

GIFT TO KING OF DENMARK

The latest present to King Frederick IX of Denmark is a piece of rock from the northernmost point of land in the world, picked up by one of Canada's leading Arctic scientists.

The gift, a piece of orange-white quartzite from Kaffeklubben ("Coffee Club") Island, off the northern tip of Greenland, was found last April by Dr. E.F. Roots, co-ordinator of the polar continental shelf project of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.



On behalf of the Department, it was presented on October 8 in Copenhagen to the Danish minister for Greenland by Dr. J.M. Harrison, EMR's assistant deputy minister for mines and geosciences. The presentation was followed by a dinner given by the Danish minister.

Dr. Harrison stopped off in Copenhagen before returning home from a meeting of the International Council of Scientific Unions in the U.S.S.R.

Until a polar expedition led by Dr. Roots last spring, the northernmost piece of land was thought to be Greenland's Cape Morris Jesup, some 400 miles from the pole. But Dr. Roots found nearby Kaffeklubben Island to be about a mile farther north.

He picked up the piece of quartzite at the water's edge at the north tip of the island.

The accompanying inscription, on the wooden base on which the rock is mounted, describes the gift as a token of the "friendship and collaboration" between Canada and Denmark.

CAPE BRETON HONORS EARLY SETTLERS

A federal monument commemorating the Sieurs de la Boularderie, Louis-Simon and his son Antoine, was unveiled on September 20 at Alder Point, a Cape Breton community 22 miles northwest of Sydney, Nova Scotia. Located on the shore of Little Bras d'Or, which connects Bras d'Or Lake with the sea, Alder Point is the site where the elder Sieur de la Boular-

derie, an officer of the French navy, established a commercial settlement in 1720 to supply the fortress of Louisbourg with timber, coal, wheat and fish.

Dr. Peter Waite, Nova Scotia representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, chaired the ceremony. The monument was unveiled by Dr. C. Bruce Ferguson, Nova Scotia provincial archivist and former chairman of the Historic Sites Monuments Board of Canada.

Addresses were given by Allan J. MacEachen, federal Minister of Manpower and Immigration, representing the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Thomas J. McKeough, provincial Minister of Labor and of Trade and Industry representing the Premier of Nova Scotia; and Mrs. J.S. Munro, President, Cape Breton Historical Society. A prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. J.B. Kyte.

The monument, a pebble-faced concrete panel six feet high and eight feet long at the base, bears bronze plaques inscribed in French and English.

The Little Bras d'Or settlement is believed to have been the earliest and largest commercial settlement on Cape Breton Island to achieve some degree of success. The development of Cape Breton Island as a defence shield for the St. Lawrence River route to French colonial Quebec led to attempts to establish agricultural settlements to make the Island self-sustaining.

In 1720 Boularderie obtained monopoly of fishing operations at Niganiche, now Ingonish, a protected cod-drying station he hoped would provide return cargoes for ships bringing supplies to the area. He succeeded in interesting companies of French merchants in leasing property and development rights from him in the Ingonish and Little Bras d'Or areas.

But the venture made scant progress and showed little financial return, leaving Boularderie heavily in debt. At the time of his death in 1738, a small commercial settlement engaged in fishing, farming, lumbering and coal mining had been established at Little Bras d'Or.

In 1744 France declared war on England, and the ensuing hostilities saw the destruction of both the Little Bras d'Or settlement and the private Boularderie farm. In 1745, New England militiamen, who viewed the war as an opportunity to wipe out French trading and fishing competition, invaded Louisbourg, and the farm was burned. The entire Little Bras d'Or settlement was put to the torch in 1747 by the French because it was believed settlers there were selling coal to the British garrison occupying Louisbourg.

The young Boularderie, a captain in the French army, came to Cape Breton with a retinue of Norman peasants and artisans upon the death of his father, but was forced to return to France after the fall of Louisbourg to the English in 1758. The same year the Little Bras d'Or settlement was again ravaged and most of the Cape Breton settlers fled. The coal mines were shut down and settlement was discouraged until the coming of the Loyalists in 1784.