

## A New Year

This issue of the Nautical Research Journal marks the beginning of a new year (our sixty-fourth volume and the Guild's eightieth anniversary). It also represents the start of the first full year of an expanded Journal that is available both in print and online.

The enlargement of the Journal brought in many new members, so we reached out for suggestions regarding the type of content the membership wished to see. The responses ran a much wider gamut than expected; Guild members clearly have very wide-ranging and diverse interests within the maritime field. This is both exciting and challenging, since matching Journal content to these interests will require that there be considerable diversity in the types of articles we include in order to ensure (or, at least, to attempt to ensure) that every member finds matter of interest in every issue. This diversity may also present a challenge, in turn, to members, since it may require them to broaden their own range of interests.

The first group of requests was for short pieces providing information about techniques for both beginners and more experienced builders. This always has been a feature of the Journal but we have decided to expand our presentation, even at the risk of repeating information that some may feel is very well known since there are many who may be new to ship modeling but have no knowledge of these techniques. To that end, we have commissioned short pieces from experienced builders for regular inclusion, and we also invite additional contributions from members at large. The December 2018 issue also contained an article by Ron Neilson that responded directly to several requests received for details about sailing making for models.

We also received numerous requests for research articles. More careful analysis of the requests revealed

that they fell into two categories: those asking for information about sources and procedures for modelers to research suitable subjects for building, and those looking for articles providing information from archaeologists and historians that could be used for model making. Articles addressing these requests will appear during this year including, specifically, one or two about archaeological excavations in the Pensacola area and the model building possibilities presented by that data.

Scratch building emerged as a major topic of interest. In addition to completing the two current series of articles—Dan Pariser's "Building *Queen Anne's Revenge*" and Bruce LeCren's "Scratch building a 1:48-scale Flower-class corvette"—several new articles will appear, including such diverse topics as a racing canoe, the sidewheel steamer *Saginaw* of 1860, and a large-scale model of the largest German U-boat ever commissioned.

We also received multiple requests for articles about building and improving kits. Most issues contain one or more of these and this will continue in 2019. Among the subjects of upcoming articles scheduled are a sixteenth-century Mediterranean galley and the protected cruiser USS *Olympia*, now berthed at Independence Seaport in Philadelphia.

Many other topics appeared on the list of requests and our goal is to do all we can to fulfill them. We are reaching out to modelers for articles but the surest way to satisfy your requests is for you too to contribute.

Editor — Paul E. Fontenoy