Editor's Note

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FROM THE EDITOR

It has been said that public controversies tend to yield more heat than light. The question of the possible development of forgotten little Rose Island, however, seems to be an exception. On both sides of the issue, interested people have been stimulated to uncover the mysteries of this obscure island located a stone’s throw from the city. These investigations have illuminated, not only Rose Island’s unique history, but the entire early defense system of lower Narragansett Bay. The results of these research efforts are compiled and evaluated for the first time in Charlotte E. Johnson’s “A New Perspective on Rose Island: The Evolution of Its Fortifications and Defenses.”

In publishing Johnson’s article *Newport History* is pleased to be able to return to general circulation cartographic information which has been lost in this country for many years. Likewise, for this journal to be able to publish archaeological information only recently pieced together is a rare opportunity. Historians are richer in what is known of Rose Island’s past, no matter what may be the outcome of the public debate over the site’s future.

By what is close to coincidence, an earlier contributor to *Newport History* on the topic of Rose Island also appears in this issue. However, the subject of Richard L. Champlin’s current article is the architect, painter, and social charmer, Frank Hoppin, many of whose designs still grace the city.

— E.H.W.