champlain with his native allies on a raid against the Mohawk:

"Amongst others [fish] there is one called Chaousarou, which is of various lengths; but the largest of them, as these people have told me, are from eight to ten feet long. I have

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT ARE EDITORS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

When your Champlain Society volume arrives in its smart red binding, some members shelve their books not in order of publication, but under the author's name: "C" for Champlain, "T" for Thompson. However, some of our volumes are collections of material—the recent volume on the Welland Canal, for example. In that case you'll probably look for the name of the editor, and that will prompt a question: what are editors, and what in fact do they do?

A century ago, when The Champlain Society was founded, the editor of a volume was the person who discovered the manuscript or collected the documents, and then tried to pull them into readable shape. Many of our editors played important historical roles, recapturing significant material that would otherwise have been lost, such as the distinguished geologist J.B. Tyrrell, who ensured David Thompson's narrative was published when the manuscripts might have disappeared. But in the next few years the Society will publish not a second, but a third edition of Thompson—why are we doing that, when other historic documents await the famous red binding?

We owe a tremendous debt to Tyrrell and to his successor Richard Glover, the editor of our second

Thompson edition. But the task of the editor today has evolved into a research specialty that ensures not only that the document be published in readable form, but that it be carefully assessed to see if it's the right version (not a problem with either Tyrrell or Glover), and furthermore that the text itself be preserved in a version as faithful as possible to the conditions of its original production. Tyrrell, for example, revised Thompson's own wording in many small ways, and made decisions about the order of Thompson's unfinished drafts that have had to be abandoned by Thompson's current editor, William E. Moreau. This process is what scholarly editors today call "establishing the text," and discussing how to do that takes up much space in a new Champlain Society publication—soon to be available online at <http://www.champlainsociety.ca>. It's called *The Champlain Society Guidelines for Editing Canadian Historical Texts*, and before providing much technical information to help our editors, it talks about the history of documentary editing in Canada and the historic role in that task played by The Champlain Society.

Even when a document is a translation, like our forthcoming re-edition of Champlain's own writings,

there may be problems. In our earlier six-volume edition Champlain's rough-hewn French was turned into a much smoother English than adequately represents what he wrote in the seventeenth century. Champlain's current editors Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch are looking carefully at Champlain's language to recapture in English its original nuances. Another task of the editor is providing footnotes that clarify meaning, set events in historical context, and discuss the personalities involved. Finally, the editor writes the Introduction, which may itself become a major contribution to historical scholarship, as was the case for example with J.T. Saywell's introduction to his 1960 edition of *The Canadian Journal of Lady Aberdeen 1893-1898*.

If you'd like to see the kind of task an editor faces, go to our website and take a look at the new editing guidelines. You will be able to test your editorial skills on the "Editorial Excursus: Three Bales of Marten Skins" on pages 17-18, and perhaps even start thinking about doing an edition yourself!

Germaine Warkentin

"Champ"—The Lake Champlain "Monster"
(Continued from page 1)

seen some five feet long, which were as big as my thigh, and a head as large as my two fists, with a snout two feet and a half long, and a double row of very sharp, dangerous teeth. Its body has a good deal the shape of the pike; but it is protected by scales of a silver gray colour and so strong that a dagger could not pierce them. The end of its snout is like a pig's."²

On his map "Carte géographique de la Nouvelle Franse" (1612), at the western end of the *grand lac*, Champlain drew a picture of the Chaousarou. Anyone familiar with

the fishes of northeastern North America will immediately recognize Champlain's description and picture as the longnose gar, *Lepisosteus osseus* (Linneus). Champlain's description, as well as the habits of the fish (not reproduced in the above quote), is very similar to the entry on this fish in Scott and Crossman.³ Even today, the longnose gar can attain a size of about six feet in length weighing up to fifty pounds. The word *chaousarou* is almost certainly Iroquoian, probably Huron, and



From "Carte géographique", 1612

FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our first issue of *Pen & Paddle*, the newsletter of The Champlain Society.

First off we would like to thank Conrad Heidenreich and Germaine Warkentin for their contributions to this issue. Germaine's article reviews some of the complexities of documentary editing as well as introduces a new publication, *The Champlain Society Guidelines for Editing Canadian Historical Texts*, which should prove to be a very useful tool for our volume editors. Conrad's article debunks the myth of the Lake Champlain Monster, North America's own Loch Ness Monster.

We encourage submissions on any topic that would be of interest to our members. Contact information is available on the back page of this newsletter. We would also like to thank Donna Davies Brackett for the layout and design of our first issue.

A reminder to mark your calendars for Saturday, November 13 when The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at The City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Road at 2:00 p.m. Following the meeting Dr. K. Janet Ritch and Conrad E. Heidenreich will discuss "Editing Champlain: Why is he still important four centuries later?" All

invites the ingenuity of a linguist.

Monster indeed! One wonders how such a myth can arise? Like "Nessie," "Champ" is of course a wonderful tourist attraction but leaves a lingering impression that there is something wrong with Champlain's powers of observation.

Conrad E. Heidenreich

1. Dick Teresi, "Monster of the Tub." *Discover*. April, vol. 19, no. 4, 1998: 87-92.

2. Henry P. Biggar ed., *The Works of Samuel de Champlain*. The Champlain Society, 1925. Vol. II: 91-2.

3. W. B. Scott and E. J. Crossman, *Freshwater Fishes of Canada*. Ottawa: Fisheries Research Board of Canada, 1973: 105-9.

members of the Society are invited to join us.

Immediately following the meeting will be the announcement of and presentation to the Floyd S. Chalmers Award winner (recognizing the best book written on any aspect of Ontario history in 2003). The afternoon ends with a wine and cheese reception. Please take this opportunity to acquaint yourself with members you may not have seen for a while or to meet a member of Council. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jill ten Cate

Heather Rollason Driscoll