



SHEETLINES

The Newsletter of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY

No.3

March 1982

EDITORIAL

Many thanks for your continuing correspondence - I hope that we shall have the opportunity of putting several faces to names at the forthcoming AGM on the 24th April. A separate leaflet giving details of this is enclosed with this issue. I appreciate that this may be somewhat short notice, but after this first year's trial period we are now well established as a flourishing society and you will find that the coming year's activities are more clearly programmed. Do feel welcome to bring your spouses and/or friends to the AGM, but please let me know how many to expect. If you prefer to telephone me instead of returning the form, please ring Tewin (043 871) 7825, preferably in the evenings.

Two more Society meetings have been held since Edinburgh and reports of these appear in this issue. The dreadful weather did not deter some members from travelling great distances in some cases. It is becoming clear that the 'open forum' slot in these gatherings is most popular, giving members an opportunity to pit their cartographical conundrums against the so-called experts' wits. It is also evident that many are pressing for the need to disseminate information about OS maps and other products among local librarians and others. A first step in this direction was taken when the Secretary recently gave a talk on this subject to the Eastern Region of the Society of Archivists, and it seems possible, following on from this, that some of the other regions of the Society may be interested in similar talks, and, of course, it is an ideal way of advertising our own Society.

While on the subject of advertising, you will see that one of the enclosures with this Newsletter is a green notice which we hope will attract the attention of potential members. You will recognise it as the cover, albeit modified, of the Popular Edition one-inch map - I assure you that this is not a reflection of my personal preference, it so happens, as many know, that the early covers were printed on a buff background rather than the more familiar red, and it therefore photographed easily and, we thought, readily identified with the Society. It would be greatly appreciated if you could find space for it on a notice board, where relevant.

Also enclosed are two current ephemeral items for your collections. These are the OS brochure and a triangular car or window sticker. The Society has been most fortunate in securing a small stock (sufficient to allow one per member) of the attractive OS poster of the cover of the Middle Thames Tourist map of the early 1920s. Measuring 25x15in., and formerly costing £1.05, (it was published in 1980) it will be issued free to members attending the AGM and at future meetings - this method of distribution will avoid the excessive cost of postage in a roll and damage to the poster by folding it and sending it in an envelope.

Finally, please remember that subscriptions became due on 1st March.

THE FIFTH EDITION ONE-INCH MAP

An Outsider's Commentary

by

Guy Messenger MA, FLS

I call myself an outsider for two reasons; first, that I have no training in cartography and did not study geography at school or at university, and secondly, I have no first hand knowledge of the inner workings and politics of the Ordnance Survey. This commentary consists of the ramblings of an assiduous user of maps who is in some degree an experienced observer with training in the recording of observations and in drawing conclusions from them. Every controversial statement that follows should be preceded by the phrase 'in my opinion...' or its equivalent, but repetition would quickly become tedious, so please just let it be understood.

The Fifth Edition of the One Inch Map was, in spite of all its merits, doomed from the outset, and it is highly unlikely that its publication would have been completed even if the Second World War had not intervened to accelerate its demise.

To recapitulate its history briefly. The fourth National Revision of the New Series of the One Inch Map began in the southwest of England and the first sheet of the new edition was 144 Plymouth, published in 1931. This was soon followed as might have been expected by two special sheets covering the area of the Aldershot Military Command. The sheet lines of the new edition were closely related to a new rectangular grid of lines parallel to and at right angles to the meridian 2° west of Greenwich. For England and Wales at least the intention seems to have been to produce a standard series of maps of areas measuring 30,000 yards from north to south and 50,000 yards from east to west, grid lines being printed on the maps at intervals of 5,000 yards, and numbered in a series based on an imaginary origin south west of the Scilly Isles and numbered 500,000 (Easting) and 1,000,000 (Northing). Sheet numbers coincided with the sheet numbers of the corresponding sheets of the Popular Edition, and in order that the areas covered by correspondingly numbered sheets should not differ too much, rows of sheets measuring 40,000 yards from north to south were inserted in the plan at intervals, so it came about that of the 78 sheets whose lines were printed on the back covers of the early sheets, 15 were to be of non-standard dimensions, and as more sheets came to be published it soon came to be evident that a number of other sheets were going to deviate from the standard dimensions as well, though they were not shown as doing so on the sheet lines diagram. This meant that in the new edition there was to be more overlapping of adjacent sheets than there had been in the Popular Edition. In addition to this, wherever adjacent sheets were shown as fitting together edge to edge, an artificial overlap was created (as had already been done in the Scottish Popular Edition) by adding a 2,000 yard strip to the northern and eastern margins of the lower and the left hand map of each pair.

By 1936, 22 sheets of the standard series had been published, in two groups. The first extended from Lands End to Exeter in 11 sheets, numbers 118, 119, 127, 128, 136*, 137*, 138*, 143*, 144, 145*, and 146*. (Sheets marked * were of non-standard dimensions.) The second group covered London and part of the home counties, also in 11 sheets, numbers 95, 96*, 106*, 107*, 108*, 113, 114, 115, 123, 124, and 125. These and the Aldershot special sheets came out in three styles: outline, coloured and coloured with relief.

It was never claimed that the sheets of the new edition were exact replacements for those of the Popular Edition, though obviously efforts were made to make them as nearly so as possible. However, I well remember my father flatly refusing to replace his Popular sheets with those of the Fifth Edition because they did not correspond exactly. He remembered a similar difficulty when the Popular Edition began to oust the Third Edition (Large Sheet Series) and objected to being exposed to the same process twice in ten years.

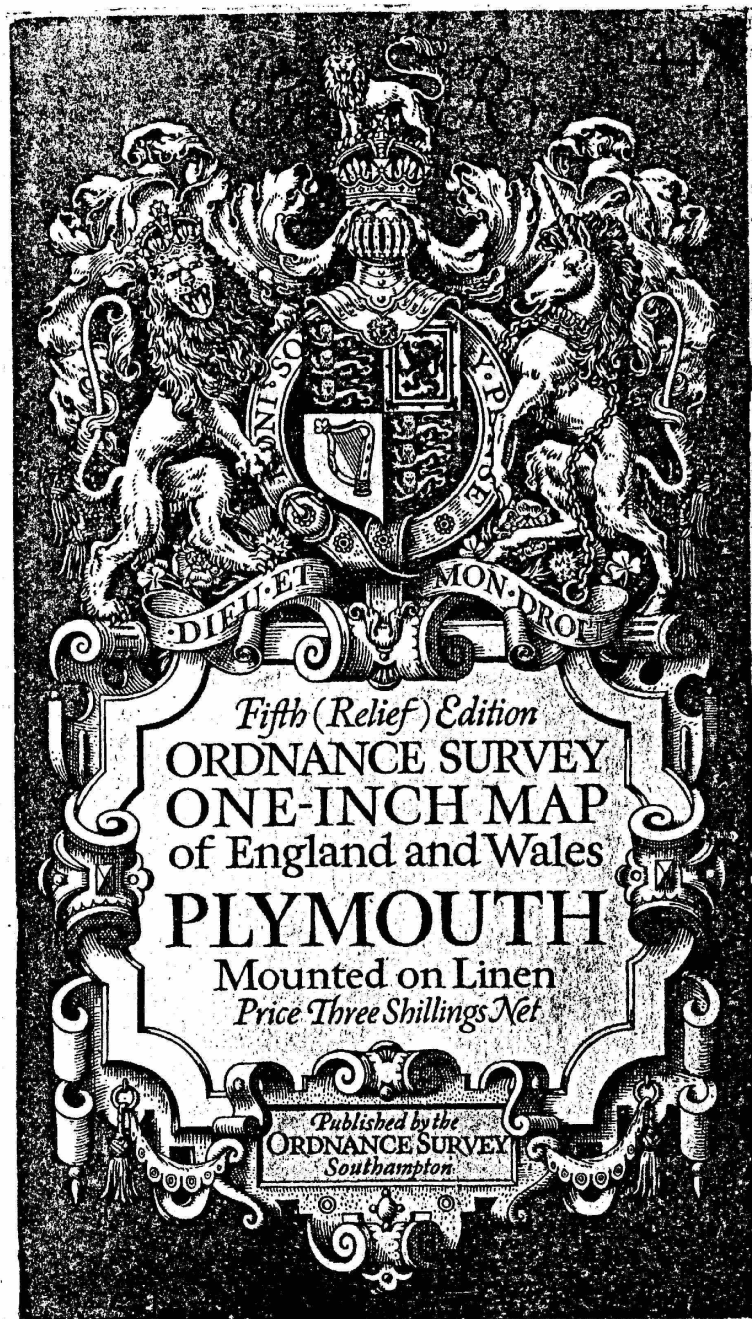
Next to appear were two more special sheets, called St Albans and London, both were

45,000 yards by 65,000 (+2,000), and apparently the precursors of a new Large Sheet Series of which 14 more were to follow by 1939. These were numbered 93, 94, 102, 111, 112, 113, 129, 130, 131, 132, 139, 140, 141, and 142. They filled the gap between the two groups of standard sheets, overlapping the London group to such an extent as to supersede seven of the standard sheets entirely after a life of only 2-3 years. They tended to overlap one another to varying degrees, and some were only 60,000 yards wide. No complete sheet diagram of the large sheet series was ever published, and

it is interesting to speculate on how it would have looked. Certainly a complete renumbering of its sheets would have been essential, because in the numbering of the first 14 sheets the seeds of an almighty muddle had already been sown.

In many respects the Fifth Edition was a great improvement on the Popular Edition. Particular points worthy of mention are: the clarity of the lettering; the reinstatement of parish boundaries; the addition of Ministry of Transport road numbers and the new style of showing waterways and built-up areas. In the Relief Edition the Ordnance Survey produced what to many was the most attractive looking map of the whole general sequence.

Nevertheless, as I said at the beginning, it was doomed at the outset, and the seeds of its destruction were sown when it was decided to base it on the thousand yard grid. Of course the idea of a rectangular grid for reference purposes was not a new one. The sheet lines of the New Series (18 miles/inches by 12) constituted a grid system, and this was used as a basis for determining the sheet lines of the Large Sheet Series and the Popular Edition in which the standard unit was 27 by 18. The basis of an internal square grid within each sheet was laid by the marking of divisions two inches apart round the margins and labelling them with numbers or letters. In this way the position of any feature



An early cover of the first published sheet of the Fifth Edition. Designed by Ellis Martin, it is printed in red, blue and black on buff. Size of original 113 x 190mm.

could be defined to the nearest two miles on the one inch map by means of the sheet number, edition name, and letter and figure, thus 135 Popular D7. There is not much

evidence that this imaginary grid was of very much practical use, and it is obvious that the military found it unpractical, because as early as the First World War they were using kilometre grids on maps of one inch scale and larger to define features to the nearest 100 metres. By the 1930s the Cassini kilometre grid had become their standard and in 1932 the War Office began the issue of a War Emergency Edition of the one inch maps of England and Wales and of Scotland with this grid superimposed. When the Second Edition of these sheets began to appear in 1940, although the sheet lines of the Popular Edition remained in use, the plates of the Fifth Edition were used for the printing of the sheets of southern England as far north as Birmingham and Kettering and as far west as the Severn, well beyond the limits of the Fifth Edition sheets published.

On the published Fifth Edition sheets the grid lines at 5,000 yard intervals are approximately 71.5mm apart. On the Fourth Edition of the Quarter Inch map they are at 10,000 yard intervals and printed 35.75mm apart. Kilometre lines at one inch scale are 16mm apart and 1,000 yard lines at that scale are 14mm apart. On the 1:25,000 map the kilometre lines are at 40mm intervals. In 25 years of botanical recording I have worked out thousands of map references and I know from experience that there are upper and lower limits to the amount of separation between grid lines within which the human eye can be expected to estimate tenths without resort to marks on the side lines, and attain with practice a reasonable consistency of performance. The lower limit lies somewhere between the 10mm separation of kilometre lines at 1:100,000 (as in the standard series of maps now used in Australia) and the 14mm of the 1,000 yard grid on the one inch maps now obsolete in Australia. The limit depends of course on the individual's acuity of vision. The upper limit appears to depend on whether at reading distance the lines enclosing the grid square and the contents of the square can all be seen comfortably without moving the eyeball or 'scanning across'. I can just about do this with the 1:25,000 map, and the 1:50,000 is ideal. I find reverting to the 1:63,360 a strain but I soon become accustomed to it and I never managed to achieve a consistent standard in three months' use of the Australian 1:100,000 maps. I wonder why the designers of the Fifth Edition did not try grid lines at 1,000 yard intervals. We might have had the Atlas of the British Flora 20 years earlier if they had.

Nearly all the best features of the Fifth Edition were preserved in the Sixth (New Popular) Edition. The most regrettable loss was the Relief Edition, but this had been abandoned with the large sheet series of the Fifth. One of the most important features to survive (one not often noticed by amateurs) was the use of the meridian 2° west of Greenwich as the base line for the kilometre National Grid. In the New Popular Edition, Fifth Edition-style printing extends north as far as Kettering as it does in the War Emergency Series, but beyond that, the lettering and most of the conventional signs are those of the Popular Edition, though with an improvement in clarity in many respects.

The first sheets of the Sixth Edition appeared in 1940. By that time the kilometre national grid had been worked out, the sheet lines of a standard series of maps 45 x 40km had been agreed and the decision to include Scotland with England and Wales in a common series of maps had been taken. This last aim was finally achieved only in 1961 when the Sixth Edition itself had been superseded. All these decisions must have been taken while new sheets of the Fifth were still being prepared for the press, and the outbreak of war can only have accelerated their implementation. Certainly the legend that the Fifth was killed by the bombing of Southampton can have little foundation.

To conclude, in addition to specimens of all the Fifth Edition sheets except two, and about two thirds of the Fourth Edition Quarter Inch sheets, I have in my collection one specimen of the Ten Mile Road Map (southern sheet), three printings of the Half Inch special sheet of the Cotswolds and One Inch Tourist Maps of Oban and Dartmoor, all printed with the 1,000 yard grid. I should be interested to know whether it was used on any others than these.

LONDON 12 December 1981

Despite the disruption caused by heavy falls of snow and freezing temperatures, a round dozen members gathered at Upper Norwood at the home of Dr. Christopher Board. Some time was spent in reviewing the interests of individuals before discussions began on general issues. It was judged important to make archivists in Local Record Offices aware of the need to conserve the material published by the OS and vital for the Society to encourage the recording of holdings of Ordnance Survey products held by local libraries. Much of that would naturally be larger scale plans.

The major topic under review at the meeting was the Quarter Inch map with particular reference to the Third Edition. Differing views were expressed with regard to those items which should be recorded in any listing of the sheets. The next step in the study of the series was a comprehensive listing from all surviving material in libraries and private collections. The main alternatives seemed to be (1) a very detailed comprehensive listing of all the marginal information, with details of the style of features shown on the map face, size of sheet opened out and folded and details of the cover, and (2) a summary listing of the main diagnostic attributes of each map. It was strongly argued that the second course of action depended on the comprehensive listing required for the first. Others argued just as strongly that such detail was unnecessary for most purposes and would take a long time to complete. There was some agreement that some sort of listing was urgently required. Chris Board agreed to list all the information he had to hand for the Third Edition of the Quarter Inch map and to circulate this to a number of those present for their comments on a basis of a minimum of elements required to develop a typology of the series. Once this can be established it can serve as a framework for a fuller and perhaps definitive study.

Resulting from this discussion there were references to OS practices of indicating dates of other stages in map production than field revision, printing and publication. These included the 'editing date' found between 1903 and 1922 and the 4 digit codes used from 1947-8 which were apparently allocated in blocks in advance of publication. It was agreed that such systems should be described and explained in future working papers.

Chris Board.



Cover of one of the sheets of the 3rd Ed.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " map, printed in blue and black on buff.
 Size of original 96 x 183mm.

BRADFORD 30 January 1982

Why Bradford? ... And indeed, several eyebrows were raised at the decision to hold the Society's third meeting in this city, while even your committee grew apprehensive upon realising that we had not a single member in Yorkshire, and in any event, precious few in the North of England.

But here, in truth, lay part of the reasoning. For historical reasons the interest in Ordnance Survey material shows major regional differences, with the one-inch map providing the basic source for study in the south, for this was the only published scale for that area before the 1840s, and the large scales - that is, the basic survey scales of six inches and twenty-five inches to the mile in the north. If the Charles Close Society is to represent the whole range of Ordnance Survey research and study then it must take cognisance of this fact, and go out and find the members if need be. Bradford Central Library, with its excellent facilities, good accessibility and welcoming staff, was the ideal venue for such an event. So it is good to report that, despite the troubles on the railways (which had stranded our Chairman, despondent, though not, one hopes, distraught, at Kings Cross station) there was an encouraging turnout of nine people at Bradford, where a most lively meeting took place.

The meeting commenced with the display and discussion of some of the maps from the Bradford collection, which had been selected and were introduced by Miss Willmott, the Local Studies Librarian. The maps were principally of Bradford itself, and effectively represented the progress of OS coverage of the city from the 1850s to the present day, from the First Edition of the Six-Inch map to the current 1:1250 plans. Of especial importance was the problem of preserving old Ordnance Survey material. Many of the larger-scale maps receive very heavy use in libraries, especially in the local studies rooms, and this was brought home to us all by the sight of a First Edition Six-Inch map of Bradford which was literally torn in half. Wherever possible, Bradford now have duplicate copies of important maps, so that at least one copy can be preserved for posterity, but clearly this is not always possible. It was felt that the Society could play an important part in advising librarians of suitable ways to protect and preserve maps, and various possibilities were discussed, though there does not appear to be any universally approved solution. Evidently this is a problem faced by many libraries, and there were some suggestions that a few Yorkshire libraries have now removed early six-inch maps from public use and have substituted photocopies instead. By way of contrast it was amusing to hear Miss Willmott mention that 'of course, the library does have one-inch maps, but nobody actually uses them.'

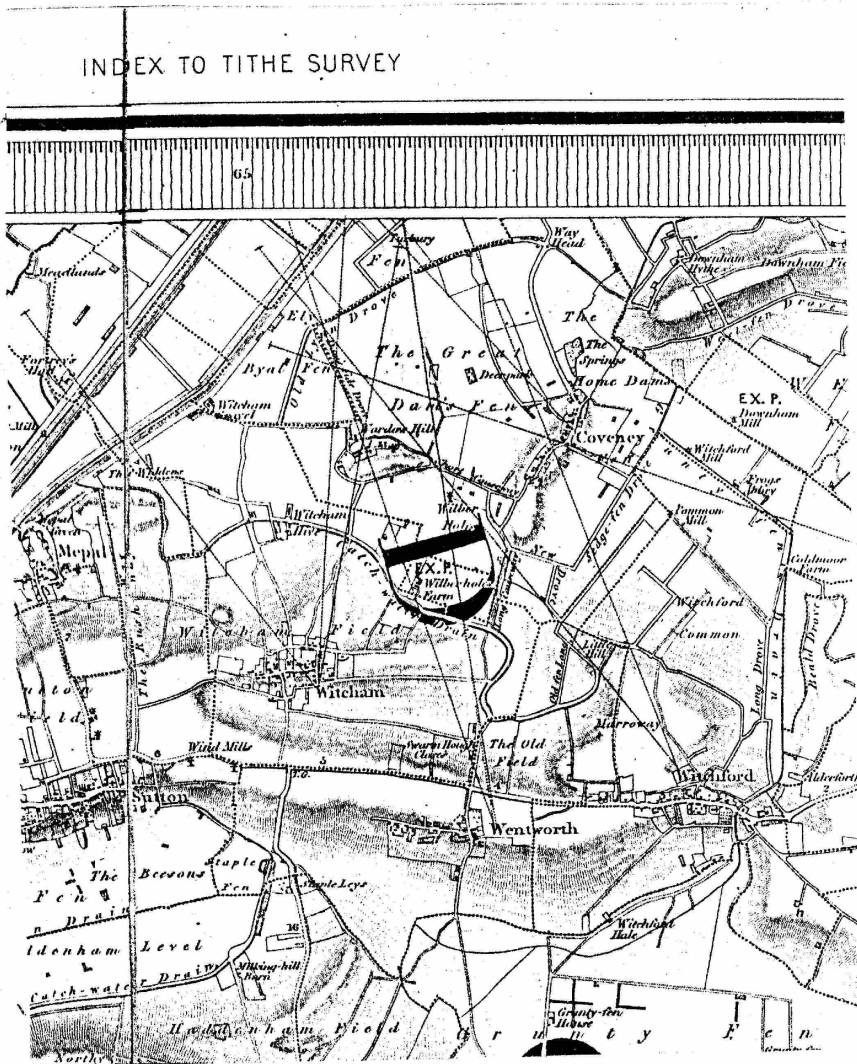
Alan Godfrey then displayed a number of maps to illustrate the point the annotations on maps can in themselves be worth preserving, and he questioned the policy of certain libraries of removing these. Among the items presented by way of illustration were a group of Old Series one-inch maps of the Bolton area, in various states, which had been marked up to show the water catchment areas, mills and other industries depending on water supply; other early one-inch maps showing the routes, in MS, of railways proposed but in the event, never built; larger-scale plans with estate markings; a First Edition 1:500 plan of Hexham with the details of sewage and water pipes; while Guy Messenger produced from his sleeve an Irish map from about 1918 which had been marked with troop positions. The point was made that much of this annotated material is unique and represents an irreplaceable primary source for historians of diverse subjects.

Most of the members then lunched well at a local Greek restaurant. It had been hoped that Peter Clark would be able to talk about the Ordnance Survey and the War Office, but the railways had put paid to that. However, Guy Messenger had brought along an enormous bag containing maps with a splendid collection of covers for the period 1900-1918 and these provided considerable scope for discussion.

And so proceedings led quite naturally into the final section, which had been set aside for 'Notes and Queries'. I suspect that this will always be one of the most enjoyable features of a Charles Close Society meeting for members; however good a newsletter or magazine may be, it can never replace the virtues of discussing a map with somebody more expert than oneself, with the map spread out on the table before you.

Among the items brought along by members, Yolande Hodson produced a curved bicycle

level which had been used by surveyors for the Fifth Edition one-inch map. Fitted to the cross bar of the bicycle, it was used to assess the gradients of hills in order to establish where the arrows should be drawn on the map. Another member brought along an Old Series one-inch map which exhibited a puzzling series of straight lines. He and his colleagues had already decided that they could not be the lines of geological sections and logical solutions were lacking. Closer scrutiny revealed it to be one of the sheets of the 'Index to Tithe Survey'. This was a special electrotpe printing of the Old Series map on which the names and boundaries of those parishes for which tithe surveys were prepared are given. The straight lines were the convention used for indicating detached areas of parishes. Only the southern two thirds of the country were covered by this series which appears to have been begun in the 1850s (according to the copyright receipt date of examples preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford).



Part of sheet 51 NW, first published on 1st June 1836, showing parish boundaries by dotted lines with detached portions of parishes indicated by straight lines.

So Bradford was a success, despite our previous apprehensions, and I hope it will become an annual fixture on the Charles Close circuit. We are all most grateful to Miss Willmott and the rest of the library staff for making us all feel so welcome.

Alan Godfrey

COLBY'S COLUMN (or, contemporary comment)

The Tower
March 1982

Well, well. It seems that the dreams of one of my more notable successors, MacLeod, are to come true after all - at least, in part, that is. About fifty years ago it was his ambition that the Ordnance Survey should function as an integrated survey organisation, embracing military, colonial (now overseas) and domestic needs. Leaving the military aside for the moment, I see that, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Directorate of Overseas Surveys is to be 'integrated with the Ordnance Survey at Southampton... by early 1984'. I look forward to seeing the greater range of mapping available to the OS collector at the end of the decade.

Meanwhile the said Secretary has at last pronounced that the manpower ceiling of OS will be held at 2815 from the 1st April 1984 - will this include DOS staff I wonder? During the shedding process the Archaeological Branch will close down and move with some of its staff to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and so the responsibility established by dear old Daddy Close (as some of his contemporaries called him) so many years ago for recording and publishing antiquities on OS maps will have been removed. I understand that this doesn't mean to say that 'new' archaeology will not appear, but the mechanics of getting the RCHM's information to the map, and how much it will cost OS have not yet been worn out (sorry, Freudian slip on the typewriter, I mean, of course, worked out). I daresay that in the end it will prove to have been cheaper to have kept the lot under the same roof!

I remember back in October I was debating the future of the 1:10,000 London map, and how it would fare in the real commercial world with competition; well, it seems that sales have matched the optimistic predictions made at the outset and as a result a fully revised and improved edition will be on the market, perhaps in time for the Pope's visit.

Springtime will see several new maps thundering off the presses at Southampton: a new Outdoor Leisure map of the Isles of Scilly, resplendent in a puffin cover, metric submarine contours abound and tourist information is this time shown in green owing to the prominence of blue names; also appearing will be a fully revised set of the English Lakes OLMs on Second Series base; a 1:625,000 map of Maritime England (a co-production with the English Tourist Board); Town Maps of Bath and Inverness (why Inverness, you may ask. Well you too can have an OS map of your town if you're willing to pay up). And last, but by no means least, in the summer, a fully revised one-inch Tourist Map of the North York Moors which, (you won't believe this) has been produced using the Second Series 1:50,000 base reduced to 1". I can see that it's not just because the public still clamour for the good old one-inch scale, a 1:50,000 sheet covering the same area would be rather large. Imperial units will be retained for the heighting information.

Assuming that we are not in private hands - maybe the Reader's Digest will make a bid - long-term plans are for the completion of the fieldwork on the conversion of the 1:50,000 First Series to Landranger specifications by 1986 and their eventual publication in 1988.

More anon,
T.C.

EXHIBITION An exhibition on the history of surveying, entitled 'The Compleat Surveyor' is being held at the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge, throughout 1982. The Museum is open, free of charge, Monday to Friday, 2-4pm, but may occasionally be closed during University vacations. A 30 page illustrated book, which accompanies the exhibition, is available by post from the Museum, price £1.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Irish Ordnance Survey Parish Memoirs - a note on the transcription of the Memoirs for the Parish of Clondermot, Londonderry. From Mr. F. Timmins, Londonderry, N.I.

Of all the Parish Memoirs which were compiled to supplement the six-inch maps of Ireland (surveyed 1833-47) only one was ever published, and this was for the Parish of Templemore (City of Londonderry) in 1837. Describing the physical features, general topography and giving a wealth of social commentary, the project, which covered the whole of Ireland, proved too expensive for continued publication, but the manuscripts remain. Some have been published by diligent and enthusiastic Historical Societies throughout the provinces, but all other memoirs seem to pale beside that for Clondermot (also written Glendermott) which is enormous! We are indexing it at the moment in the hope that we may then be able to reduce the whole random mass with its notes, questions and answers and statistical surveys to order. The published Memoir for Templemore is a standard work of reference, and is familiarly known to all as 'Colby'.

Work first commenced in 1975 when it was introduced as an evening class by Brian Lacy of Magee University College, Londonderry. In the beginning the response was good and the class numbered approximately 30, but unfortunately, like most evening classes, the numbers dwindled each year and now we are down to three. We now only meet informally at weekly intervals in our own homes continuing the task of attempting to complete the work.

When the class was first set up, the College presented us with a complete set of photocopies of the manuscripts which consist of about 800 sheets, and the class began to transcribe, type and arrange them in numerical order. To date almost 750 have been transcribed and typed and these have been double-checked against the microfilm which was lent to us by the Northern Ireland Public Record Office. At present we are indexing the completed sheets and when this is finished we shall deal with the remainder. When all is done we shall then edit the data into a form presentable for publication. The task ahead of us is quite formidable, but we are optimists and once we have completed the indexing it will give us the incentive to raise the funds for publishing the memoirs.

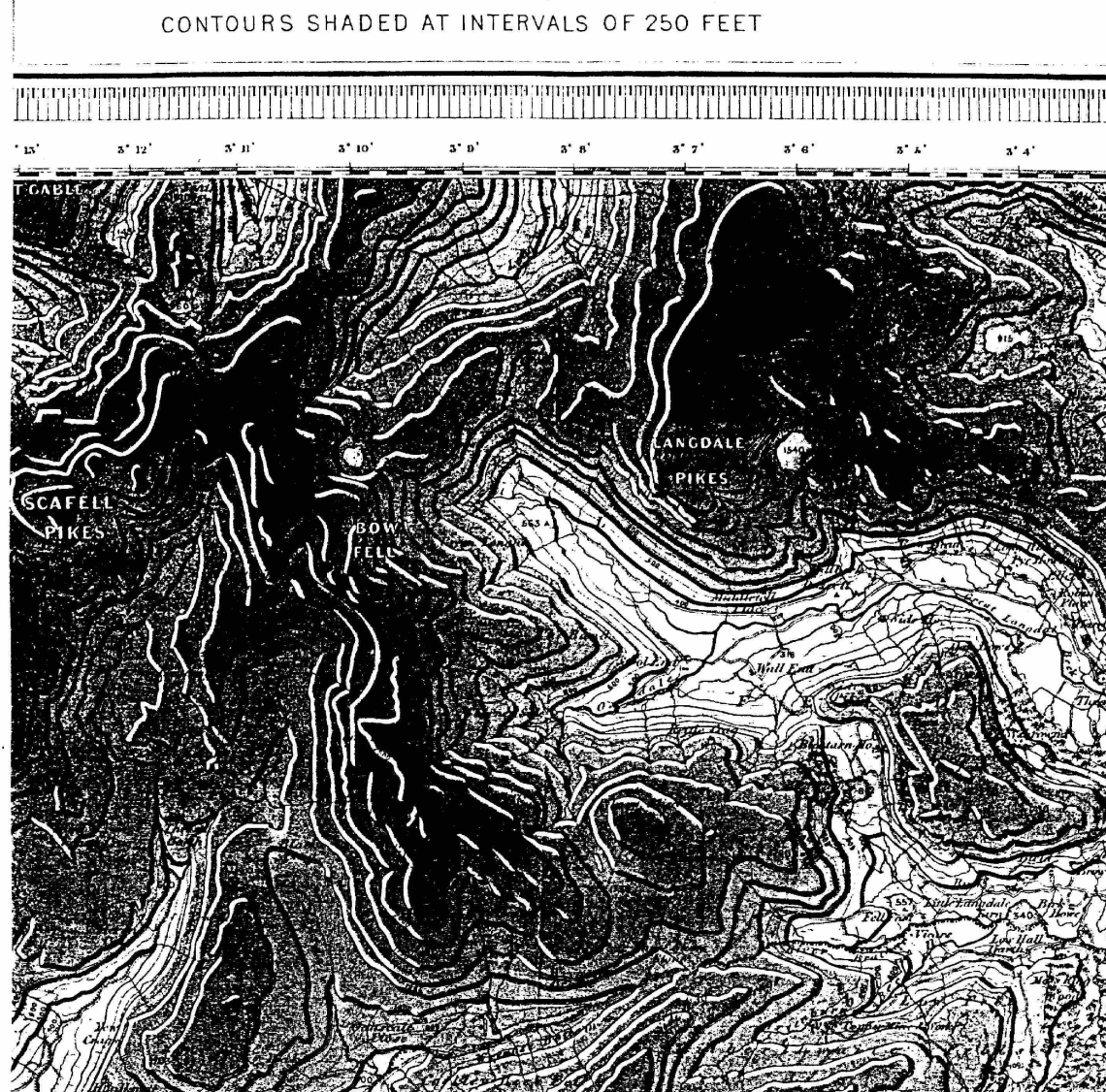
The Parish of Clondermot is only about 25 miles from Magilligan Point, at the mouth of Lough Foyle, where the base line was established by Colby and his team of R.E. surveyors in 1826 for the survey of all Ireland. We feel that this lends extra interest to our work on the Memoirs for this Parish.

Many familiar and important names are to be found in the Field Notes and correspondence of the surveyors, for example, Lieut. Col. Colby, Captains Portlock, Waters, Watson, Lieutenants Larcom, Vicars and Dawson. These documents give, in great detail, a wealth of information on the countryside and its inhabitants. An indication of the data collected by the surveyors can be seen by the following headings:

- 1 Description of the parish, its origin and locality.
- 2 The division of the parish into its 77 townlands, etymology and proprietors.
- 3 Ancient history and antiquities.
- 4 Education - formal schools and hedge schools.
- 5 Religion, holy wells, legends and superstitions.
- 6 Agriculture, manufacturing and employment.
- 7 Conveyances, roads, bridges, ferries and tolls.
- 8 Habits of the people, dwellings, food and clothing.
- 9 The gentry and Gentlemen's Seats.
- 10 Plantations of Ulster and Londonderry.
- 11 Wills and beneficiaries.
- 12 Charities, money clubs, Poor Shops, and poverty.
- 13 Health, diseases, hospitals and dispensaries.
- 14 Emigration.

We have had a great deal of help and encouragement in this mammoth undertaking from the Institute of Continuing Education, under the direction of Professor Alan Rogers, a noted local historian. We are very keen, finance permitting, that our project should finally take its place as the companion volume to 'Colby'.

Shaded Contours - a note by the Editor



Part of sheet 98 NW. Originally published in September 1865, this example was 'Printed from an Electrotpe taken in 1867' and bears an embossed issue stamp dated July 1880.

Some interest has been expressed by members in the Lake District one-inch sheets showing shaded contours, following on from the note on the Edinburgh sheet in 'Sheetlines' No 2. Those of you who own examples of any of the nine (not six as previously reported) quarter sheets covering the Lake District may be interested to know that these were prepared to illustrate the Report of the Royal Commission on Water Supply, 1868-9. The sheets, together with geological maps and a quarter-inch shaded contour map of the Tames Valley were issued in a separate folder accompanying the 'Appendix to the Minutes of Evidence together with Maps and Plans, and an Index', 1868-69, XXXIII. Cd. 4169-II. The special folder containing these maps does not appear to have been deposited in the Official Publications Library of the British Library (formerly the State Paper Room of the British Museum); the House of Lords Library has not yet been explored, but any member knowing the whereabouts of an example of this folder is asked to write in please.

MAP OF THE LAKE DISTRICT
OF
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND,
WITH SHADED CONTOURS.

Scale One Inch to a Mile.

This Map is included in Sheets—

98 N.W., N.E., S.W., S.E.	- - - -	4
99 N.E., S.E.	- - - -	2
101 S.W., S.E.	- - - -	2
102 S.W.	- - - -	1
		9

Price 1s. per Impression, or 9s. the whole Map.

The sheets were later issued separately by the Ordnance Survey as this extract shows from the 'Catalogue of the Maps and Plans and other Publication of the Ordnance Survey of England and Wales, and the Isle of Man, To 16th March 1870. London: HMSO, 1870.

Indexes

Many members have welcomed Mr. Garnett's suggestion (see 'Sheetlines' No.2) of producing indexes to the OS series. This is being pursued further by the committee and other CCS members.

Conventional signs of the $\frac{1}{4}$ " map From M.R. Broome, 30 Warren Rd, Woodley, Reading.

I have a query concerning a series of conventional signs added to quarter-inch maps of Scotland and England of 1912/13 vintage. They are as follows:

○ sometimes filled in with red, blue or black; ⊖ filled with red or blue;

⊙ ⊖ ⊙ ⊙ sometimes filled with red or black and ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙

I assume they are aeronautical symbols as some are similar to those on the Air Ministry version of the quarter-inch and are, in a few places, in the position of existing aerodromes. Are they World War I symbols?

Quarter-Inch Civil Air Edition

David Archer, 22 Beckwith Rd, London SE24 9LG, is currently investigating this series. He asks if anyone owning copies of these would please contact him.

Old Series One-Inch map

Many of you will be aware of the massive task of collating the different states of the Old Series sheets which has been begun and published in the Harry Margary facsimile of this series. The work for the first three volumes covering southern England was undertaken by Y. Hodson (then O'Donoghue) but she is now being relieved of this onerous study by Dr. John Manterfield, who is currently preparing the collation for the sheets covering East Anglia and Lincolnshire. He would be very grateful indeed to hear from anyone who would consider lending him, for a short while only, any examples, including quarter-sheets of the following maps:

49-51, 64-70 and 83-86.

Dr. Manterfield is very aware that these maps are rapidly becoming precious items for the collector, but will, of course, guarantee their careful safekeeping if entrusted to him for study purposes. Anyone who has attempted this kind of work will realise that it is always made easier if as many examples of any one sheet as possible can be brought together under the same roof - hence this request for loan copies. Please contact him at 200, James Sinclair Point, Upton Park, London E13 9JS.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Corrections: 1. Francis Herbert's review of the Godfrey Edition of the Tyneside maps (Sheetlines No. 2) 2nd para., line 4, for 'reproduction', please read 'reduction'.
2. J.H. ANDREWS, A paper landscape. A now impoverished member has informed me that the cost of this has risen from £21 to £30!

W.A. SEYMOUR (Ed), A history of the Ordnance Survey. Folkestone: Dawson, 1980. pp.359, illus. 31cm ISBN 0 7129 0979 6. Price £35.

A few years ago it seemed that the publication of 'The History' was one of those long awaited events, like the completion of the Channel Tunnel, which are pushed ever further back in time until one despairs of their achievement in one's own lifetime. Now that it has arrived the reviewer's first, and his final, impression was of the skill with which the editor has blended the work of his contributors to produce a continuous clear narrative covering nearly two centuries, broken up into short chapters each provided with its comprehensive list of references.

This is a history of an institution rather than an account of the maps and technical data that it produced. During most of the period covered cartography was a craft and the Survey's craftsmen, like most others, expressed their skills through their work, not by writing about it. 'No detailed account of the theory of the Ordnance Survey hill-drawing exists, perhaps because it was difficult to put into words' we read of the 1820s and 30s and although for later periods we have James's 'Methods and Processes', 'The Red Book', 'The Blue Book', 'The Biscuit Book', 'Notes for Candidates for Technical Examinations' and so on, for much knowledge of the Survey's technical productions we have no source other than what can be deduced from studying the products themselves.

The History provides a framework in which the student of OS maps can set his work in context. For this purpose it is a pity that the Editor did not supplement the narrative with a chronological table of events similar to that appearing in Winterbotham's 'The National Plans' (Professional Papers New Series No.16). Chapters particularly relevant to the map historian describe the birth and early methods of the topographical survey, the start of map publication, Colby's reforms, the Irish Surveys under Hall and James and the mature topographical survey. Later chapters become increasingly involved with the minutiae of the history of the institution, no doubt because much more source material becomes available as we move forward into the present century so there was evidently no room for a comprehensive discussion of, for example, evolution of small-scale map series during the 'Close era'. Even in much more recent times the decision to produce the definitive 1:10,560 and 1:25,000 series from common originals and its consequences gets cursory treatment without any reference to related developments elsewhere (eg the development of a 1:10,000/1:25,000 specification for Cyprus by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys in the late 1950s).

These comments are not intended as a criticism of the 'History' but to point out a need for an authoritative historical account of the Survey's maps, which would fill the gap between the present work and Harley's 'Descriptive Manual' and in which it is to be hoped some space could be found for Jerusalem, Sinai, and France and Belgium 1914/18, at least, from among maps produced of areas outside the United Kingdom. It would need to be effectively illustrated. It is disappointing that it was felt necessary to include in the History examples of recent series which were well illustrated in the 'Descriptive Manual' rather than provide more examples of earlier maps less familiar to most readers. Nevertheless we must congratulate Bill Seymour and his team for making such a weighty book so light to read.

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CONTRIBUTIONS to the Newsletter are welcomed. Please address them to the Editor: Mrs Y Hodson, c/o The Charles Close Society, Map Library, British Library Reference Division, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG.

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