Sheetlines

The journal of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

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for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, Sheetlines, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.
# SHEETLINES

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**August 2009**

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Forthcoming events

Here is the programme of future meetings. For further information or to book your place, email Visits@CharlesCloseSociety.org or call John Davies on 020 8504 1766.

Saturday 12 September, 9.30 am - 4 pm, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

This day of discussions and displays includes:

- Andrew Cook on ‘The training of East India Company surveyors’;
- Rob Wheeler on ‘Arnhem 1944: were the maps good enough?’, illustrated with examples from NLS collection;
- Chris Board on his latest researches into South African mapping;
- Chris Fleet and John Davies on indexing and displaying maps on-line;
- an exhibition of items from the Bartholomew Archive at NLS.

The highlight of the day (which is free of charge) will be the launch, by its authors, Richard Oliver and Roger Hellyer, of our new publication, One-inch engraved maps of the Ordnance Survey from 1847.

The CCS day follows a three-day event of the Map Curators Group of the British Cartographic Society, with talks, workshops, outings and a social event on Wednesday to Friday, 9 - 11 September. CCS members are invited to join all or part of this, for which a fee is payable. For information and booking go to BCS website http://www.cartography.org.uk/ and follow links.

Thursday 29 October, 2pm, The National Archives, Kew

Map Archivist Rose Mitchell will show examples from the Ordnance Survey historical records held at The National Archives, and her colleague Eunice Gill will showcase some newer materials being accessioned.

The October event is the final one to be arranged by the current visits organiser, John Davies. If you would like to help to arrange events for 2010 and beyond, please contact John (as above) or Chris Board (details on back cover).
Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography

Outline programme for 2009/10:
Tuesday 24 November, Harrods Room
  ... about Jonas Moore’s map of the Fens, 1658
    Dr Frances Willmoth (Jesus College, Cambridge)
Tuesday 23 February, Harrods Room
  ... about Seller, Pepys and the late-seventeenth-century London map trade
    Laurence Worms (Ash Rare Books)
Tuesday 4 May, Gardner Room
  ... about the history of the Ordnance Survey
    Rachel Hewitt (University of Glamorgan)

All seminars will be held at 5.30 pm at Emmanuel College, St Andrew’s Street, Cambridge. For more details see http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/camsem0910.html or contact Sarah Bendall, sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk, 01223 330476. Refreshments will be available after each seminar.

Cathy Bull

I first met Cathy in April 1993, when she and Chris called in, en route to one of their camping and walking breaks in North Wales. Chris was the map collector, but Cathy was always there to enjoy the search, and share the joys and frustrations that come with collecting. She loved the fun associated with searching and finding. Although Cathy did not collect maps, she was fascinated by those who did and loved to hear tales of the obsessions of collectors, those who seek out different print codes, price differences, type face varieties and
so on. A sparkle would come into her eye, as her strong northern logic dismissed most genuine tales as unbelievable. Maybe it was the teacher in her, but she always wanted to know the finer details of any story, and would question you closely if something appeared to have been left out.

A family membership was applied for at once, and an AGM at Birkbeck might have been their first society meeting. The map market was in full swing; Cathy, having been round the room, had satisfied herself that all was as she had feared, and set to, helping with the teas. Again, her nature was to spot where help was needed and to muck in, whether she knew anyone or not. Cathy was very much a member of our society, a popular figure at AGMs, especially when running the family stall, which was meticulously organised and over which she ruled, despite what Chris might think. Again, she would always wander round, and I am sure would report back on things Chris had missed.

Even though she did not collect or work with maps, Cathy had definite views on the society, its proceedings and what it should be doing. It was only recently I realised, that in suggesting Chris might take on the job of distributing Sheetlines, I must have known it would be a joint operation. Right from the first issue, Chris would use the plural in describing what had been done. The whole thing went like clockwork and the society was well pleased. Cathy never sought praise, but certainly deserved it.

As Chris Higley wrote to me “Cathy was one of those lovely smiley people whom you were always pleased to see, and who always seemed pleased to see you”. We will all miss her.

*David Archer*

*As our membership has grown, stuffing the envelopes for a Sheetlines mailing has become an increasingly onerous task. As editor, I am particularly grateful to both Chris and Cathy for the many, many hours they spent doing this essential job. Once the boxes of plain brown envelopes had been ferried to the Post Office, there was always a quick phone call from Southampton, either Chris sounding as though he never wanted to see a copy of Sheetlines again, or Cathy, bright, cheerful and already ready to take on the next issue. – CJH*

*Roger Fairclough*

1933–2009

Roger was the much-loved and respected head of the Map Department of Cambridge University Library from 1958 to 1997, and a founder member of the Charles Close Society, to which he was a good and steadfast friend. He was a substantial figure: large in intellect, profoundly deep in knowledge, broad in interests, great in his love of his family and friends, and of ample physical proportions. Thirty years ago, he and I were the British delegates to the AACR working party in Ottawa; his now legendary incisiveness more than once cut through the miasma of irrelevant detail and brought the discussions back to the point, and helped to keep the focus on the matters in hand. Breakfasts in the hotel during that week were memorable and followed the invariable formula – Roger would eye his plate of waffles and maple syrup and reflect, with great sadness, that his doctor had told him that he really ought to lose weight. I would suggest, as gently as was humanly possible, that the doctor was
possibly right. At which point Roger would become very serious and agree wholeheartedly that I, too, was quite right, before deciding (having given the pros and cons of the matter his customary considered thought) that a second helping would probably do no harm. He would often reflect with great amusement on these breakfasts in the following years, saying that he really should have followed the doctor’s orders.

Roger was born in 1933 and, after attending Morecambe Grammar School, read geography at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Following National Service, he studied librarianship ‘on the job’ at Glasgow University Library, joining Cambridge University Library in 1958. In the same year he was promoted to assistant under-librarian and became head of the Map Department, taking over on Mr Howard Mallett’s retirement, on 1 October. His abilities were clearly recognised by the university, for in 1992 he was appointed senior under-librarian in charge of the Accessions Division, a post he held in tandem with that of Head of the Map Department.

Acquiring material was one of the tasks at which Roger excelled. My husband Donald always used to say that whenever he visited the Map Room in Cambridge, particularly in the 1970s, Roger would be at his desk, meticulously going through booksellers’ catalogues and lists, his keen eye picking out all manner of items which were not sought out by, for example, the British Museum/Library. The result is a collection rich in cartographic gems and minutiae of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries which is perhaps unparalleled by the larger institutions.

It must be a matter for some small regret that Roger did not make any substantial contribution to the written record on the history of cartography, or on its curatorial aspects. What he did write was always worth reading. His account of his life working with maps, which appeared under the title ‘Cartographic retrospect’ in Cartographiti (No. 52, December 1997; 26-31), should be sought out by anyone interested in maps for it illustrates above all just how much the study of maps and their acquisition had changed over the previous forty years. It also gives a wonderfully personal view of the merits of some of the leading personalities in the world of maps.

Roger was greatly supportive of the Charles Close Society and when it became clear that I could no longer house the Charles Close Society Archive (my stable where it was kept was not only bursting at the seams, the environmental conditions were, to say the least, substandard), he readily agreed to take over the custodianship and provide a home under the CUL roof. It would be hard to overestimate the relief I felt at this arrangement which absolved me of the burden of caring for the material and, now that the university has assumed full responsibility for the Archive, the Society must be grateful, in turn, for Roger’s prescience, once more, in acquiring a collection which will be invaluable in years to come and, at the same time, relieving CCS of a truly awesome potential burden of storage and conservation.

When Roger moved from Cambridge in 2001 with his wife, Eleanor, to Inverness, he immediately immersed himself in local life, playing a leading role, for example, in the Inverness Field Club. I last saw him when I went to Inverness four years ago to lecture on William Roy; it was evident that Roger was not in good health, but he and Eleanor were wonderful hosts, putting me up for the night and providing such good company. I shall always remember him with great affection for his strong friendship, sound common sense, and devotion to maps.

Yolande Hodson
After growing up in the Dutch East Indies and then Australia, Tim Nicholson followed a career in publishing, working first for J M Dent, then as a senior editor for Readers’ Digest. He made his publishing knowledge available to the Society by serving on its Publications Subcommittee for some years while we were still finding our feet in such matters. However, his interests were always diverse and motoring perhaps came before maps: he wrote or edited some twenty books on the subject between 1957 and 1982; he took part in an expedition driving the length of the American continent which featured in *The Guinness Book of Records*, and he owned a succession of vintage Rileys, one of which he took almost to the most northerly point of Norway in 2000. He was also a long-standing member of the Ephemera Society.

What really spurred his interest was when these spheres overlapped: motoring maps and Riley ephemera come to mind. The former overlap led to a paper in *The Cartographic Journal*¹ and also to his final book, on the Revised New Series in colour,² the first OS one-inch maps aimed at ‘tourists, pedestrians and cyclists’. He also wrote numerous articles on non-OS mapping of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in particular for *The Cartographic Journal* and the IMCOS Journal, which represent a substantial part of what is available in print on these subjects.

Tim was not a map collector of the normal, accumulative, sort. He would acquire things because he wanted to study them or write about them and then dispose of them to make space for new interests. He was therefore a regular attender at the AGM map markets, with a table unique in the diversity of its wares. In that respect, his appearance at the 2009 AGM was no different from previous ones.

Tim’s journey through life ended suddenly and unexpectedly – rather like the Norway expedition. I do not think he would have wished it otherwise.

Rob Wheeler

Tim, the collector

How many others members, when entering a book fair, have stood at the door and heard a familiar voice going from stand to stand, asking, “Have you any Ordnance Survey material?” “Have you any Ordnance Survey material?” The question continuing to be put all the way around the room. ‘Methodical perseverance’ was Tim’s trademark when applied to collecting.

In March 1982, I put a note in Sheetlines 3 seeking to contact owners of the Quarter-inch Civil Air Edition maps. Tim wrote to me, and I went to see him in his flat in Russell Square, right in the centre of London, an eyrie, from which he would swoop down to book and ephemera fairs each weekend, returning with choice tit-bits to feed his current collection. On that first visit he showed me runs of the pre-war Ordnance Survey large and small scale Descriptions, told me which editions were lacking and indicated a few that were duplicates. Having never seen any before, I wanted one. Of course I could have one, two if need be, but only as a swap for one missing from his run. This was the first of many things that I learnt about collecting courtesy of Tim Nicholson. A good ‘swap’ will achieve far more than a thick wad of bank notes.

Tim had come to Ordnance Survey maps via an interest in motoring and road maps, which in turn, sprang from his love of vintage cars. He had been collecting motoring maps, including OS road maps for some time, and soon wrote them up in his book Wheels on the road.1 With the book finished, and a young Charles Close Society in existence, he then focused on Ordnance Survey maps and ephemera. Initially, he concentrated on pre-1940 map covers, collecting all the different cover designs, the numerous variations, stickers added to change the sheet title, the same map in different covers. It was endless. He wrote it all up for Sheetlines and gave great support to John Paddy Browne when writing Map cover art.

Having ‘done’ covers, he moved on to aviation maps, and again concentrated his collecting on these. When venturing into a new area, he appeared to hoover up all that was easily found, contacting dealers for what might be available, and undertaking research in libraries, especially the British Library, which was just around the corner. Such research enabled him to know the significance of what he found and what in particular to look for. As with all the topics he focused on, once he had satisfied himself that he had got to the bottom of a subject, he wrote it up. Many people consider his aviation article to be outstanding.2

When Tim went to a book fair or into a bookshop, he knew exactly what he wanted, and had no interest wasting time looking at what was on offer, he just asked his question and passed on if nothing was forthcoming. Such an approach paid handsome dividends over the years. If a bookseller bought something that looked interesting, he would save it for the person who asked for OS material at every fair he attended. And there were few that Tim did not attend. Two, maybe three in one weekend, usually travelling by train to get to them. When our society had a meeting in the British Library in 2005, Tim only appeared in the afternoon, as he went to a book fair in Oxford in the morning.

How many fairs must he have attended? At the very least seventy a year, for over thirty years. This figure does not include visits to bookshops. Bookshops in towns where fairs were held and bookshops visited for their own sake. Tim would investigate every lead that he picked up, book shops, antique shops, ‘a man with some maps’, no matter what distance he had to travel. Think of how many book fairs you attend and you will see why he could build such fantastic collections. Fantastic in both size and quality, because he put so much into looking.

In parallel to his map collection was a collection of Ordnance Survey ephemera: leaflets, letters, advertising material and so on. By the time I met him, he was a prominent member of The Ephemera Society and acquired wonderful material from their meetings, called bazaars. It was Tim’s suggestion that our society have a bazaar (a term he always used) after lunch at AGMs, and for many years he would supervise the setting up of the tables, and only go for his food once things were in place. Tim however was not interested in selling maps. His aim in having the bazaar was purely so that he could find maps for his own collection. He could not wander around if he was trapped behind a stall, so he set his up, with a large wooden bowl (in London, plastic elsewhere) for people to put any money in, whilst he went from table to table asking for his current interests.

Once his collection was well under way, he started refusing wonderful maps at book fairs because he already had a copy. Maps that most people would give their right arm for. He had no real interest in making a profit from his searching. As long as he had some good ‘swaps’, his overriding desire was to add to his collection. The fact that he lived in an exceedingly small flat with only limited shelf space was also a factor. Tim had strong self-discipline, and was focused beyond belief, he knew exactly what he wanted and would refuse anything that fell outside his specification. If he did not want it, he could not be tempted. At one time, he told me he was collecting post-war tourist maps in the red and cream covers. I soon acquired a really nice group of slightly later maps with the royal crest in the top left corner. No, they were not wanted, too recent; so I sold them. A few months later, a revised wants list arrived, and he had extended his dates to include these maps, which had gone.

Eventually, Tim decided to move on and sold his collection of Ordnance Survey maps because he needed empty shelves in order to collect, (or should we say study?) something else. Bartholomew’s maps came next, then a return to matters OS with the publication of his study of the Revised New Series coloured maps, before returning to his original interest in motoring maps. I can remember discussing his early ventures into Michelin maps and his

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going to France to meet someone who collected Michelin material, again, following a lead he picked up. He joined the Association des collectionneurs de guides et cartes Michelin and would go to their equivalent of our AGM, with a talk, full French lunch and of course, a bazaar.6

Tim never stopped collecting Ordnance Survey ephemera, though he did trim his collection. Advertising material was especially dear to him, whether it be a decorative nineteenth century letterhead or a stunning Ellis Martin poster. And again, he wrote it up.7 I cannot remember him ever enthusing over any item in particular, no matter how rare it was. All seemed to be of equal interest, but one knew something was really special when he started the sentence “Of course, this is the…” When Tim held a map and said “Of course…” one listened very carefully. Tim was a very generous person, with his ‘swaps’, with information, and when he gave the Society an Ellis Martin watercolour to present to Yo Hodson when she stood down as Chairman.

I last saw him in May at the AGM when he seemed fine, if more stooped than when we last met, but still the same old Tim. He had this little tradition at the end of every bazaar, where he would present me with his handful of unsold maps, so that he did not have to take them home to clutter his limited space. I will always have very fond memories of Tim. He was good company, liked his food, was exceedingly knowledgeable, generous, helpful and kind. He could form a super collection of maps on a particular subject faster than anyone, and would write it up for all to enjoy. Again, good old Tim.

David Archer

In memory of Brian Adams

Following the death of Brian Adams in 2005, the administrators of his estate kindly allowed us to take Brian’s technical papers and some other unique material into the Society’s archives at Cambridge. His valuable antiquarian books and maps were then sold for the benefit of the estate. This left a residue of unwanted cartographic, transport and local history books, which were made over to a member of the Charles Close Society at his own request. These books have now been catalogued and sold, resulting in a donation of £1400 being made to the Society in memory of Brian.

We are most grateful for the donation itself and for the considerable hard work of those involved in sorting through and preserving Brian’s papers.

Brian’s knowledge is irreplaceable. As a tribute to him we collected together his writings into a small volume, *Projections and Origins*, published in 2006, copies of which are still available.8 We are sure that he would have been pleased that the Society has now benefited from his estate and would have approved of our efforts to preserve the results of his cartographic studies, and to make them available to future researchers. May Brian’s name live on through his work.

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8 Price £10 (£7.50 for members) including UK postage, from The Publications Manager, The Charles Close Society, 11 Riverdale, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 6RP.
**The Charles Close Society Archives**

We are delighted to report that, after consultation within the University, Cambridge University Library has agreed to take over the formal custodianship of the Charles Close Society Archives.

The Archives were originally instituted in order to preserve, and to maintain access to, relevant public records that would otherwise have been destroyed. The collection contains material that has been deposited from several sources, including all three Ordnance Surveys, the Ministry of Defence and Ordnance Survey International (once the Directorate of Overseas Surveys). Over the years, important deposits by individuals, including ex-employees of the Survey, have been added.

The Society has never, in the literal sense, ‘owned’ the majority of the material in the Archives but, in taking over public records, came under a legal obligation to safeguard and provide access to them. We are in a similar position of trust in regard to the other individual deposits, and were thus very grateful when, in 1997, Cambridge University Library agreed, without making any charge, to house the Archives on our behalf. Since then, the records have been held in a secure location, with an appropriate environment, and access to them has been available in a proper reading room through the Library’s standard procedures.

However, our agreement with the University has always been subject to six months’ notice on either side. All universities have increasingly had to look closely at any activity which incurs a cost and does not generate any revenue. All libraries these days are required to quantify the value of every foot of shelf space, and how it is used. Cambridge University Library is now considering, for the very first time, storing part of its collection remotely, and returning deposited items could be a potential next step.

Private donors had expressed concern that the long term security of the Archives was not covered by the current arrangements and that the Society should seek a permanent solution. We are a charity, and the individual members of the committee, who are legally the trustees of the charity, shared this concern. Were the University to have exercised its right to terminate the agreement, there is simply no way that we could have provided suitable accommodation for the Archives from our own resources. Finding a proper way forward was thus urgent; we are glad to have been able to reach a new agreement with the University while the staff who had negotiated the original arrangements were still in post.

It is important to realise that by the University Library taking over custodianship of the Archives nothing changes, for members and the general public, as far as access is concerned. We shall also still be able to offer new material, although the Library, as it always has been, will remain in the position of being able to veto acceptance if it so chooses.

Our archive material is no longer a squatter in the University Library; it now has some resident’s rights. The new agreement satisfies our donors and relieves the concerns of committee members – and a university that had been in existence for nearly 600 years before Ordnance Survey was founded must surely be in better position than a small voluntary society to safeguard this valuable material for future researchers in the very long term.

*Appointments for access to the Archives should be made in advance by contacting Anne Taylor, Head of the Map Department, Cambridge University Library, by letter, by telephone (01223 333041) or by email (maps@lib.cam.ac.uk).*
Ground-breaking developments at Ordnance Survey

Members 1 and 2 of the Society were invited to a reception held at the OS headquarters Romsey Road, Southampton on Friday 3 April 2009. In the morning Vanessa Lawrence and John Denham, MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, broke the ground at the site of the Survey’s new headquarters at Adanac Park.

First of all we were treated to a tour of some of the most recent approaches to data collection and to its manipulation as plans, maps and air photography. One of the highlights was a visit to a mini-think tank in Bob Lilley’s cartography department. Here young graduates, who are embedded alongside other staff, were developing novel ways of displaying geographical data. We suspected that some of these represent the cutting edge of future OS activity. Visiting the print shop forced on us an appreciation of a huge printing machine which combined data reception, plate making and printing. As a contrast, the latest machine for folding small-scale maps for the trade, where individuals still checked the output of the machine at regular intervals.
The Minister was delighted to be involved in the day’s proceedings and commented on the benefits for local employment of the construction of a new headquarters building adjacent to the M271, which leads from the M27 to Southampton Docks. Vanessa Lawrence saw the new building as safeguarding Ordnance Survey’s long-term future as an innovation and world-class organisation based in Southampton. She noted that the existing building had been designed for a staff of 3000 and old-fashioned technology. OS has already shrunk to roughly half of the original building, which housed about 1100 staff at present. The new building is designed to minimise the consumption of energy from outside and has modern acoustic protection from motorway traffic noise. This new HQ is expected to be completed in seventeen months from the ground-breaking and to welcome its staff at the end of 2010.

After the speeches and a short impromptu history of the Survey for the benefit of the press, Member No. 1 was seen appropriately dressed in a hard-hat and a yellow tabard all emblazoned with the OS logo.

New website for OS 25-inch mapping of Scotland (1855–1882)

Chris Fleet

In July the National Library of Scotland released a new website providing access to all the OS 25-inch to the mile ‘first edition’ maps of Scotland. Officially introduced by 1855, through the resolution of the Battle of the Scales, 25-inch mapping work proceeded generally northwards in Scotland – most counties south of the Great Glen were surveyed by 1869, and the initial Scottish coverage was completed with the surveying of Orkney and Shetland during 1877-8. We have not included the ‘replotted’ 25-inch mapping published in the 1890s for the six Scottish counties and the Isle of Lewis that had already been mapped at the six-inch scale before 1855.

Searching on the new 25-inch website is possible using a zoomable map interface, as well as by parish / burgh lists, and a gazetteer of placenames – a similar style to the OS six-
inch website we released last year. A zoomable graphic index of sheet lines allows individual map sheets to be selected and viewed.

Of course, with separate parish editions, more than one map may be returned for each map sheet area selected, in order to provide complete coverage. The fun of fitting together separate parish maps for the same area can be re-experienced on screen! However, separate parish maps were usually combined from the 1870s, and we have generally preferred to scan combined full sheets over separate parish editions where we had a choice. With our usual indebtedness to Richard Oliver, the website includes further information on the maps, their content, sheet numbering and layout, as well as their printing, colouring and publication.

Using the graphic index

Although not quite taking as long as Ordnance Survey, this has been our largest single digitisation project to date, scanning some 13,000 maps over three years. Even relatively minor matters like linking insets (1389 in total) to the right sheet lines required time and effort, whilst the NLS network struggled with processing over seven terabytes of 25-inch imagery. Thank goodness we did not have to survey the maps as well! Our next OS digitisation projects are fortunately simpler and smaller – the OS air photo mosaics of the 1940s, and six-inch mapping of the 1890s-1940s, both focusing on Scotland.

View the OS 25-inch website at: www.nls.uk/maps/os/25inch/
Visit to the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon
1 April 2009

Gerry Jarvis and Andrew Janes

John Davies had to withdraw from this visit shortly before it took place, so Gerry Zierler and I volunteered to cover for him. When I was visits organiser I liked to get new names on the write-ups, but with so little time I wasn’t very confident. However, on the day I discovered Andrew Janes, one of three attendees from The National Archives, so we have an interesting slant in the second report.

Peter Elliott, the Map Curator at Hendon, opened the visit by saying it was the 91st birthday of the RAF. Unfortunately no birthday cake, nor were there 91 maps to look at, but only because of the limitations of space to display them. Peter had put together a very interesting display from the First World War to the present day, covering many aspects of the relationships between maps and flyers. He commented that the majority of the maps in the collection had not come from corporate sources, but from pilots, who never appeared to throw a map away. What better candidature for membership of the CCS!

I do not intend to produce a list of the maps displayed, but just comment on a couple that particularly appealed to me. The first was a German map from the start of the Second World War showing the South Coast of England, with a normal map across the top of the sheet, but a pilot’s eye view of the same area at the bottom. The second was an exhibit about music records sent to POWs. These were actually hollow and contained an escape

Escape maps and money smuggled to POWs inside records
map on tissue paper. I wonder if the German authorities became suspicious of the number of broken records?

The other pleasure from the visit was the opportunity to wander around the museum, which contains many aeroplanes which I can relate to my childhood. To conclude the visit Gerry Zierler thanked Peter on our behalf for an excellent visit.

Gerry Jarvis

As a map archivist, I was certain to find the RAF Museum’s Department of Research and Information Services professionally, as well as personally, interesting. Being still quite new to the archive profession, I have seen relatively few military maps and was not fully aware of the variety of maps that exist relating to airborne attack and defence. I am not sure which I find more impressive: the sophisticated grasp that the military cartographers had of the potential uses and reuses of maps and of the needs of serving airmen, or the skill with which they fulfilled those needs.

An insight into another institution and its collections always offers scope for reflection. The museum is obviously a much smaller repository than my workplace, The National Archives, and whereas the museum has acquired most of its maps through private donations, ours have come from government departments, often hidden within files of documents. Despite these obvious differences, the similarities were more striking than I had expected. In particular, many of the examples that we saw were specially overprinted or annotated in manuscript. As with so much of the material at The National Archives, it is these unique additions – often testifying to the difficult and dangerous circumstances in which they had been used – that really make the maps fascinating as objects and records of past events. The museum also has a strong collection of plans and photographs of RAF sites and buildings, which is useful for me to know as such items are popular with researchers.

My favourite out of the maps on display was a lighthouse recognition chart dating from 1944.1 This chart shows the locations of lighthouses on the North Sea coasts of Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark and is surrounded by a border consisting of views of each lighthouse. The result is both a practical tool and an extremely visually appealing object. My second favourite, also showing the North Sea during the Second World War, was a map of the Thames Estuary produced for the use of German pilots during air raids. Being specially made for use at night, this had been produced in high-visibility colours, with a bright, almost fluorescent, yellow background! I have seen very few maps that were so memorable.

Peter Elliott’s concluding comment that he had enjoyed hosting such appreciative visitors is a sentiment that I very much share. Curators always enjoy showing off ‘our’ maps and other holdings to a knowledgeable and enthusiastic audience. My colleagues and I look forward to seeing some of you at The National Archives on 29 October.

Andrew Janes

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1 GSGS 4481, sheet 6.
Crossed lines

Some notes on the Fifth Edition and New Popular grids

Aidan de la Mare

The English have a strange fascination for the ‘might-have-been’, the unfinished, the obsolete, the derelict and the defunct. It is perhaps partially this tendency that has aroused my particular interest in the later manifestations of the Ordnance Survey half-inch maps and in the one-inch Fifth Edition. I must also add that I find the Fifth Edition and its immediate derivative the New Popular Edition to be nice maps to look at and to use, as well as having quite a lot of cartographic interest.

Several years ago I noted, in the invaluable booklet on the Fifth Edition by Richard Oliver,1 that some maps had their grid lines partly or wholly in grey instead of black, but that this fact was not further discussed. At that time I started to look closely at the subject, but found that there were too many gaps in my collection to make any worthwhile comment. These gaps have for some time now been filled, and, rather belatedly encouraged by the entertaining and informative article also by Richard Oliver, Paul Baker: not quite as expected,2 I have unearthed my notes that had become submerged in the map room and have reopened the enquiry. But when such a subject is studied in isolation by an amateur it is difficult to identify and reveal anything certain, and it is doubtful that anyone who worked on the Fifth Edition in the 1930s is still around who can put us right. So what follows is as much a question as an answer.

My first thought about grey grid lines was that they were an experiment to see if they were an improvement over the black. But I think now that they are actually dilute black rather than grey pigment; if this is so it would explain the curious shading from grey to black that occurs on some sheets, and would therefore almost certainly be unintentional.3 But whatever the reason it must be that the grid lines were on a separate plate for at least some printings of some maps. The task therefore was to try to see which these might be, and this led to some other slightly surprising observations. But as my collection consists of single copies of most printings of the coloured editions of all the maps, the field of investigation has been limited. So before attempting to draw any conclusions, here is a brief summary of possibly relevant findings on the Fifth Edition maps grouped by year of publication.

144 Plymouth: it seems certain that the grid is on the master negative; no variation in the placing of the grid is visible on any printings including WO 20,000/40 that still carries the yard grid under the purple Cassini grid. Whereas 20,000/1/43 has no grid at all, it shows clear evidence of the yard grid having been removed, especially as repairs along northing 1175,000. Much the same applies to 137 Tavistock, of which 30,000/8/42C printing shows ample evidence of grid removal along northing 1201,000 at Cassini 991141, 868142 and 805143. 145 Torquay also seems to show the same general characteristics, but I have not

1 Richard Oliver, A Guide to the Ordnance Survey one-inch Fifth Edition, third edition, Charles Close Society, 2000. I am so indebted to the writings and personal advice of Richard Oliver in the preparation of this article that perhaps he should be nominated co-author; except that any errors of observation or interpretation are mine.
2 Sheetlines 71, 48-49.
3 To summarize the incidence of dilute grid lines on the maps in my collection, they are: 108 - relief 8036, 108 - plain 8036 (fading in NE corner), 114 - 6036, 128 - relief 2600/34, 136 - 4036 (eastern edge), 143 - 5035, 146 - 2500/34 and Dartmoor Tourist Map 5036 (all of one and lower half of another copy).
seen a War Office printing so I cannot confirm it. The same also applies to Aldershot North and South District Maps on their only printing on Fifth Edition sheet lines.

In 1933 we have: 113 Reading, 118 Barnstaple, 123 Winchester, 127 Bideford and 138 Exeter, all of which seem to be generally much the same as the previous year’s publication. But with 128 Tiverton we have a significant departure from the pattern. Relief 2600/33 has a dilute black (or grey) grid, but the plain 2000/34 printing has a black grid placed slightly to the west and slightly to the south at the western margin and several changes to the interruptions in the lines for place names. The 4036 printing has a much heavier grid line better placed on the map and yet another set of place name interruptions. Also on this map we first come across the ticks between the inner and outer neat line, these coincide with, and presumably help the litho draughtsman to line up, the grid in the border. These ticks are particularly clear and easy to see on this map as they extend about a millimetre inside the neat line, are present all the way round the map, and show where there is slight mismatch with the gridlines (figure 1). We also first meet the little crosses at 890,000 1230,000 the intersection at Turley Down that also appears on New Popular 164 and 176 at 994103. This cross is the only one visible on the map, although it is the precursor of quite a number of others on later maps, and is not to be confused with those that show the intersections of the latitude and longitude graticule. I assume their purpose was also to help locate the grid lines, and it may be that it was intended that they should be removed; indeed it is possible that this may have been done to others on this and the other later maps. WO 20,000/40 has no yard grid but retains the ticks in the neat line and reveals part of another cross.

114 S W. London & Windsor follows 128 Tiverton in that both relief and plain printings of 1934 have grid lines with good registration with the ticks in the neat line, but the 6036 printing clearly differs, for it has a dilute grid and registration with the ticks is not good, also interruptions for place names differ significantly from the previous printings. The 10038 printing differs again in that the ticks have been neatly and completely removed and there have been some further alterations to the interruptions. 115 London S.E., 119 Exmoor and 124 Guildford are generally similar and show significant alterations to the placing of the grid lines and to the interruptions for place names at each printing. 136 Bodmin again has good registration for 1934 printings but dilute grid on the eastern edge of the 4036 printing, and the ticks have been reduced to ghosts on the 4038 printing. 143 Truro has ticks on the 1934 printings but the 5035 printing has a dilute grid and this is one millimetre lower than the previous printings. Traces of crosses along northing 1180,000 are visible on War Revision 20,000/12/41LR where the yard grid has been removed and replaced by the Cassini. 146 Land’s End of the same date is generally similar to 143 and has a cross in the sea at 0736,000 1155,000 also on New Popular 189 at 578428, and another also in the sea at 0750,000 1135,000 also on New Popular 190 at 713234. There are also several unusually large crosses that have been cleared from the New Populars but survive on WO 20,000/40R; this printing also shows several gaps in the actual neat line where ticks have been removed.
95 Luton, 96 Hertford, 106 N.W. London and 107 London & Epping Forest, all published in 1935, show no new departures, but show variations in the state of ticks in the neat line and in the position of, and gaps in, the grid lines. The existence of proof copies of 95, 96 and 106\(^4\) without grid lines further suggest that at least a black plate without grid lines existed, although it could be that the grid was added to the plate after the proof prints were made.\(^5\) 108 Chelmsford and 125 Reigate of 1936, the only two relief maps without trees in the woods, are again generally similar to the above but 125 has a nice clear cross at 1150,000 1260,000, Great Wood, (figure 2) that also appears on New Popular 171 at 372377 (figure 3). Of the two copies that I have of the Tourist Map Dartmoor 5036, one has a very finely drawn dilute grid and the other a slightly heavier black grid fading to dilute in the lower half. Both show signs of very neat repairs to the mismatch where the grid line has been removed and overprinted on that portion of the map that was published on 144 (see above). Exmoor Tourist Map 5036 has nothing to add. Oban 4036 and Cairngorms 5036, that also carry the yard grid, show ghost ticks in the neat line that imperfectly match the grid lines; Oban also has these ticks outside two extrusions in the top margin.

111 Bristol of 1937 has ghost ticks in the neat line and outside the extrusion at the top of Easting 965,000 as well as several crosses, for example at 980,000 127,500 (figure 4), that

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\(^5\) Incidentally all printings of 107 have a disembodied level crossing just outside the eastern neat line at northing 1328,500.
survive on the New Popular 166 at 817515 (figure 5). 141 Southampton is very similar, for example at 1045,000 1210,000 also on New Forest Tourist Map and surviving on New Popular 180 at 411920. 129 Taunton, 131 Salisbury, 139 Sidmouth and 140 Bournemouth of 1937 are similar but none of the crosses on the maps survive on the New Popular. The remaining maps of the Fifth Edition published in 1938 and 1939 only one printing of which I have, or in which they only appeared as one printing, have nothing to add to what we have found so far. New Forest Tourist Map 8038 is of course a special case that has been discussed at length in relation to its place in the transition of the Fifth Edition to the New Popular Edition. But in spite of being laid out for the metric grid, there is a probability that the yard grid is included on the master negative. Incidentally the 3041 printing of 127 Bideford, the last coloured printing of the civil Fifth Edition, has the secondary roads and contours of the same colour, presumably intended as an economy measure, in a similar way to the GSGS 3907 printings, and like some of these, the single colour was printed with two separate plates, this shows on my copy where the contours cross the minor roads.

However from this accumulated observation no simple deduction is satisfactory. The situation rather resembles the puzzle of determining the direction that a bicycle has travelled by looking at the tracks of the tyres printed in patches of soft ground – it can sometimes be done, but it is usually so difficult as to be almost impossible. The occasions when it can be done may be likened to the occurrence of dilute grid lines on the map that allow no reasonable doubt that at the time of printing a separate plate for the grid lines must have been used. But for the rest we must understand that the Fifth Edition was prepared on master negatives of the original drawings from which printing plates were made. It is possible therefore that the black negative of a sheet may or may not have included the grid lines, and if it did, it may have been on the original drawing or it may have been added direct to the negative. In either case no variation would show on any sheet prepared from that negative. If the master negative did not include the grid lines they may have been added to the printing plate that was made from the negative and would therefore remain constant for as long as that plate was in use. If however a new plate was wanted due to significant changes to the map, such as road reclassification or removal of trees from the woods, then it is probable that changes to the grid lines both in position and gaps for names would occur. This seems to be the case with many of the printings of most of the maps of the series. The remaining possibility, that the grid lines were on a separate plate, might show on the maps if minor variations of the position of the grid were found on sheets of the same printing, or show up unequivocally in the few cases where the dilute grid appears.

The result of all this is to say that five out of the eleven maps published up to the end of 1933 almost certainly had the grid lines on the master negative, and a further five were probably the same. But from 128 Tiverton the rest of the maps to the end of the publication of the Fifth Edition this was probably not so. The change may have been related to the doubts about the public acceptance of a grid on the face of the map that seem to have been expressed about the same time that the non relief edition was published in 1934. Or it may be that it was influenced by the experience of the recently completed military version of the Popular Edition that involved the removal of the squaring system from some plates so there was some incentive to provide one plate for each sheet without grid lines on it. It seems therefore that

6 Sheetlines? 44.
7 I am indebted to Richard Oliver for elucidating this problem.
8 Again I am indebted to Richard Oliver for this suggestion.
until several copies of each printing of each map can be examined side by side, no answers to this particular question can be found. The matter of the ticks and crosses, although related to the above, is perhaps little more than the cult of nitpicking, but it maybe that the survival of some crosses on the New Popular is noteworthy.

The New Popular Edition

The story continues into the reincarnation of the Fifth Edition as the New Popular Edition. But here we can at least get a reasonable idea of what happened and why, and for this we can again thank Richard Oliver.\(^9\) Observation shows that on sheets 136, 137, 158, 160, 162, 167, 171, 172, 173, 177, 179, 180, 183 and 184, the dotted lines of the grid run along the solid black 10 and 100 kilometre lines. This shows where some, but not all, the interruptions occur for place names etc. Elsewhere, the dotted lines usually continue over (or under) the place names. My first thought was that the solid lines were an afterthought, and were therefore overprinted on the map, but it seems that the reverse is the case, as on some maps it was only the solid lines that were on the black plate, and it is the dotted lines that were added.\(^10\) This occurred when it was thought necessary to produce a completely non-gridded version of all the map for the military, who liked to overprint their own purple grid lines, so they finished up with a full grided and an ungridded version of all maps in the series. I had hoped to find some correlation between the incidence of this phenomenon and the sheets that were so treated, but I find no relationship to any grid, part-grid or non-grid printings of the maps. Although it may be significant that apart from the special cases of 136 and 137 (see below) and the solitary 177, all the others are among the ‘roads revised group’ that were reconstructed from Fifth Edition material in the late 1940s and the opportunity may have been taken to renew the grid at the same time, thus losing this feature.

This raises the question, why apply the dotted lines at the 10 and 100 kilometre intervals when the solid lines already existed? On sheet 180 The Solent, 12045/Ch and 4046 printings, it is possible to see the dots and solid lines running together on some of the northing lines; although, curiously, both dots and lines are cleared for some names, see northing 10, but the dots on this map are unusually prominent, perhaps because this seems to be the first of the post-war sheets to have been produced. It is probable that at some stage someone thought of this, as most of the maps of the series do not have this feature. I had also thought that it might have been all the 1940-41 printings that were affected: but not so, it is only seven of the eleven sheets. The others however are all published Fifth Edition maps that were reworked except for 136 and 137, but perhaps the inclusion of these two is because they were specially revised and redrawn for the series.\(^11\) My collection is almost comprehensive for first printings of the New Popular, but patchy for later printings and almost none of GSGS 4620. But such that I have all go to suggest that, when the separate grid and non-grid versions were introduced, the opportunity was taken to revise the grid lines and remove the anomaly of the dots on the solid lines. At the same time the solid lines were noticeably reduced in thickness and opened up at the place name interruptions where they had been very tight on the earlier printings. 171 London S.E. is the only map that seems to have carried the dotted lines over the solid to the last printing (figures 6 and 7); all the others lost theirs on later printings (figures 8 and 9).

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\(^10\) *ibid*, 13, 14.

Sheets 132, 133, 147, 148, 165 and 170 show a reappearance of the ticks in the neat line, similar to those on the Fifth Edition, at ten and five kilometre intervals in some places: see particularly sheet 170 London S.W. 20,045/Ch printing, where the ends of northing 70 show that the unusually large ticks do not form part of the grid line (figure 10). Incidentally, grid line easting 00 on 179 Bournemouth, 11041 printing, is the only line of the National Grid that coincides exactly with a line of longitude, that of 2° West, and this is the only sheet on that longitude that breaks the grid line to allow the graticule intersection crosses to show; on all the later printings of this and the other ex-Fifth Edition sheets to the north, the grid line runs over the crosses. The provisional sheets do not carry these crosses, being derived from the Popular Edition that did not carry them.

I am afraid that this foray into the New Popular Edition may also be little more than further nitpicking. But perhaps there is some merit in getting material even this slight on to paper.
Charter Bounds on the 1:25,000 Provisional Edition

Rob Wheeler

... there is at least one feature in the countryside which is of Saxon origin and often remains more or less intact. I refer to the boundary banks of large Anglo-Saxon estates, which one learns to recognise by laboriously tracing the points named in the surviving charters. This exercise gives one a truer and more detailed knowledge of the English countryside than any other pursuit, not excluding fox-hunting. By the time one has scrambled over hedges, leapt across boggy streams in deep woods, traversed narrow green lanes all but blocked with brambles and the luxuriant vegetation of late summer, not to mention walked along high airy ridges on a day of tumultuous blue-and-white skies with magnificent views of deep country all round – by the time one has done this, armed with a copy of a Saxon charter and the 2½-inch maps, the topography of some few miles of the English landscape is indelibly printed on the mind and heart.

Thus wrote W G Hoskins in The making of the English landscape in 1955. Hoskins was immensely influential, the prime mover of the ‘Leicester school’ of local history. ‘Solving’ a charter in this way is not easy – Hoskins reckoned that it typically took two years – and some familiarity with Old English tends to be helpful. Nevertheless, a few hundred amateurs attempting to do so, combined with many hundreds more walking the bounds of charters already solved, might have boosted sales of the struggling 1:25,000. There are apparently 840 charters for which boundary perambulations survive, most being in Wessex and the West Midlands,¹ so there was scope for a lot of sheets to benefit.

One of those who followed this pursuit was O G S Crawford, who took a mere six months to solve Bedwyn and Burbage in Wiltshire.² In an area where such charters are numerous, topographical names derived from solving one charter might help to solve an adjoining one. And what better place could there be to record such names than the 2½-inch map itself? This would involve a certain stretching of the existing definition of an antiquity, but no doubt the Ordnance Survey’s Archaeology Officer would be able to arrange it. And undoubtedly the 1:25,000 sheets for east Wiltshire contain a number of Anglo-Saxon names applied in Gothic font to features which are not within the normal definition of antiquities but which are the sort of feature one encounters in the boundary clauses of charters.

To take two typical sheets, on the ‘A’ edition of SU16 we find (Figure 1) Ford Act Wilcotum, Dippes Thorn, Ebban Broc, also (with 4-figure grid reference) Aepel Forda (1060), Brade Wyll (1061), Oxna Mere (1064), Eald Hereparth (1163), Eald Burgh (1164), Thorn Dun and Stanige Beorh (1165), Cyneta [River Kennet] (1168), Swana Beorh (1360), Pytteldene [Old English font] (1369), Wodnes Dic (1465), and Hyrs Lea (1566). On SU28, Figure 2 shows Wulfheres Cumb and Wylles Heafod. One can also find Liden (2082), Lyde Cumb (2181), Smite (2186), Icenhilde Weg (2283), Smal Broc (2383) and Lenta (2384).

At first sight, we appear to have an example of the post-war Ordnance Survey playing its part in a burgeoning academic field, a role quashed by the modern focus on the mass market: of the fifteen names on SU16, only one (Eald Burgh) survived on the Pathfinder and Explorer, as a means of naming an otherwise nameless Settlement. But first appearances can be deceptive and further investigation changes the picture more than a little.

¹ There is a map of them in Kate Tiller, English local history, Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1992, 39.
Looking more closely at the dates, O G S Crawford’s solution of Bedwyn and Burbage was complete by 1920. Checks on a sample of the names listed above indicated that they all appeared on the six-inch map in the mid-1920s and they were dropped when the County Series for that area was converted to National Grid sheet lines in 1960-61. That change was reflected in the 1:25,000 editions that appeared at the same time – long before the series had any aspiration to reach a mass market. So it would appear that Crawford was solving charters and names from charter bounds were appearing on the County Series long before Hoskins had introduced a wider audience to the subject. The names appeared on the 1:25,000 simply because they were transcribed from the County Series. One wonders whether some of Crawford’s colleagues had been looking askance at the use of the County Series for recording place-name evidence long before 1960.

The Ordnance Survey had for many years indicated the Roman names, in certain cases rather dubious Roman names, of towns. The number of Roman towns is reasonably small and names are known for most of them. Also there is a clear divide between Roman times and the present day. In contrast, the features for which Anglo-Saxon names might be found are extremely numerous. Only for a proportion can we hope to recover an Anglo-Saxon name. More seriously, 1066 is an artificial divide: if Anglo-Saxon names, why not Norman-French, late medieval or even post-medieval names? Did Crawford’s interest in old names extend to the early modern period?

Two pieces of evidence throw more light on this. The first is the sample sheet Crawford produced to indicate to his archaeological correspondents how they should mark up a six-inch map to show antiquities. This was an overprint on the 1901 edition of Wiltshire 29SW,

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3 It appeared in the June 1921 issue of the *Wilts Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* (volume 49), but the map there is dated 1920.
4 Wiltshire 16NE and 35SW were checked.
6 And transcribed wrongly in one case: Eald Hereparth at 1163 should read Eald Herepath.
7 Cambridge University Library CCS L24/26.
an area Crawford knew from his time at Marlborough and must have explored thoroughly while investigating his charter bounds. The sheet offers examples of annotation based on the physical inspection of antiquities, where initials and a date were required: B.C.D. 16/11/18, O.G.S.C. 6/12/1919, K.L.M. 7/11/21. This seems to suggest a production date of 1921 or 1922 for the sample sheet. Moreover the archaeological notes appear to be genuine ones: they are all embodied on the 1925 edition, albeit resurveyed and sometimes re-assessed. What is important for the question posed above is that information on old place names is also marked on the sample sheet. Some names come from an unspecified source of 1768; others from a tithe map of 1846. I have not been able to check whether these are genuine, but it would seem that the OS under Crawford was collecting place names from sources as late as the nineteenth century.

Now Crawford’s influence within the Ordnance Survey was somewhat restricted. Crawford could mark up his six-inch sheets with as many place names as he wished, but one can imagine that those responsible for production of the large-scale plans might not have welcomed the idea of a vast increase in defunct place names on the printed maps. Consequently, Close’s view on Anglo-Saxon antiquities as opposed to Roman ones that was reproduced in *Sheetlines 81*, 40, is highly relevant: ‘Most of us … would rather walk along a Saxon hrycgweg, or herepath, than along Watling Street or the Port Way.’8 One might doubt that the average map-purchaser could even get his tongue round a hrycgweg, but this was Close’s view. So perhaps Close made the decision that 1066 was not an artificial division and that place-names of before that date ought to appear on the printed map.

Crawford’s autobiography has evidence that tends to support this.9 He notes the OS provision of free copies of the six-inch map to scholars who could provide corrections and additions to the archaeological information as a system already in existence when he joined the OS in October 1920. Moreover he describes G B Grundy of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as receiving these maps and making use of them for his work on charter bounds. The context of the statement is a description of Crawford’s activities after his return from the war and before he joined the OS. The implication would appear to be that already in 1919 the OS was collecting information on minor Anglo-Saxon place names – presumably with a view to including them on the map. Close certainly had a particular interest in place names,10 whereas by 1920 Crawford’s interest in them was perhaps being swamped by other interests: archaeological excavation and period maps are prominent in his autobiography; Kitty Hauser has recently drawn attention to some less conventional interests.11 Curiously, none of the Anglo-Saxon place names from Crawford’s 1921 paper ever appeared on the OS map.12 Was that diffidence, or had Crawford himself come round to the view that old place names should be limited to Roman ones after all?

There is one practical implication from all this. Anyone with an aspiration to solve charter bounds should indeed follow Hoskins’ advice to equip themselves with a 2½-inch map. More precisely, they should ensure it is an early state of the Provisional edition. There they may find the solutions of some eminent predecessors, appearing by courtesy of, probably, Sir Charles Close.

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10 Crawford, *Said and done*, 158.
12 Wiltshire 33SW, 37SW, 42NE, 42NE were checked.
New editions, sweeps, and did the broom do its job?

John Cole

For some forty years after the Second World War, Ordnance Survey large scale mapping effort was devoted to the survey and maintenance of the 1:1250 map and revision (one way or another) of the 1:2500 scale mapping of pre-war years. This article takes a look at the roughly ten-year period when new editions gave way to Superplan and ‘sweep’ was established.¹

A new edition of a large scale map was triggered when the amount of new detail, usually in the form of roads and buildings and measured as equivalent ‘house units’, rendered the previous edition obsolete. If the system was functioning well, as it normally did, the bulk of the work would already have been surveyed; the ideal being that normally not more than three man days work was allowed to accumulate. Thus all that remained was a perambulation of the map to add scattered change which the intelligence system was unaware of – the odd house here, the odd demolition there – and the very vexatious change in the form of ‘back garden detail’: extensions to houses, sheds, greenhouses and garages (if meeting a size criterion).

As one who had participated in such exercises many times, I would not dare to claim that I had accounted for all such change – so much valuable time could be wasted simply to prove that no change had taken place, 80% perhaps? In some built-up areas it would be better than others and the availability of air photography could make a huge difference.

It was becoming clear in the late 1970s that a large percentage of the rural mapping could be anything up to thirty years out of date and that 1:2500 sweep, or periodic revision, was the answer: to quote Richard Oliver,² in effect almost a reversion to the system used for the County Series 1:2500 in the 1920s and 30s.

In his article on National Grid 1:2500 mapping in Sheetlines 29, Richard gives 1982 as a starting point for sweep.³ An ‘orthophoto’ experiment was tried by OS for an area at Kingsbridge in Devon, originally revised in the early 1950s. But the three ‘contracted out’ blocks he mentions, Honiton (Devon), Halstead (Essex) and Gunnislake (Cornwall), are thought to have been tackled mostly by ground methods. It was forecast in many quarters that the use of private contractors would be a disaster from the outset, which indeed it proved to be, ‘primarily because of the difficulty of specifying without ambiguity the standards to be maintained when the accuracy of existing mapping cannot always be quoted with certainty’.⁴ Whilst the main problem was the linear accuracy of the work, I can never recall seeing a set of rules dealing solely with sweep. One is left to assume that the contractors were furnished with the existing instructions to surveyors and the relevant working documents.

The revision of back garden detail for the whole of 47 towns, and parts of six others, was resolved during 1985-90 on upgrading from 1:2500 to 1:1250, whilst a major staff reorganisation in 1988 presented an opportunity to tackle 1:1250 mapping as a whole. It was considered feasible to utilise unrectified photographic enlargements for the task, and I

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¹ The second part of the title is an allusion to Richard Oliver, Ordnance Survey maps, a concise guide for historians, second edition, London: Charles Close Society, 2005, 45 fn. 54.
² Concise guide, 25.
⁴ Sheetlines 29, 19 quoting Ordnance Survey, annual report 1984-5, 4. One contractor allegedly claimed that because sub-standard work (accuracy-wise) was published circa 1950, it was the accepted standard!
pointed out in *Sheetlines 52* that certain other benefits soon became apparent, e.g. the detection of original errors and a check on, or revision of, pecked line detail. However, the provision of such photography put something of a strain on the departments involved and, apart from such annoyances as poor flight lines, there were instances of no photography being available and ground work having to be undertaken. Fortunately, this did not happen in Cornwall, though there was a threat of it at St Austell where I was due to ‘project manage’.

Another problem surfaced when the revision had been undertaken. I have an office record map for a mainly nineteenth century terraced house area of Camborne with all the back garden change recorded. One quarter of a house unit was allowed per change and in this case, with over two hundred and fifty additions, sixty more units were added towards the new edition criterion. I do not know how many maps were in fact tipped over the edge nationwide causing other problems but completion of these sweeps may have conveniently coincided with the cessation of new editions in 1991-2. Nor am I aware just how much of the badly out of date 1:1250 mapping was in fact tackled, when one considers that about five thousand of London’s maps dated back to, and before, the mid-1960s.5

I indicated in my report 6 on a modern rural 1:2500 map revised in 2003 that the sweep was in fact one hundred per cent by air photography, with all the drawbacks that can arise. When our local office commenced such a sweep in the early 1990s,7 we rather innocently proceeded as we had always done and demanded high standards of the two junior surveyors who undertook most of the work. At a later date, when questions were indeed asked, we cited the validation effort needed, plus poor photographic flight lines and lack of cover in some places. This was accepted, but I had rather mixed feelings when the second block (where I was to be project manager) was aborted on the grounds that the group covering Cornwall and much of west Devon had spent its allotted time and money on sweep for the year.

On the one hand I was worried about costs, because whilst the first area had been the immediate rural area surrounding the office, the second was a good twenty-five miles distant. On the other I had already ordered and received the photography and now agonised over it being wasted when so many of the 75 maps involved were nearly thirty years out of date and known to be much altered. Helped by the fact that there was a SUSI8 commitment in the area, surveys for Land Registry and certain other needs, I was able to reduce the number of maps needing attention by about half. I thus decided to do an unofficial sweep in my own time which turned out to be more than justified as the County Council (as well as others) purchased a SUSI copy of every map we advertised as revised.

A few other unofficial sweeps should be mentioned. Sweep having gone away, photography was obtained to pick up ‘primary units’ (i.e. housing and various large buildings) in one 1:2500 area. As usual it revealed substantial change, not least demolitions, and I made what effort I could to revise as a whole whilst now subscribing to the view that the ground should not be visited.

Of more significance are the revisions, noted in *Sheetlines 57*, which contributed to the up-to-dateness of parts of *Explorers* 102, 106 and 107 in 1997. These were covered in my *Sheetlines 82* article on air survey but some further aspects of updating the china clay area

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5 And I cannot be sure that SX9392NE (Exeter), illustrated in the *Concise guide*, 118-119, was looking a little more realistic after 1988. Probably not, if the OS ‘thumbnail sketch’ of 2008 and satellite photography are anything to go by.
6 ‘Testing the enhancement - II’, *Sheetlines* 74, 34.
7 As mentioned before, I can recall no precise instructions having been seen.
8 ‘Supply of unpublished survey information’: local authorities were major customers.
are pertinent. At the time, cumulated surveyed change on the constituent twenty five (1 km × 1 km) 1:2500 maps would eventually lead OS HQ to call in these sheets, in order that a new edition of the relevant 1:10,000 map might be produced. This was the situation in 1992 regarding SW95NE and SX05NW, covering the bulk of the china clay quarrying landscape. The local concern was that the majority of the change recorded was from an air photo survey of 1980, the bulk of which, apart from the surrounding villages, had never been checked on the ground. With the help of the County Council, who loaned contact print photography of 1988, which they had commissioned, and the china clay company survey departments, I was able to conduct a very rapid update, assisted by the fact that much of the change was demolition and much of the addition indefinite pit or tip edge or semi-permanent sand roads. This allowed a lower standard of accuracy to be countenanced. The 2003 revision indicated that a percentage of this had gone or been altered for other than accuracy reasons.

This certainly was not a sweep in the sense that back garden detail in the villages was revised, although air survey HQ had done much work in this respect from the 1980 photography. But this was of no account on the 1:10,000 map, even less so on the eventual 1:25,000. Quite how the changes compare are revealed when the Pathfinders of 1980 and 1983, the A edition Explorers of 19979 and the B editions of 2003 are side by side!

What were (or maybe still are) the casualties in a sweep survey? In ‘Checking the enhancements’ (Sheetlines 72 and 74) tidal rivers appeared to have had little treatment: a very slight change on one map and none on the other. Ground visits on suitable days revealed change on both. And certainly a minimum of tidal revision took place on the other sweeps described.10 Mereings of administrative boundaries and existence of bench marks would never have been specifically attended to, nor would names have been gone into with the thoroughness of the 1940-80 survey or revision.

And finally, I doubt that much in the way of back garden detail has been added to Superplan 1:1250 or urban 1:2500 over the last fifteen years. A residence increasing in size by a third is an exception I understand: not always easy to detect at the rear of a property, although I have done some interesting ‘checking’ using satellite photography enlarged to 1:1250. I also believe that there was one final (?) 1:2500 to 1:1250 upgrade, Bicester in 2000, where all the back garden detail will be a mere nine years out of date!

Women reading maps

Apropos of the correspondence on the subject of illustrations showing women reading maps, Bill Henwood drew attention in Sheetlines 84 to the dust jacket of Col. Sir Charles Close’s book, ‘The map of England’. Rodney Leary has kindly provided a photocopy, from which this delightful period detail is taken. Map users were certainly more elegant in 1932 – not an anorak in sight!

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9 In Cornwall.
10 Richard Oliver’s views regarding tide lines on the east coast in Sheetlines 45 are of interest.
Supplement:
*Ordnance Survey index diagrams, part 1*

The new Charles Close Society website includes a comprehensive collection of index diagrams to the various editions of the Ordnance Survey one-inch and half-inch maps, and to the 1:25,000 First Series. Go to [www.charlesclosesociety.org/indexes](http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/indexes) to download these pdf files, which are designed for printing as individual A4 sheets. (Although the diagrams are marked as ‘Copyright’, this is only intended to inhibit commercial re-publication without the Society’s permission. Members, librarians and the general public are very welcome to make sufficient copies for their own use.)

The following pages contain a selection of A5 versions of essentially the same diagrams. We hope that readers, particularly those without easy access to the Internet, will find it useful to have these diagrams collected together into a ‘pull-out’ supplement – possibly for marking up with their own holdings. Indexes to the following one-inch series are included:

**England & Wales**
- Old Series
- Revised New Series in colour
- Third Edition in colour, Small Sheet Series
- Third Edition, Large Sheet Series
- Popular Edition
- Fifth Edition
- GSGS3907, War Revision
- Second War Revision

**Great Britain**
- New Popular Edition
- Seventh Series

It is intended to publish part two of this supplement in a future issue of *Sheetlines*. This will cover the several half-inch series and also the one-inch maps of Scotland and Ireland.

The diagrams are in many cases derived from those originally prepared for various CCS publications. They are largely based on the work of David Archer, Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver as well as the late Brian Adams and Tim Nicholson. All the diagrams have been carefully checked, but I should be grateful to be alerted to any remaining errors, so that the website may be corrected. The website also includes a ‘sheetfinder’ to identify all one-inch sheets covering any specified locality.

*Chris Higley*

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1 Sheet line diagrams for other series, and more information about the various styles of sheet published, will be found in Roger Hellyer, *Ordnance Survey small-scale maps, indexes: 1801-1998*, Kerry: David Archer, 1999.
One-inch Old Series
map of
England and Wales

Dashed lines indicate sheets issued as quarter sheets, suffixed NW, NE, SW, SE (except as shown). Sheets 1 and 48 were originally published as full sheets. Sheets 43 and 55 were reissued as full sheets. Sheet 33 was reissued in portrait format.
One-inch New Series,  
Revised New Series,  
Third and Fourth Edition  
maps of  
England and Wales

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Area first published in Revised New Series

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Area covered by Fourth Edition

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* Notes

The Isle of Man sheet lines are those of the planned Old Series sheet 100.
Sheet 82 first published in Revised New Series (combined with existing sheet 81).
Eddystone Rocks not revised; sheet 354 only published in original New Series.
One-inch Revised New Series map of England and Wales in colour

* Sheets 258, 281, 297, 304, 313 and 314 were also published as complete sheets, independent of any other combination.

Further combined sheets issued in 1899/1900
One-inch
Popular Edition
map of
England and Wales
One-inch Fifth Edition map of England and Wales
small sheet series

One-inch Fifth Edition map of England and Wales
large sheet series

Isles of Scilly, two-inch
Special District (Relief) map

Small sheets not superseded
by the large sheet series

Transverse Mercator Projection
True origin: 49° N, 2° W
One-inch Popular Edition map of England and Wales
with War Office Cassini Grid, GSGS 3907
(including War Revision issues)

† Sheets not recorded in War Revision
‡ Sheets converted to Fifth Edition mapping prior to Second War Revision

Reissued on Fifth Edition sheet lines in 1940

44 Also published as War Revision sales copies without grid
145 Also published in outline with water in blue
118 Also published in outline with water in blue and woods in grey
Also known as the Sixth Edition, this was to be a map of Great Britain but only the sheets covering England and Wales were ever published. The layout of sheets 106, 160, 161, 185 and 189 differs slightly from that of the Seventh Series.
One-inch Seventh Series map of Great Britain

Transverse Mercator Projection
True origin: 49° N, 2° W

Based on OS data © Crown copyright NC/00/1340
In the discussions that preceded the preparation of my notes on the City of York map, David Archer told me that the mid-Victorian levelling undertaken in England had a bench mark station on the west tower of York Minster. After searching, I identified what seemed to be the likely location. A standard War Office arrow with its horizontal line were found chiselled in the stonework some four feet above the current pavement level. Additionally it had at its centre a bolt almost an inch in diameter with a horizontal slot across it, see the photograph. This was on the eastern face of the most southwestern buttress of the southwest tower; it is adjacent to the public highway of Minster Yard. However the bench mark was not marked on the 1920 Town Map, nor on the 1853 six-inch map, nor on either of the 1:2500 maps from which the 1893 and 1910 six-inch maps were compiled. The feature was therefore of too low a priority for inclusion in the text notes for the City of York map.

These discussions did not escape the attention of our vigilant editor and he asked if a photograph of this feature and a note for Sheetlines might be possible. I therefore sought out a copy of the 1861 levelling volume to assist in the preparation of this note. What I found was not altogether what I was expecting. The first levelling of Great Britain was carried out between 1841 and 1859. During the 1850s Alexander Clarke supervised much of the geodetic work of the Ordnance Survey. The substantial volume that reported the work of the principal triangulation came out under his authorship in 1858.\footnote{A R Clarke, \textit{Account of the... principal triangulation ...} London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1858.} Subsequently he supervised the calculations relating to the initial
Scale 1/1056 5-feet York. Surveyed in 1851 by Captain Tucker, R.E. Engraved in 1852, under the direction of Captain Yolland, R.E. at the ORDNANCE MAP OFFICE, SOUTHAMPTON, and Published by Lt. Colonel Hall, R.E. Superintendent September 30th 1852.
levelling and the preparation of the results for the press. However it was not under his name but under that of the Director ‘Colonel Sir Henry James, R.E., F.R.S., &c.’ that the resulting volume was published.\(^2\) A further substantial work: there were 600 pages relating to the abstracts of the levelling lines, twenty pages giving abstracts of tidal results, eight pages giving an index to the stations but a mere twelve\(^3\) preliminary pages giving an introduction to the levelling work. No methodology is given but the dates on which the survey lines were made is included.

The index map from this levelling volume for the northern part of England is reproduced and it can be seen that two levelling lines run through York. A montage reproduces the abstracts relating to the stations in the neighbourhood of York onto a single sheet. The line from Selby to Newcastle was surveyed between July 1842 and February 1845 and that from York to Bridlington was surveyed between September 1845 and March 1846.

In the abstract, the term used to describe the station on York Minster is curious. ‘Bolt in abutment of West tower, at North end of York Minster; 4.60 ft above surface.’ First, the Minster has two west towers. Secondly, the phrase ‘North end’ is not one that is in common usage. In isolation and applied precisely it would relate to the area close to the north wall of the north transept, and that is some considerable distance from the west towers. I have examined the outer face of the north wall of the northwest tower. This is entirely within the Minster Gardens, a private area whose gates are locked daily at dusk. I could trace no bench mark. The bench mark found is on the east face of the most southwestern buttress of the southwest tower and is in the public area of Minster Yard.

This mark has a horizontal bar 97 millimetres long and the bolt is 16 mm in diameter. The bolt seems brownish rather than greyish (with a trace of verdigris?) and, without being brutal, did not scratch easily. I am no specialist but it seemed to me to be more like bronze than lead.\(^4\)

I have also examined Bootham Bar, Foss Bridge and Walmgate Bar for marks or bolts, so far without success. Members who are in the area may wish to see if they can be more eagle-eyed than me.

The second levelling of Great Britain was started by Charles Close in 1912. Fundamental Bench Marks were designed and they were soundly established on rock. Buildings with a foundation on alluvial silt, however large the building, were no longer acceptable. (The soundness of this principal was demonstrated in York fifty years later. With the extraction of water from boreholes, the stability of the ground changed. The huge weight of the central tower of the Minster meant that it subsided relative to the rest of the building, though presumably the outer shell had also moved a small amount. Extensive underpinning of the central tower was necessary to prevent further differential movement and this work can still be seen in the undercroft of the Minster.) Whilst fundamental bench marks were established on the grit west of Wetherby and at Bulmer (NE of York) on the Jurassic limestone of the Howardian Hills, none were established between these points in the Vale of York.\(^5\) The second levelling did not use the Minster as a fundamental bench mark.


\(^3\) xii, including the title page, etc.

\(^4\) John Barton, ‘Bench marks’, *Sheetlines* 70, 60-61.

\(^5\) A J Wolff and H L P Jolly, *The second geodetic levelling of England and Wales 1912-21*, HMSO, 1922. The text of this report and a map of the levelling lines can be viewed at [http://www.deformedweb.co.uk/trigs/data/2GLMain.htm](http://www.deformedweb.co.uk/trigs/data/2GLMain.htm) (the link kindly provided by Nick Eden). Seymour, 205, 217-8.
### ABSTRACT OF LEVELLING FROM SELBY TO NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, THROUGH

#### SELBY TO YORK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Approximate Distances between consecutive Bench Marks in Links</th>
<th>Altitudes in feet above Mean Level of the Sea at Liverpool</th>
<th>County and Sheet of Ordnance Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mark on flag in front of door of Barby Toll-house; 0'04 ft. above surface of road</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30'272</td>
<td>Yorkshire 221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>on top of the 2d milestone from Selby; 2'59 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30'001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>on guidepost at junction of roads; 6'25 ft. above ground</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>on guidepost at junction of road to Skipwith; 4'08 ft. above ground</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>on West end of small bridge</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>44'293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>off wall 25 ft. above surface of road; 3'79 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,068</td>
<td>54'053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>on top of 5th milestone from York, on Northerly side of road; 1'89 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,165</td>
<td>51'234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>on stone cross, about 20 chains from York Cavalry Barracks</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>43'104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>on North pier and East face of York Barracks centre gate; 3'45 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>57'244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>on direction-post at junction of roads; 6'61 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,507</td>
<td>57'788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>on South face of East pier of Walmgate Bar, York; 3'59 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,848</td>
<td>43'535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>on North face and East end of Foss Bridge, Fossgate, York</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,994</td>
<td>30'003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>in abutment of West tower, at North end of York Minster; 4'60 ft. above surface</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,851</td>
<td>57'516</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### YORK TO EASINGWOLD.

| No. 33 | Bolt in South face of East Pier of Bootham Park, York; 4'83 ft. above pavement | -                                                             | 789             | 56'072 |
| No. 34 | Mark on North face and East Pier of gate, at entrance to Clifton College; 4'19 ft. above surface | -                                                             | 3,222           | 54'051 |
| No. 35 | on top of the 1st milestone from York; 2'07 ft. above surface                | -                                                             | 4,815           | 44'027 |

### ABSTRACT OF LEVELLING FROM YORK TO BRIDLINGTONE,

#### YORK TO SELDMERE.

| No. 1 | Bolt in abutment of West tower, at North end of York Minster; 4'60 ft. above surface | -                                                             | 57'546 |
| No. 2 | Mark on angle of house at junction of Collingate and Fossgate; 1'38 ft. above surface | -                                                             | 49'362 |
| No. 3 | on North end of East battlement of Foss Bridge; 5'08 ft. below top of battlement | -                                                             | 39'969 |
| No. 4 | on South-east end of Walmgate Bar Beacon; 3'55 ft. above centre of road | -                                                             | 43'347 |
| No. 5 | on base of palisading at entrance to St. Nicholas House, at junction of Bull-lane; 1'89 ft. above surface | -                                                             | 46'861 |
| No. 6 | on top of boundary stone, at junction of Green Piker lane; 3'46 ft. above surface | -                                                             | 21'704 |

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It was at this stage that I decided to revisit the maps first looked at when preparing text for the City of York and confirm, with specific relation to these bench marks, that my facts were correct. This was indeed the case. I did however find some other maps that added considerable information. First was the 1:1056, the five-foot, survey of 1851, which was engraved and published in 1852. Sheets 13, 12 and 9 have bench marks given on Walmgate Bar, Foss Bridge, the (southwest abutment of the) Minster and Bootham Bar with heights of 43.5, 40.1, 57.7 and 57.0 feet respectively. The bench marks on Walmgate Bar, Foss Bridge and Bootham Bar are indicated quite precisely but have still not been identified on those structures. The bench mark shown on the Minster is in exactly the location that I had found on the Minster Yard face of the southwest tower, and to the correct height. The second map was the 1:2500, the 25-inch, survey of 1937, which was published in 1941 but, significantly, had been relevelled in 1926-27. This local relevelling would therefore take into account the second national levelling mentioned above and the transfer of the datum from Liverpool to Newlyn. This map too had a bench mark on the southwest tower, in just the same place as the five-foot map above, with a height of 57.1 feet. All the maps that I had initially consulted excluded the Minster bench mark but ones immediately preceding and succeeding those told a different story!

Was then this bench mark, whose sunny photograph has been provided, that of 160 years ago which was ‘in abutment of West tower, at North end of York Minster’, and from the initial levelling of Great Britain? In my view its indication on the five-foot survey map of 1852 leaves little doubt in the matter.

Endnote

Only at a late stage did I discover the website www.bench-marks.org.uk. Life might have been easier if I had found it earlier and this tale would have been differently told. The website does confirm the conclusions reached above and the phrase ‘North end’ is distinctly misleading in the description of the station on York Minster. The website does not identify any stations on Bootham Bar, Foss Bridge or Walmgate Bar. The Wetherby to Bulmer line on the second Geodetic levelling does pass through York. There is a standard flush bracket, number 2423, on the east face of 1, Precentors Court, facing directly across to the west front of the Minster.

Puzzle Corner

The description of the Selby to York line, from station 30, Walmgate Bar, to station 32, York Minster, is similar to but not identical to the description of the York to Bridlington line from station 1, York Minster, to station 4, Walmgate Bar. How many differences can you identify? The author’s tally and comments will appear in the next issue of Sheetlines.

In Sheetlines 84, John Davies was seen standing on top of a trig point (and, this time, not falling off). The picture was taken against the ‘low afternoon light’ with the Wembley Arch in the background.

The expedition had followed the ‘Capital Ring’ walking route on a winter day and had reached the trig point at Barn Hill (TQ 193873), about 2 km north of the stadium.
An Ordnance Survey art society and its members

Richard T Porter

The Ordnance Survey Art Association was started by Henry George Thorn ‘in 1882, at the Ordnance Office, where there were some thorough artists and engravers, who had produced some marvellous works’. Thorn recorded:

It was in August 1882 that I proposed to Col: Cooke R.E. at the visit of the British Association to Southampton that the talent localized in the O.S.O. among its past & present members should be shewn to the members of the Br. Assn. who were considerably impressed with the good work Exhibited. – Col: A C Cooke himself caused an official circular to be sent to us wherein he was pleased to say “The Exhibition of works of Art executed by those employed on the Ordnance Survey was very successful and cannot fail to impress those who witnessed it with a sense of the Ability of the employes of the Department.”

The London Times of that date also spoke of “the great artistic merit” &c of the Exhibition – and we were encouraged to ask Col: Stotherd R.E. the successor as Director General of the O.S. to Col: Cooke to show what we were capable of doing under more favourable conditions – an excellent Exh was held and about 350 works were gathered together from those connected with the O.S.O.

The Times actually said: ‘Many of the members [of the BA] desire also to acknowledge the attention paid to them by Major-General Cooke and the staff at the Ordnance Survey Office, where everything was carefully explained and the fullest information afforded. The instruments and the processes are in themselves an interesting scientific exhibition. One large room was devoted to paintings, water-colours, and sketches produced by workers in the Survey Office in their leisure hours, and almost exclusively for the decoration of their own homes. There were among them pictures of great merit, and the collection testified to the artistic capacity of a considerable proportion of the working staff engaged in producing the survey maps.’

H G Thorn was a member also of the Southampton Amateur Art Society, which had emerged from ‘the fading Pen & Pencil Club in 1885’. This society ‘attracted the attention of professionals in the … Ordnance Survey Art Association who were much inclined to support local talents and mounted a huge exhibition (in 1886) of over 350 works.’ Later, (p [7]) in his memorandum, Thorn wrote: ‘The object & aim of the two societies were so identical that at a committee meeting of the “Ordnance S. Fine Art So...” it was proposed “That a Sub-Com:,

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1 The basic reference is *Southampton Art Society 1887-1899* (hereafter *SAS*), a bound volume of ms. notes, cuttings, exhibition catalogues and reports, held by the Special Collections Library in Southampton Central Library, class HSms. Later catalogues etc. are also held at this reference.

2 Maj.-Gen. W Lacy, in *Southampton Observer*, 14 October 1887, and reprinted in *Southampton Art Society, Report of annual exhibition 1887 ... in SAS*, which includes an original cutting. Lacy was not a Royal Engineer officer (pace Anne Anderson et al., *Southampton School and College of Art: a celebration ..., Southampton*, 2006, 21).

3 HGT [monogram on cover; i.e. Henry George Thorn], *Origin and aims of the South'ton Art Society*. In SAS. Ms., pp 3 bis [recte 4]-6, undated, but includes near end, p[15], a newspaper cutting of 19 October 1889. Quotations from HGT in the first edition (2000) of the *History* (see note 5) are attributed to Mrs Kears [i.e. Keary] but corrected in the second edition (2008) to Henry G Thorne [recte Thorn].


consisting of Messrs Baker, Palmer, and Masters should wait upon the Committee of the S. Fine Art Society, and ascertain their views in regard to a proposal for the amalgamation of the Two Societies’.

Thorn’s wording implies that the OS Art Association had changed its name, but there is no other trace of a similar change affecting the Southampton Amateur Art Society, so one assumes that, in the latter case at least, Thorn suffered a lapsus calami, since on the next page he recorded: ‘at the next meeting [i.e. after 25 February 1887] three of the Committee of the O.S.F.A.S. were added to the Committee of the S. Art Society: viz: Mr. R. McFadden, Mr. Henry Baker & Mr. W. D’Elboux.’

The Southampton Art Society thus formed from the merger of the OSAA and the SAAS was formally inaugurated by Maj.-Gen. W Lacy at an evening meeting at the opening of the 1887 Exhibition, on 11 October. The amalgamation ‘freed the O.S.O. artists from the constraints of the Director Generals Office and provided them with a shop window for their fine art work under the honourable name of the town of Southampton. Such a sudden and enormous increase in membership also secured the future of the Art Society as a permanent institution.’ In contrast to the 1882 practice of the OSAA, as reported in The Times, most of the pictures exhibited by the SAS in 1887 were ‘intended for sale’.

At the invitation of the chairman, Maj.-Gen. Lacy, Henry George Thorn had become Honorary Secretary of the SAAS, Lacy writing 13 February 1887 ‘from all I know of you I believe you to be fully capable of undertaking it’.7 Thorn then continued as Secretary of the SAS until 1890 (latterly sharing the duties with Miss Kate Leslie).

Thorn was born 1850 in Southampton8 and the Directories have him living at Dover Street in 1878-80 (his name followed by ‘O.S.O.’), later at Cranbury Avenue, and from 1886 at Lodge Road (30, later renumbered 36) – all less than 1km from the London Road offices of OS. An ‘ambitious and important’ oil, ‘Portrait of Mr. Henry G. Thorn’ by Frank McFadden (one of the sons of an OS printer), priced at £30, was exhibited by SAS in 1888; it is not in the Southampton Art Gallery.

Despite his leading administrative roles in the Association and subsequently in the combined Society – after his secretaryship he served on the Committee (dignified as ‘Council’ from 1891) of the SAS – Thorn does not seem to have contributed to the Society’s annual exhibitions, except by devising in 1887 an ingenious ‘Ready Picture Hanger’. Thorn’s strengths seem to have lain rather in the musical sphere: he played violoncello in trios from Boieldieu and Rossini, and performed songs and duets, as part of the musical entertainments that followed the addresses on the occasion of the annual exhibitions in 1887 and 1888. About this time, too, he was researching the lives of Charles Dibdin,9 the ‘great English song

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6 Engraver and artist, age 35 in 1881, eldest brother of Frank (see below) and by 1901 a Superintendent at OS.
7 Original letter in SAS.
8 Index to Births Oct-Nov-Dec 1850. Age 30, unmarried, 8 Upper Dover Street (Census enumeration 4 April 1881). Married with two daughters by 1891 Census, when he was described as a Draughtsman at OS.
writer’, and of John O’Keeffe,\textsuperscript{10} the Irish writer of farces and comic operas who ‘added some of our finest English songs to the literature’, praised Dibdin’s stage performances (DNB), and died in Southampton.

Thorn ceased to be listed as a subscriber to SAS by 1894, though surviving, with his wife, in the Southampton Directories until 1905.

The artistic talent in the Ordnance Survey, eulogised by Thorn in 1882,\textsuperscript{11} was reiterated by the SAS president, Sir William Aitken F.R.S. The OS, he said, “may be regarded as a corps of artists. … Many members of this Survey Corps, we know, are already distinguished as successful artists, and whose works have often adorned the walls of this gallery”.\textsuperscript{12} To exemplify this talent from an OS employee more artistically active than Thorn, I have chosen Henry Masters, who is of interest also as one of the few who had their names in the footnotes of an OS map.

Henry Masters was born at Sketty (Swansea) in 1835.\textsuperscript{13} He did not appear in the Southampton Directories until 1865, but he was in the 1861 Census, as unmarried and living with his older sister, at Alliance Place, Bevois Valley; his mother was the widow of a retired Commander R.N. Here, his occupation was given as a Draftsman, Ordnance Survey. In March 1863 he was one of eleven Hill Draftsmen, with 10 years 7 months service.\textsuperscript{14} He must have been well thought of, as, of the five draftsmen who had received an increase of salary within the last ten years, he was top of the figures at 4s. 6d. per day, though this will also reflect the low salary he would have had after only 7 months service – 2s. 6d. per day. He was still a Hill Draftsman, Ordnance Survey, in the 1871 and 1881 Censuses, but an engraver, O.S.O., in Cox’s 1871 Directory: the skills could, no doubt, have much in common. He rose to Superintendent in the OS.\textsuperscript{15} His wife, whom he married in the early-mid 1860s, came from Sedbergh in the West Riding, a place we shall meet again, while his younger son, Sedgwick, had the name of a village only 15km away.

Masters’s paintings were almost all water colours, and his subjects topographical; they ranged widely from Southampton and the New Forest, SE England generally, Derbyshire, North Wales, the West Riding, and the Lake District, to, after his retirement, Ireland. The 1978 Exhibition (see below) included a Southampton water colour of 1866, his earliest painting so far noted. In 1876-79 he exhibited five water colours at the Royal Society of British Artists in London;\textsuperscript{16} three others (only one is dated – 1879) were bought by the Southampton collector Robert Chipperfield and included in the 1911 Chipperfield Bequest

\textsuperscript{10} Henry G Thorn, \textit{John O’Keeffe: a few particulars relating to one of the illustrious dead, in Southampton.} Reprinted (with additions) from the \textit{Hampshire Independent} of January 26, 1889, Southampton: ‘Hampshire Independent’ Office. 11pp. Dated at end from 30, Lodge Road, 4 February, 1889. \textit{Dibdin} and \textit{O’Keeffe} are the only works by Thorn listed in the BM \textit{General catalogue of printed books}.

\textsuperscript{11} And a former Deputy Director in the OS commented to me a hundred years later: “There’s a lot of hidden talent in the Ordnance Survey”.

\textsuperscript{12} Southampton Art Society, \textit{Report of annual exhibition, 1890, and address by G. D. Leslie, Esq., R.A.}, reprinted from the ‘Southampton Observer’ of Saturday, 18 October 1890. In \textit{SAS}: the passage quoted is on page 5.

\textsuperscript{13} As with most unreferenced genealogical information, this is derived from the Census Returns, on microfilm or microfiche, in Southampton Special Collections Library.

\textsuperscript{14} The full OS staff list in Parliamentary Papers, House of Commons 1863 (180) vol. XXXIII, 305ff, in Chadwyck-Healey microfiche 69.272. The return was signed by Henry James, 28 March 1863. There were nine civil and two R.E. Hill Draftsmen.

\textsuperscript{15} His dates, Superintendency at OS, and the 1978 Worthing exhibition (infra) are from ‘Henry carefully labelled all his work’, \textit{Southampton Evening Echo}, 18 May 1978, 4.

SKETCH OF GROUND From the FIELD SKETCHES of the ORDNANCE SURVEY OF YORKSHIRE & WESTMORLAND
Drawn by Henry Masters at the ORDNANCE SURVEY OFFICE, SOUTHAMPTON; ... June 1864.
that founded the Southampton Art Gallery: they are not on display.\textsuperscript{17} Masters was, as we have seen, a member of the OS Art Association, and thereafter a regular contributor – usually four paintings – to the SAS annual autumn exhibitions from at least the second in 1887 to 1911,\textsuperscript{18} his last exhibit, ‘Yorkshire Hills’, being shown posthumously in 1919. The prices of his paintings ranged from 2 guineas to £31 10s, with a median of £7 and only nine (out of 87) at 14 guineas or more.

These paintings earned fairly conventional comments such as ‘clean and effective’ (1887); ‘carefully painted’ (1888); ‘painstaking work, light and shade being one of the chief characteristics’ (1889); ‘accustomed careful treatment’ (1890); ‘execution is rather mechanical and they lack mystery’ (1892); ‘a trifle monotonous as to colour’ (1894). His skill at depicting water was praised several times. His one known oil painting, ‘On the Rawthey, Yorks.’ drew the judgment that his ‘oil paintings will, no doubt, with practice, equal his water colours’ (1891).\textsuperscript{19} An earlier water colour of the same title as this last was in the Chipperfield Collection,\textsuperscript{20} but not in the Bequest.

Some of these remarks (the ‘light and shade’ has immediate resonances for the student of hachuring) are apposite too for the meticulous draftsman in 1864 of a model example of hill shading, entitled

\textbf{SKETCH OF GROUND}

\textit{From the FIELD SKETCHES of the ORDNANCE SURVEY OF YORKSHIRE & WESTMORLAND}

\textit{Drawn by Henry Masters at the ORDNANCE SURVEY OFFICE, SOUTHAMPTON, … June 1864.}

\textit{Scale – Six Inches to One Statute Mile – $\frac{1}{10560}$}

This employs horizontal hachures, through which the pecked 500ft contours thread their way, doubtless providing control for the alignment of the hachures. The overall effect is very close to that on the vertically-hachured Old Series sheet 98NE published the following October. The countryside is by no means as bleak as might be inferred from the sketch: field boundaries, and many roads and buildings, are omitted.

There is also a $\times\frac{1}{2}$ photographic reduction (which has been used for the accompanying extract) on which the scale statement reads

\textit{Scale – 3 Inches to One Statute Mile – $\frac{1}{10560}$}

perhaps in the hope that the RF, only 2mm long, would be illegible. The \textit{Sketch} covers an area about $4 \times 5$ miles – 23.8 $\times$ 30.8 inches on the full-scale version. A similar \textit{Sketch of ground (Part of Barden Fell)} \textit{W. Riding, Yorkshire}, Scale 6 Inches to a Mile, has no date or reference to OS or to the draftsman, and covers 2.4 sq. miles (8.15 $\times$ 10.62 inches).\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{17} Southampton Art Gallery, \textit{Southampton Art Gallery Collection: illustrated inventory of paintings, drawings and sculpture}, 1980. Accession nos. 390-392. They were not included in the Chipperfield Catalogue of c. 1885 (see n. 20).

\textsuperscript{18} Catalogues for 1886, 1910, 1912-18 not seen and, from the numeration, one of the war-time ones was not produced.

\textsuperscript{19} These comments are from Southampton Art Society, \textit{Reports} of the annual exhibitions, reprinted from \textit{Southampton Observer}, 14 October 1887, 2 November 1888, 19 & 26 October 1889, 18 October 1890; \textit{Hampshire Advertiser}, 3 October 1891; and (not stated as reprinted) by Prof. J E Hodgson (1892), G D Leslie (1894). All at HSm, as note 1.

\textsuperscript{20} RC [monogram at head of p.1; i.e. Robert Chipperfield], \textit{Catalogue of original oil paintings & water colour drawings, at Redcliffe House, Southampton}, n.d. but pencil ‘Jan. 1885’ on first page, 3pp., University of Southampton Library, Cope Collection.

\textsuperscript{21} Lithographed copies of all three items are in the map library of the University of Southampton Geography Department. I am most grateful to the Curator, Mr John D Hurst, for access to these.
as these sketches were reproduced as guidelines for instructional purposes, as suggested by Richard Oliver, they do not apparently resemble the ‘Model of Hills’ of 1830, which seems to have been simply a scale of shading.\textsuperscript{22}

The 1864 extract does not portray the most accidented relief of the originals, as it has been selected to include the credit to H Masters, the town of Sedbergh, and the River Rawthey. The name ‘Sedbergh’ appears to be misaligned, but it is the neat line which is not parallel to the original county six-inch sheet lines.

The relationship between this Sketch and Masters’s private and artistic life provides scope for some speculations and possible future research. For example, was Masters strictly limited to office work, using original field sketches, or was the Sketch of such significance that it was felt he should gain personal knowledge of the area? If so, was it on such a field visit that he met his future wife, a native of Sedbergh? Or had he already visited the area and met his wife before 1864, and allowed this prior knowledge of the terrain to influence the selection of the area for his Sketch of Ground? Or was it after 1864 that he decided out of personal interest to visit the scene of his recent Sketch, and thus met his wife? We can be fairly sure, as hinted by the 1978 Echo article, that visits to his wife’s relatives were the occasion for paintings such as his early 1880s ‘On the Rawthey, Yorkshire’ and the similarly titled oil exhibited in 1891. (The rules of the SAS contained no requirement that works had to have been painted in the past year.)

His 1894 ‘The Rawthey at Marthwaite’ raises another point: Marthwaite is a vague area extending westwards from Sedbergh to the railway, and not named on the Old Series one-inch. However, Sheet 98 SE has a road bridge over the Rawthey, ‘Markthwaite [sic] New Br.’, a couple of miles downstream. This, although etymologically incorrect, sounds a more likely locale. (The bridge has changed its name twice – Rawthey Br on the One-inch Popular Edition, 1920, and Middleton Br on the Seventh Series at SD 630898.)

Masters’s last known painting of the area was ‘Salmon leap, Sedbergh’ 1905: there were four weirs near Sedbergh, but the most likely site is Lords’ Dub Loups,\textsuperscript{23} where rocks outcrop in the river on the 275ft contour, 485m below the railway bridge, off the south edge of the Sketch. No paintings positively identifiable to the fells north of Sedbergh have been noted, but his titles are not always specific, and the record seen is incomplete.

An exhibition of 61 of Masters’s water colours was held in May 1978 by Martin Scadgell at his Crescent Galleries, Worthing. Many of these were presumably first exhibited by the SAS, but details are not known.

Masters moved house several times from the early 1860s, gradually upgrading from Bevois Town to (in 1890) a substantial house in Archers Road. Here, from about the time of his retirement from OS, he was listed in the Directories as ‘artist’ (1898). His sons were articled to a civil engineer and to a solicitor; the 1978 Echo report refers to a grandson, Stuart, of Burgess Road. Masters served the SAS on its Committee/Council from 1887, and as its chairman 1903-19, but he was also honorary secretary of Southampton Art Club, soon renamed Southampton Sketch Club, which continued until the Great War.\textsuperscript{24} He died in 1919 at the age of 84, and is buried in Southampton.


\textsuperscript{23} Six-inch Yorkshire, LXIII NE, 1910; SD 639911 on 1:25,000 OL19. Dub = a deep dark pool in river [immediately below the rocks]; loup is from Old Norse hlaup, ‘leap’.

\textsuperscript{24} \textit{Kelly’s Directories}, 1908-09 et seq.
Book review


The maps described in this book cover all or parts of the catchment areas of the Rivers Witham and Steeping, a triangular area of roughly 70 square kilometres, more or less bounded by the A1121 on the south, the A52 on the east, and the A155 to the north, with the towns of Boston, Sleaford and Wainfleet at the apices. The volume is arranged in three parts: introduction, cartobibliography (the major part of the text), and the reproductions of 57 of the 204 maps which are described. The reproductions are in full colour and the quality is superb: every wrinkle and small tear in the original is visible, and the original text is legible. The Lincoln Record Society is to be congratulated on having performed a most valuable service to scholars in providing such good images that it should rarely be necessary for the originals to be consulted, thus saving further wear and tear.

This book is both edited and authored by Rob Wheeler. His informative and interesting introduction tells the story of land ownership and the schemes for the drainage of this part of Lincolnshire over a period of six and a half centuries, thus giving the background to the maps which appear in the cartobibliography. The subjects covered include the improvements to the River Witham, the East, West and Wildmore Fens, the Steeping River, the Witham Outfall, and the lands adjoining the Witham and its tributaries. In all of this the reader is given a sense of the lives and livelihoods of past populations struggling to remake the landscape into a more productive environment. Perhaps the high point is the editor’s narrowing down of the date of the Kirkstead Psalter map to the eight years from 1232 to 1239, a satisfying piece of scholarship.

The cartobibliographical descriptions are self avowedly basic in scope, but they include some useful notes. It is evident that the author has managed to uncover a number of manuscript maps from which some of the printed maps were derived. Producing such a cartobibliography is, on any view, a daunting task. In this case, the descriptions of the maps would have been much easier to assimilate if there had been a higher degree of consistency in the entries, and, especially, if the varied conventions used had been explained. Notwithstanding these points, this publication is a tour de force in map reproduction publishing.

Yolande Hodson

Kerry musings

David Archer

I would not go as far as to say that they were life changing, but they certainly made life far more interesting, exciting even. The most wonderful thing since the sixties. The first from each source was always the most thrilling, because the source was previously unknown, and they arrived totally unexpectedly. Every one was guaranteed to have new information, another piece to help complete the jigsaw, nay, to help put the edges on the jigsaw. All would
be read and re-read, studied and studied again, days, weeks, months later. Endlessly. Over and over, in the absence of substantial help from other sources. The joy of having received one was immediately followed by the sorrow that the arrival date of the next was unknown. Ah, happy days.

The first to arrive really was momentous. This was handwritten and contained a list of about fifteen or twenty Ordnance Survey maps that Campbell Kennedy had for sale. I think that Campbell used to advertise in the Cyclists Touring Club magazine wanting to buy Ordnance Survey maps, and I must have written asking if he had any for sale, hence the list. It was just so exciting to have made contact with another person, the first person, who also had an interest in OS maps. And he had duplicates. The prices seemed reasonable, but even with a simple list there were things that a near novice just did not understand, and Campbell was more than patient when replying to my questions.

Within two weeks an unsolicited Alan Godfrey catalogue arrived. I never discovered how Alan got my address, but am pretty certain that it must have been passed on by someone who advertised in Exchange and Mart wanting geological maps. And of course I wrote seeking contact with another map minded person, but had no reply. Until the arrival of Alan Godfrey Catalogue 54, April 1981, Ordnance Survey maps: 1900-1920. Eight pages full of maps, and more importantly, information and ‘pointers’ for those who had yet to really study and pull the information from the maps they held. Thus, he offered Half-inch maps, both Layered and Hill-shaded (aha, two styles); or Small Sheet Series (All hill-shaded) and Large Sheet Series (Hill-shaded) (aha again, two sizes, but did both sizes come in both styles?) One-inch maps, Second Series, revised: Coloured edition (no idea what these are); Third Edition (Large Sheet Series) (yes, I think I know what these are); District Maps (nice to have the term confirmed); Ireland (I am positive that I had never seen any Irish Ordnance Survey maps at this stage).

Catalogues appeared monthly, with the May catalogue devoted to the Seventh Series, whilst June had a fantastic picture of the Old Sarum cover on the front. Just so exciting. I knew in my bones that this sort of stuff must exist, but to have it confirmed was wonderful. In my copy of this catalogue there is still a leaflet announcing the formation of the Charles Close Society. A society for OS maps. What more could one ask for? Surely 1981 must be remembered as the greatest year since 1967, and neither have been bettered for sheer joy and excitement. Discuss.

And so it continued, relentlessly, month after month, six-inch, twenty five-inch, ten-mile, geological, all things that were new to me. New terms were introduced: electrotypew, zincograph, hachuring, War Revision, manoeuvre maps, District Maps (outline edition). But the best bits were the occasional paragraphs of information … the first coloured series, issued a decade later … Especially attractive are the earliest of these sheets, issued up to about 1902 … the revision dates are often totally misleading … this rare and beautiful map. I just absorbed it all, and still wanted more. Catalogue 60, Autumn 1981, announced that ‘Due to the very disappointing response, there will be no more Open Days.’ I was doubly heartbroken as I had not known about them, and even had I known, would not have been able to afford to go to Gateshead anyway. A missed chance to actually meet a map person.

The year progressed, more catalogues from Alan Godfrey and the prospect of a society, hopefully with information to divulge. I would study the latest offering, then re-read the few

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1 I had been buying the Exchange and Mart since primary school days, when we used to study it endlessly for sources of terrapins, newts and such things. A wonderful publication.
earlier issues and try to make sense of what was in them, so as to make sense of my own small accumulation.

Why do I keep saying that I wanted information? Because there was virtually none available, well, easily found. The two main or only sources were Brian Harley’s *The historian’s guide to Ordnance Survey maps*, 1964 and his *Ordinance Survey maps: a descriptive manual*, 1975. The first was essentially a brief guide, aimed at historians, not collectors. Very much a quick romp through what was available, it left more questions than it provided answers, (and it called the Popular Edition the ‘Fourth Edition’, which everyone else followed for years). The historical detail in the *Descriptive manual* was provided in order to support the descriptions of current OS mapping. Forget all that you know about OS maps, get these two books out and try to make sense of your collection. Neither will tell you anything about the different covers, nor give more than brief facts concerning the basic series. The *Guide* has six lines on the half-inch, and three on the Fifth Edition, with no mention of the Fifth Relief. But it was far better than nothing for someone who lived in isolation from other OS map collectors. Catalogues certainly had infinitely more to offer.

In October 1981, the first issue of *Sheetlines* appeared, a sweet little eight-side newsletter which contained a bombshell for me. On Saturday the 12th of December there would be a *meeting* in Upper Norwood, virtually just around the corner. Walkable. The snag was that it was over six weeks away. Needless to say I went, and I met most of the prime suspects in the society’s early history. It was a wonderful bright day, snow everywhere. Bill Batchelor has never been the same since.

A list of members and addresses appeared in the second issue of *Sheetlines* in December, and in January 1982 a catalogue arrived from Mike Ivory, with one from Richard Dean popping through the letterbox soon after. Things were decidedly on the up. Lots of information from the new catalogues and an avalanche from the early issues of *Sheetlines*, together with meetings and people to contact from the membership list. Even our move to Mid Wales in April 1982 did not really dent things.

It was not until March 1983 that John Coombes issued his Catalogue 84, *Ordinance Survey Maps, 1805-1974*. Exceedingly organised, with headings for all map series, large and small scales, sheet sizes, print codes, publication and survey dates. But the size, 94 pages and 3675 items, was enormous. I think that his codes for map formats (flc) are still used by one railway ephemera auction house.

During 1983, so soon after being founded, the society reached what Rostow called, when referring to developing economies, the point of take-off into sustained growth. Everything was in place, the momentum was such that the society should survive and grow. And it did. December 1983 saw issue 8 of *Sheetlines* with Richard Oliver in full flow, John Paddy Browne had written on map covers, we knew how to find our way around the New Series and Richard Dean had submitted his wonderful Fifth Edition index as early as issue 4. Everything since has been just so tame.

Thus it was, that by the end of 1983, the great era of mapsellers’ catalogues as the major source of information on Ordnance Survey maps had ended. After that, *Sheetlines* and other society publications took over. We will never see their like again, certainly not for the

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2 No new-fangled and much despised 1:50,000 maps for John? Well, there were four.
3 Two truly memorable catalogues did appear later. In the Autumn of 1985, Richard Dean’s Catalogue 16 had more tourist and district maps than any previous list, but we had to wait until April 1988 for the finest catalogue of OS maps ever produced. A J Coombes Catalogue 98 *Ordinance Survey Maps 1809-1979* had over 201 pages, ending with item
excitement and information gained. John Coombes, Richard Dean, Alan Godfrey and Mike Ivory all attended the founding meeting, and helped weld the society in the early years, introducing people to membership and providing information via catalogues, greatly supplementing the meagre details available elsewhere. And they did give a lot of information, if you looked for it. Map series and sheet numbers that did not appear in catalogues told almost as much as those that did appear. Catalogues confirmed a lot of what we assumed to be the case, and they certainly gave me the confidence to be able to speak about OS maps in conversation with others. Catalogues told us what maps we had, what they were called. They helped one get a feel for what came up, and provided excitement at seeing the unusual, if only listed. More importantly, they encouraged us to go out and search for more maps, hopefully finding the very rare items that we knew must exist.

The Society’s archive has a set of all known catalogues, with an additional set of Alan Godfrey catalogues in the National Library of Scotland. Alas, I have none of the handwritten lists from Campbell Kennedy, and I hope that he has none of my letters with their endless questions.

Charles Close Society Archives: Mapseller catalogues

The Charles Close Society Archives, in Cambridge University Library, hold catalogues of Ordnance Survey maps from various mapsellers in boxes 392, 393 and 394, with complete runs being held for all.

Alan Godfrey issued 72 catalogues of second-hand Ordnance Survey maps. The first sixteen were lettered A to P, and continued as numbers 17 to 72. In addition, there were occasional extra catalogues, either unnumbered or with an ‘A’ suffix. We believe that all of these are held and are listed below. If anyone has others, Anne Taylor would be pleased to know of them. A duplicate set is in the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland.

c. 22a.
d. 24a.
f. Mini-list 27A.
h. “Godfrey’s railway maps” October 1979, Alan Godfrey, Shrewsbury.
i. Autumn sale October 1979.
j. Supplement to catalogue 41.
k. Supplementary list to catalogue 44.
l. Stock list of small-scale maps September 1980.

Anne Taylor, Head of Map Department, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB 9DR. Tel: 01223-333041, fax: 01223-333160, email: aemt2@cam.ac.uk http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/

9721. All scales, and books. I remember that it arrived just before an AGM, and someone asked the person sitting beside me whether he had seen a copy. His reply was to the effect that he had spent two days going through it, but would easily need another two to finish.
Letters

Women reading maps

Further to *Sheetlines* items on this theme, the cover of the Pelican paperback *British Society 1914-45* featuring a painting of a trio of sturdy girl hikers reading a map. I have discussed it with David Archer, who had never heard of it, which leads me to think that others may find it of interest.

It is a reproduction of a picture by James Tucker entitled ‘Hiking’ in the Laing Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne. Tucker was Head of Painting at Gloucester in the 1950s and was a specialist in realistic, dramatic and humorous scenes, of which ‘Hiking’ is a good example. I saw the original at the Laing many years ago and unless my memory serves me wrong, the map the girls are consulting is a very accurately rendered *Cotswolds* half-inch sheet of the period. They are shown above the village of Avening, not far from Stroud. At the time I saw the picture I was putting out modest catalogues of maps and thought of using it as a cover, but there were too many complications and I gave up the idea.

*Michael Ivory*

Unfolding the Aldershot Command

Whilst looking through my late father-in-law’s property there were a few maps, nothing special, the usual thirty-year-old one-inch, but with an exception: a map entitled *Map of the Aldershot Command*. It may be commonplace but not something I have seen. It is double sided and mounted on linen in 24 sections, six east-west and four north-south. One side includes the usual margins and the other runs to the edges east and west. It is a one-inch
Popular Edition and has ‘Printed at the Ordnance Survey Office Southampton 1920’ with the retailer’s label below, ‘Sifton Praed and Co, Ltd 67 St James’s Street SW’.

On the bottom left we have the print run information: ‘W.O. 8·23 Reprint 2000/24. 5000/24. 5000/24 5000/25. 1500/25.’ In pen on the top left is the original owner(?), ‘12 Platoon. No 3 Company, Coldstream Guards, Date Issued 1st June 1926’. The individual squares have been numbered in red ink.

The divisions of the map are the interesting part to me. If you consider a complete map (from Reading in the North West to Petworth in the South East) to be labelled as shown on the right, then the sections are pasted on the two sides as indicated on the left.

On initial inspection, the front appears to be two separate maps! Section 1 from the reverse, for example, (including Bramley and Bramley Green) can be folded onto the ‘front’ to abut its section G (including Stratfield Mortimer). Thus the whole area of both sides can be accessed without unfolding the whole. Ingenious!

Nigel Brown

According to Roger Hellyer’s cartobibliography,2 the military version of this sheet was reprinted at least seventeen times before being replaced by a Fifth Edition version. This particular printing, ... 1500/25, does not appear in Roger’s list and I, too, have never come across the sheet mounted as described. – CJH

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1 In pencil on the reverse is ‘Mjr Campbell’, who was not my father-in-law, so maybe maps from 1926 were still being reused for WWII training.

Having just attended the 2009 AGM at Ludlow, I would like to thank Mr Leary for his attention to the smooth running of the AGM. The venue in the Old School Hall was interesting; the room was historically impressive, but the acoustics were poor, especially at the back and vision towards the front was limited on the left hand side because of a strange Perspex structure which certainly did not fit into the overall ambience of the location. If it is planned to hold meetings there in the future, could a rudimentary sound system be installed?

The AGM passed without incident until the comment from Dr Board, said almost as an afterthought and barely audible, that the Society’s Archive had been handed over to the responsibility of Cambridge University Library. After a lack of any response from the floor, David Archer made the telling point that the Society has three assets, the members, the research and publications, and the Archive. To hand over control of the Archive without discussion or even telling the members, does raise a few questions. Why was the matter discussed in Committee and then not have the subject put on the agenda for the AGM before the final decision was taken? Why the unseemly haste? As the Archive is already housed in the Library, the haste in which the decision was made, does require an explanation. There may well be very good reasons why the Archive should be handed over to the Library, but to complete the handover without any formal agreement being put down on paper (re: answer at 2009 AGM), does seem a little odd.

In the 2008-9 Almanack (p26-27), it states that, ‘There are further deposits in the names of individuals, including ex-employees of the Survey’ and further on, it states, ‘... though it is hoped that the current owners of rare or even unique printings of maps will view the archive as a safe and permanent place of deposit’. Will they, if the CCS does not have overall control of its archive? I would be grateful if the CCS Committee would inform the members about the current status of, and future plans for the Society’s Archive.

At the AGM, when the election of Officers was discussed, the existing Committee was proposed and seconded for re-election. No names were mentioned, which is unusual. Whilst this agenda item was being discussed, someone lamented the fact that no new names were being put forward for election. Perhaps one reason for that could be because of the ‘secrecy’ surrounding the activities (and decisions) of the Committee. Sheetlines is the official newsletter of the Society (as could be included the Almanack) and I searched in vain in issues 1-14 and the last few printed, for any mention of the Committee’s activities. How does the Committee hope to attract new members (apart from personal invitation) if they provide no publicity? I am aware that in section 5 of our Constitution, overall management is vested in the Committee, but in today’s climate, more ‘transparency’ would be welcomed, as well as involving the members more.

I hope that this letter might provoke further discussion, as well as obtaining some answers.

Peter Addiscott

Two very active new members have joined the Society’s committee in the last year or so. We only meet twice a year and rather than printing the minutes verbatim in Sheetlines (and having to excise commercially confidential matters), as editor I pick out the items of general interest and ensure that these are reported. At the last meeting, in February, discussion took place, amongst other matters, on the annual accounts (which appear in the Almanack), the programme of forthcoming visits, the new website and the York map reprint (for all of which see Sheetlines 84, 1-3). In retrospect, I should also have included something on the Archives and for this see page 9 of this issue. – CJH
An Ordnance Survey staff association

Roly Hann’s ‘Dealer’s Diary’ mentions the Ordnance Survey Technical Officers Association, later known as the Association of Government Geographers and Allied Technicians. I am not clear as to whether the change of title indicated a broadening of the membership beyond the OS. It appears, however, from Seymour that this was one of two trade unions that represented the OS technical staff (in this case the lower grades), and that in 1950 the Association was absorbed into the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (which already represented the supervisors).

Roly Hann purchased in Farnham several late 1940s copies of the Association’s journal, On the Map. The OS library does not hold any copies of this. Curiously enough, a similarly titled journal served a similar purpose elsewhere: On the M.A.P., the newsletter of the Civil Service Clerical Association, Ministry of Aircraft Production, London branch, from 1941 onwards.

Richard T Porter

Internet access and e-mail

At the AGM in May, a speaker made a very important point, that not all members have Internet access, and therefore any communication from the Society should not be by this means exclusively.

I think that I would agree with this, but only for the next twenty-five years or so. Almost every public library has a bank of computers with free Internet access, where anyone can visit websites for information, collect e-mails and generally pursue hobbies and interests by tapping into the web. Most authorities run free courses on how to use these computers, search the web and collect e-mails, with staff on hand to help if need be.

I know several people who go to the library once a week, to check their e-mail and to look at a few websites that are of interest. It only takes a few minutes to undertake a basic search.

I live without a television quite easily, but would urge everyone to be able to use the Internet, if they wish to or need to.

If there were to be a space on the next membership renewal form for an e-mail address, it would give an indication of how many members were willing to be contacted in this way.

Rev. E P Rowley

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1 Sheetlines 71 (December 2004), 19.
3 British union catalogue of periodicals, 1957.
Some of our older members may remember, I think it was a radio programme, which featured an item called ‘Spot this week’s deliberate mistake’. This back cover of Landranger 29, edition ‘A’, 1987 may be the OS version.

Alan K Mais
New maps

Jon Risby

This list covers small scale maps published between 8 March and 7 July 2009. They are listed by series, and in sheet number order. The columns are as follows: Sheet No. / Title / Edition / Copyright date / Full revision date / Latest revision date / Date of publication. There is also a list of those maps due for publication by OS (by series and in order of their proposed publication).

After the list of OS maps is a résumé of maps published by Alan Godfrey between March and July 2009.

OSGB

Revision notes are referenced in column five or six as follows:

1 ‘Reprinted with minor change’
2 ‘Revised for selected change’
3 ‘Revised with selected change’
4 ‘Revised for significant change’
5 ‘Revised with significant change’
6 ‘Major roads revised’

Where details are shown in italics I have not been able to confirm the details by seeing the map itself, and therefore information is based on Ordnance Survey’s list of new publications (and reference to my own collection). I hope that I shall be able to confirm information in the next edition of Sheetlines. As you will notice there are a lot of italics and question marks this time, for which my apologies! Back to normal next time.

Landranger – new editions

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sheet No.</th>
<th>Title / Area</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Copyright date</th>
<th>Full revision date</th>
<th>Latest revision date</th>
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<td>Shetland – South Mainland</td>
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### Explorer and Explorer Active – new editions

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All Explorer maps are also available in the Explorer Active format – edition details are the same as the relevant Explorer sheet.

### Travel Maps, Tour Series – new editions

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### Travel Maps, Road

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Irish maps

Discoverer maps

5  Ballycastle  E  09/03/09
15  Belfast  E  09/03/09

Irish street maps

Kilkenny  Third edition  30/03/09
Cork  Fourth edition  30/03/09
Galway  Fourth edition  30/03/09

Other Irish maps

Dublin City Centre Tourist Map  11/05/09
The Mournes, including Slieve Croob  2009  13/04/09
Dublin City Centre Tourist Map  11/05/09

Forthcoming OSGB maps

The following maps have been announced for publication.

Landranger – new editions

95  Isle of Man  D  14/09/09
87  Hexham & Haltwhistle  D1  14/09/09
30  Fraserburgh, Peterhead & Ellon  B2  28/09/09
139  Birmingham & Wolverhampton, inc. The Black Country  C5  12/10/09
140  Leicester, Coventry & Rugby  C3  12/10/09
150  Worcester, The Malverns, Evesham & Tewkesbury  D1  19/10/09
151  Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick & Banbury  C3  19/10/09
152  Northampton, Milton Keynes, Buckingham & Daventry  D3  16/11/09
153  Bedford, Huntingdon, St Neots & Biggleswade  C4  16/11/09
154  Cambridge, Newmarket & Saffron Walden  D2  16/11/09
173  Swindon, Devizes, Marlborough & Trowbridge  D2  16/11/09
133  North East Norfolk, Cromer & Wroxham  D2  14/12/09
134  Norwich & The Broads, Great Yarmouth  D2  14/12/09
181  Minehead & Brendon Hills, Dulverton Tiverton  D1  14/12/09
191  Okehampton & North Dartmoor, Crediton & Bovey Tracey  D1  14/12/09
114  Anglesey  (+A)  B5  11/01/10
115  Snowdon, Caernarfon  (+A)  C3  11/01/10
123  Lleyn Peninsula  B3  11/01/10
124  Porthmadog & Dolgellau  (+A)  B3  11/01/10
(+A)  These maps will also be published in Landranger Active format.

Explorer and Explorer Active – new editions

131  Romsey, Andover & Test Valley, Stockbridge & Ludgershall  B2  13/07/09
152  Newport & Pontypool  A2  24/08/09
189  Hereford & Ross-on-Wye  A2  24/08/09
OL14  Wye Valley & Forest of Dean  A2  24/08/09
OL35  North Pembrokeshire  A2  21/09/09
OL36  South Pembrokeshire  A2  21/09/09
OL24  The Peak District – White Peak area  A3  05/10/09
269  Chesterfield & Alfreton, Sutton in Ashfield & Bolsover  A2  05/10/09
Travel Maps, Tour Series – new editions

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**Alan Godfrey Maps**

Details of Alan Godfrey’s reprints of old OS maps are available from Alan Godfrey Maps, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, DH8 7PW, tel. 01207 583388, fax 01207 583399, or from their website at [http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/](http://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk/). Maps may be ordered directly from the website.

The columns are as follows: County / Sheet number / Title / Date of map / Month of issue.

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Tyneside  25  Newburn & Addison (New edition)*  1895  06/09
Yorkshire  202.10  Calverley  1915  05/09
Yorkshire  217.01  Bradford (Thornbury & Bradford Moor)  1906  04/09
Yorkshire  231.05  Halifax (North)  1930  03/09

* Formerly Durham sheet 2.09

England and Wales one-inch
The italicised place name in brackets after the title is covered on a large-scale map on the reverse.

15/21  Tynemouth, Sunderland & the NE Coalfield  1895  06/09
43  Grosmont & The North Yorkshire Moors (Grosmont)  1857-65  04/09
205  Saffron Walden & SE Cambridgeshire (Fulbourn)  1893  03/09
222  Great Dunmow & District (Great Dunmow)  1893  03/09
239  Hertford & St Albans (Welwyn)  1898  03/09
281  East Somerset & West Wiltshire (Wellow)  1897  03/09
299  Winchester, Stockbridge & District (Stockbridge)  1893  06/09
307/308  The Hartland Peninsula (Stratton)  1894  06/09
323  Holsworthy & the Upper Tamar (Holsworthy)  1894  06/09
336  Padstow, Wadebridge & Bodmin Moor (Padstow & Rock)  1905  05/09

Ireland one-inch
49/50  Downpatrick, Portaferry & Ballynahinch  1894  06/09

Germany
4  Gladbeck & Buer  1944  06/09
10  Bochum & Wattenscheid  1944  04/09

… and that’s it from me!

In Sheetlines 56 (December 1999) I announced myself as an ‘acting editor’, brought in to complete one issue. It is a satisfying job being editor, but ten years and thirty issues later it is time for a break, and certainly time for Sheetlines to benefit from some fresh thinking.

My thanks are due to the many members and non-members involved in the production and distribution of the journal, but of course, principally, to the authors of the erudite, and the more light-weight, articles which have, magically, kept me in just enough good copy for each issue. Thank you also to all the correspondents who write in – even those who only wanted to tell me that I can’t spell ‘hangar’ or that I had put the wrong date on the cover! Now, I too can look forward to Sheetlines 86 coming through my letterbox, without having read everything in it three times already and worrying about what new misprints it contains.

After a good lunch, Stephen Braim and John Davies have agreed to take over as joint editors and I am sure that you will give them all the support that you have given me. Regrettably this means that John has to resign as visits organiser and we are looking for someone else to take this on. John has led some fascinating, and very convivial, CCS expeditions to everywhere from Riga to St Peter Port. My personal thanks, John, for all the interest and fun that these have brought.

Chris Higley