

Notice to Members of the Law Society, Judiciary and General Public

The *S.S. Daisy* Legal History Committee invites the members of the Law Society, the Judiciary and the General Public to come to Convocation Hall, the Law Society Building at 196-198 Water Street (just west of the Court House), on Monday, December 18, 2017 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., to celebrate the launch of its two most recent publications:

- (1) *Discourse & Discovery: Sir Richard Whitbourne Quatercentennial Symposium 1615 - 2015 and Beyond* (see description p. 2); and
- (2) *The Journals of George Simms, J.P., and the Records of the Labrador Court 1826-1833, Volumes I and II* (see description p. 3).

Following the launch of the books there will be a reception with refreshments.

The two new publications will be available for purchase together with any of the previous *S.S. Daisy* Legal History Committee publications. Purchases by cash or cheque only.

We invite you to view the attached posters for the launch of these new publications, and the list of all our publications at <http://www.lawsociety.nf.ca/publications-and-forms/publications/project-daisy/>.

For further information contact John L. Joy, co-chair, *S.S. Daisy* Legal History Committee by phone at 231-2292 or by e-mail at johnjoy@provincial.court.nl.ca.

Melvin Baker, Christopher Curran and J. Derek Green (eds.), *Discourse & Discovery: Sir Richard Whitbourne Quatercentennial Symposium 1615 - 2015 and Beyond* (2017), 440 pages, \$40.00 HST included.

This book is a collection of essays arising from a symposium at Trinity in June 2015 to mark the 400th anniversary of Sir Richard Whitbourne holding a Vice Admiralty Court in Trinity, Newfoundland, reputedly the first in North America.

Taken together, the essays in this book provide an overview of 400 years of Justice in Newfoundland and Labrador. For example,

- Dr. Gordon Handcock situates the Whitbourne Court in Trinity and follows with a profile of Trinity through the ages;
- Chief Justice J. Derek Green evaluates significance of Whitbourne's Court of Vice Admiralty for the Rule of Law in early colonial Newfoundland; and
- Dr. Peter Pope examines the fishing admiral system as a regime of customary law and conflicts management.

Professor Philip Girard, Judge John Joy, Justice David Brown, Christopher Curran, Professor John McLean, David Day, Professor Jerry Bannister, Dean Lynn Phillips and the Honourable Thomas Cromwell all write contributing essays.

The editors have assembled, in addition, a variety of relevant images, illustrations and period drawings to supplement the text material. An outline of English Law and Judicature in Newfoundland and Labrador with timelines, milestone events and a select bibliography is also provided.

Augustus G. Lilly and Christopher P. Curran (eds.), *The Journals of George Simms, J.P., and the Records of the Labrador Court 1826 - 1833* (2017), 2 Volumes, 571 pages, \$50.00 HST included.

These volumes contain a complete transcription of the existing Records of the Labrador Court, accessible through a topical Table of Cases, and also George Simms' personal Journals from four of the Court's annual circuits. The Journals, previous unknown to scholars, provide a lively daily commentary on the activity of the itinerant Court and its Judge, Captain William Paterson, R.N., with cross-references to the Records. Simms was a merchant and Justice of the Peace in Trepassey and served as Clerk of the Court from 1827 to 1833.

Gus Lilly, a great-great-great grandson of George Simms, has provided an introductory essay on the origin, operation, abolition and afterlife of the Labrador Court, and the demise of the Surrogate Courts, including administrative and legislative changes, lobbying, debates in the British House of Parliament leading to the adoption of the *Judicature Act, 1824*, and evolving Labrador justice between 1809 and 1863.

The editors have assembled maps, drawings, illustrations of persons and places and supplementary documents. They have added historical and geographical notes on more than 130 places and 90 persons and merchant firms, a glossary, and a topical index.