

1730: COPPER MINES NEAR LAKE SUPERIOR

[The first is a letter dated Oct. 18, 1730, translated from a transcript from the Paris archives, in Macalester College library, St. Paul, Minn., and published in Macalester College *Contributions*, 1st Series, No. 4, pp. 112, 113. The second is a letter from Beauharnois and Hocquart to the French Minister, dated Oct. 22, 1730. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 52, c. 11, fol. 103."]

We cannot as yet write anything positive as to the situation, extent, and richness of the copper mine in the neighborhood of the bay of Chagouamigon. The officer whom Monsieur de Beauharnois sent to find out about it, has not been able to enlighten us on the subject, as has been desired. He contented himself with bringing us a piece of copper weighing eighteen pounds, which has the odor, color, and weight of ordinary red copper. This ingot was given him by a savage from that locality, without his being able to learn from him the situation of this mine, in order to go there. The savages are superstitious about these sorts of discoveries. They feel they would rather die than reveal them. If we can get any more precise knowledge concerning this mine, we will have the honor of rendering you an account of it, and the measures necessary for transportation. We will neglect no means of ascertaining.

MONSEIGNEUR—We have received the letter that you did us the honor of Writing to us on the 28th of March last. Monsieur de Beauharnois sent orders in the spring to the officer commanding at la pointe de Chagouamigon to obtain all the necessary Information respecting the situation, the extent, and also the quality of the Copper mine in the Neighborhood of that post. He has not yet received news from him. We Hope to be in a Position to give you information on this matter next Year. Monsieur de Beauharnois has recommended the officers and Voyageurs to notify him of all the discoveries that they may make and which may affect the welfare of the Colony.

Monsieur hocquart informs us, Monseigneur, by a private