

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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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*

des Bibliothèques de France (vol. 8, Paris, 1889), has interest for Canada and Minnesota as showing how Frenchmen spell (and pronounce) the name:

fol. 45. Mémoire par dame Renée le Pays, épouse de M^r Charles de Beauharnais . . . gouverneur du Canada . . . Imprimé. Paris. Mesnier. 1729.

fol. 49. Quatre lettres et pièces concernants Charles de Beauharnais de la Boische, dit le chevalier, puis le marquis de Beauharnais, lieutenant général des armées du Roi, gouverneur du Canada et de Quebec. 1700-1735.

GRACE LEE NUTE

LONDON, ENGLAND



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