

Listening to the very old song of "The Cuckoo Calling on the Shore of Lake Saima," or the gayer but still thoughtful and symbolic song called "The Juniper Tree," you will feel their essential Finnish quality. It is not only that the airs are different from other folk tunes, but that in both tunes and words one feels the imagination, the poetry of a reserved and shy race, using song as its natural expression.

MARJORIE EDGAR

MARINE ON THE ST. CROIX, MINNESOTA

A "PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP" MEDAL

In the summer of 1932, Mr. J. C. Cavill, United States Indian agent at the Red Lake Reservation, ordered the removal of six Indian graves between the villages of Redby and Red Lake, which were in line with a new highway that was being constructed. The relatives of those buried there were notified of the date of exhuming and several of them were present at the removals. They noted that the graves were those of three men,—one of whom had been a chief,—a little girl, an old woman, and a younger woman. When one of the graves was being opened, Mrs. Ella Badboy, who had responded to the invitation to be present at the exhuming, remarked that she remembered well when Tebishgobenais, her husband, the chief whose remains would be found there, was buried. A big dance, she said, had been held, and with him was buried a medal given by a United States president to his father. The medal was found as she had predicted. It is of silver, two and three-eighths inches in diameter, and is quite intact. On the reverse side of it, the words "Peace and Friendship" are plainly readable. Both above and below the words are a peace pipe and a tomahawk with stems crossed. Between "Peace and" and "Friendship" are two hands clasped in a friendly handclasp. On the obverse side is a badly corroded portrait of the head of some person, quite evidently that of Washington.

In our efforts to identify the medal, we wrote to the superintendent of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. The following is his answer to our inquiry:

The United States Government during the Presidency of Washington adopted the policy of presenting medals to the various Indian chiefs who visited the nation's capitol, but these medals were more often given by army officers on the frontier, who were representing the Government in making treaties with the various Indian tribes and at the councils where they were trying to win the friendship of the Indians. These medals became known as "Indian Peace Medals." The French and British both had been giving such medals many years prior to the adoption of the policy by our Government.

The first known medal given by our Government dates around 1789, which was before the establishment of the mint. These early medals were not struck from dies but were ovals of silver with the design engraved on each medal separately. After the establishment of the mint, the medals were struck from dies in the usual manner with the design in relief. Similar medals were also given by the various fur trading companies.

The medal described in this letter has the same REVERSE as that of the medals given by the Astor Fur Trading Co., except that it is smaller in size and does not have the word FORT UNION at the top and the letters U. M. O. at the bottom. The OBERSE no doubt carried a portrait of Washington which had been struck in a die (the famous Wright die) then pierced out and soldered on the plain field of the medal, which may have been of a different metal. The New York Numismatic Society (156th Street and Broadway, New York City) has in its collection one such medal as is described here. It is very rare and practically nothing is known about its origin, who made them and by whom presented to the Indians. They were not United States Government medals. I would suggest that you write to the above mentioned Society, who may be able to shed more light on the question.

The curator for the American Numismatic Society, referred to in the letter of the superintendent of the United States Mint, answered our inquiry as follows:

The Indian peace medal that you write about is most interesting. Up to date we have the only known specimen of this medal, which was found some years ago at Mineral Point, Wisconsin. It is not a governmental medal but may have been given out by some fur company or by some private expedition or group of travellers. As the reverse was made from the same die as was used on the Astor medal, the date of the making of the piece in question could not have been

before 1833 when the Astor medal was made. As the Astor Fur Company went to considerable expense in making these dies their die must have been the original die. This is all we can tell you about the medal, nor do we know of anyone who could give you any more information.

The Red Lake Indian Agency is at present in possession of the medal.

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
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FORT BEAUHARNOIS OR BEAUHARNAIS

For most regions the question of the proper spelling and pronunciation of the name of a certain governor of New France, Charles de Beauharnois (as he wrote it), is purely academic. For Minnesota, on the other hand, it is a practical question, since a noted fort on the Mississippi, on Lake Pepin, bore the governor's name. Are we, then, to spell the name in the manner of the seventeenth century, or as it is spelled in modern France? In any event, we must cease to pronounce it "Bo-ar-nwah" and begin to pronounce it properly, that is "Bo-ar-nay." (Of course this is merely an attempt to express French sounds in English equivalents.)

In the seventeenth century many terminations in *ois* were the equivalents of the modern *ais*. Practical examples are: *j'avois* for *j'avais*; *je reconnois* for *je reconnais*; and *je disois* for *je disais*. For some years it has been a question among historians whether Beauharnois should not be pronounced Beauharnais. If one looks in *Gasc's Concise Dictionary of the French and English Languages* (London, 1933), one finds: "Harnais (*poet. & old*, Harnois)." If one seeks farther, one can find in the library at La Rochelle a "Recueil de pièces concernant la famille Beauharnais." This is collection number 612 among the manuscripts of that library. The following description of certain folios in that collection, as published by G. Musset in his volume on the La Rochelle library in the *Catalogue général des Manuscrits*



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