

SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 103

Cartographiti

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAP CURATORS GROUP

CARTO-
CYMRU
2024



www.cartography.org.uk

Jon Dollery presenting on antiquity modelling at Carto-Cymru 2024

Contents

Contents 2

Convener’s Corner..... 3

Editorial Effusion..... 3

Around the Libraries..... 4

 National Library of Scotland..... 4

 Cambridge University Library 5

 Bodleian Library, Oxford..... 5

 British Library 6

 The National Archives 7

 University of Manchester 8

 National Library of Wales 8

MCG News 9

 Map Curators’ Group Business Meeting 9

 Diversifying our map collections 10

Forum..... 12

 Carto-Cymru 2024: Maps and their makers 12

Endpiece 19

Not the last Page 20

 Dates for your Diary 20

 lis-maps 21

Contacts 21

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cartographiti is available free-of-charge to members of the British Cartographic Society. It is not necessary to be a professional map curator or map librarian to join the Map Curators' Group. *Cartographiti* is available through the BCS website:

<https://www.cartography.org.uk/publication>

Convener's Corner

Sadly our planned workshop for this autumn is looking in doubt with a lack of respondents to the call for papers and therefore no confirmed speakers at the moment. This could be indicative of several things: that the topic of 'Is it a map? Collecting and preserving unconventional formats' is of little interest; that people do not feel qualified to talk about it; or that I am not reaching the right potential speakers!

A large part of the role of MCG convener is to organise the annual workshop, as well as arrange other events, such as training or discussion groups. I also participate in meetings of the British Cartographic Society, represent our varied membership on BRICMICS and work with MAGIC. I hope I have been an advocate for our collective professional development and the need to bring together people who look after maps, in any format and whatever their job title.

After six years in the role I am sad to be standing down as convener from this autumn but feel that it will be refreshing for the group to have new input and perspectives. I am certain one of you will be able to provide those and lead the group forward.

I'd like to thank Judith for editing *Cartographiti* and reminding me to write my 'Corners', Clare and Tinho for their work looking after lis-maps, the team at BCS who have made me feel welcome, particularly Jim Goldsmith and Paul Naylor, everyone who has had their arm twisted to do a talk at one or other event, and everyone who has turned up and participated!

I have met the most amazing map people, seen wonderful maps, and been able to participate in some great events. I have made friends and learned a lot! It has been both fun and a privilege to convene the group.

Paula Williams

Editorial Effusion

A shorter issue this time, although we do have a summary of papers given at Carto-Cymru provided by Ellie King, which took place in person and online in May. Normally I rely on the papers presented at the MCG Workshop to fill the winter issue, but if the workshop doesn't take place in this autumn, I will be relying on your contributions! So please consider writing up any visits or talks – all efforts will be considered!

It's been great working with Paula for the last five years. I've really appreciated her advice and commonsense, especially when I first started in this role, and I'm sure I speak for all when I say she will be much missed as convener. I'm sure we haven't seen the last of her though, and look forward to seeing her at future events.

Judith Fox

Around the Libraries

National Library of Scotland

Place and poetry in premodern Scotland project

This collaborative research project with Sebastiaan Verweij, Senior Lecturer in Late-Medieval and Early Modern English Literature at the University of Bristol, is running from September 2023 to August 2024. The project is focusing on how places were presented, imagined and described, in the poetry of premodern Scotland (medieval and early modern periods, c.1400–1700).

One of the outcomes of this project has been a seminar 'The Premodern Scottish Place: Mapping, Chorography, History, Landscape, Literature', held at the National Library of Scotland, on 3 May 2024 ([further details here](#)). The seminar included five main presentations and lunchtime viewing of selected collections. The seminar was a hybrid one, with 30 in-person attendees, and over 80 who attended online.

Another outcome has been the new '[Place and Poetry](#)' website. This currently includes four poems and will grow to be around eight poems by the time the project completes in the summer. The principal purposes have been to act as a research tool for understanding the spatial footprints of selected poems, to provide a shop window for non-specialist audiences to engage with the poems, maps and related content, and to provide a 21st-century digital combination of poetry, mapping and chorography.

Scottish woodland viewer

A recent collaboration with nature regeneration platform, Zulu Ecosystems, has resulted in the extraction, using automated, machine-learning techniques, of a digital layer showing woodland from Ordnance Survey 1st edition six-inch to the mile maps (1843-1882). The depiction of woodland on these maps forms one of the most comprehensive records of ancient woodland in Scotland. The automated identification processes were good, but not completely successful, and so we have presented the results in a [viewer](#) which allows corrections to be noted. So far (from January to May) we have received 630 corrections, and Zulu have been incorporating these into an improved layer. This is due to be released as an open data set in the future.

The workflow of using automated feature-detection, combined with human checking/verification seems to work well, and we are planning to release another layer soon which focuses on designed landscapes.

Outreach

From March 2024, *the plan of St Andrews* attributed to John Geddy (c.1580s) has been on display in the NLS [Treasures Gallery](#).

Chris Fleet, NLS

Cambridge University Library

CUCAP Scoping Study

We have received the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) scoping study that was commissioned by Cambridge University Library and undertaken by Historic England. The CUCAP collection is housed in the Department of Geography but the academic who managed it is now retired. The scoping study, therefore, is a first step to establishing the best way to secure CUCAP's future. Unsurprisingly, digitisation is strongly recommended. We are now pursuing ways in which such a large project can be achieved. There are around 500,000 images – obliques and verticals in black and white, colour and infra-red – most of which are not digitised, though there is an [online catalogue](#). In addition, conservation and long-term storage requirements need to be addressed.

Outreach

Recent visits include:

- A group of VIPs from China enroute to the Boat Race.
- Cambridge Architecture students.
- A group from a Dutch GIS company visited the Library and Map Department as part of their annual company retreat.
- Two groups from the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Family History Society.
- Group from Cambridge U3A taking a course on 'Historical maps on the www'.
- Graduate Library Trainees working in Cambridge.

Anne Taylor, CUL

Bodleian Library, Oxford

Staff

26 March marked Tessa Rose's last day working in the Map Room. Tessa joined the team way back in 1988, soon after graduating with a degree in Cartography from what was then Oxford Polytechnic. Since then Tessa has been a mainstay of the Library's cartographic profile, spearheading cataloguing initiatives, designing a methodology to make Ordnance Survey volumes straightforward to order, and ensuring the office has been kept tidy and organised. She will remain next door in Rare Books for three days each week.

On her final afternoon, Tessa went out in style, as we hosted the BCS's Annual Fellows Event, telling the story of our then most recent acquisition, which had arrived the previous day and she had catalogued that morning – an 1890s map of a coast-to-coast railway from Lancashire to Lincolnshire that was proposed but never built.

Debbie Hall's funding from the Bodleian's Sassoon Research Fellowship to research and publish a cartobibliography for Oxfordshire ends on 31 May when she will return to her normal hours of work. At which point we shall once again bid John Mackrell, her cover, farewell (for the fifth time).

In December we were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Peter Hawksorth, who had volunteered with us from 2015 to early 2023.

Acquisitions

In March, the Bodleian was approached by John Davies, co-author of *The Red Atlas*, and long-time Map Room user, offering to donate his substantial collection of Soviet-era maps and cartographic books published in the former USSR during the Cold War. We were delighted to accept, as John's material neatly complements the Bodleian's wide range of holdings of this type.

The collection includes:

- Around 250 town plans from UK and the rest of the world
- Around 200 topographic maps covering the UK, Canada, USA and Latvia
- Around 20 'training maps' for Soviet military personnel
- 234 maps of the 1:2,500,000-scale 'Karta Mira' (world map)
- Around 20 wall maps
- Around 45 folded tourist maps
- A handful of propaganda posters
- An international collection of books relating to Soviet mapping

In terms of impact, within two hours of the collection arriving in Oxford, Martin Davis was able to use the town plan of Copenhagen for part of his presentation in that city on Soviet mapping.

The collection is now being catalogued, the first map appearing, a town plan of Jyväskylä in Finland, followed by Chemnitz (Germany), Jekabpils (Latvia), Le Havre (France), Lepel (Belarus) and Luanda (Angola).

Outreach

Recent in-person presentations have been delivered by Maps staff to the Astrophysics Department, British Cartographic Society Annual Fellows Event, Creative Destruction Lab (or CDL Space), the Danish Ministry of Culture, Early Modern History of Science Seminar on Portuguese portolan charts (Oxford Centre for European History), Longworth and District History Society, Oxford Civic Society, Oxford Literary Festival, and Unmissable Maps for Year 4 schoolchildren.

The Library has recently appointed a group of 18 volunteers, whose job is to showcase the Sheldon tapestry map of Oxfordshire twice weekly. These sessions are open to the public, and Map Room staff were on hand to train up this very dedicated group of individuals.

Nick Millea, Bodleian

British Library

Cyber incident

We are continuing to experience a major technology outage as a result of a cyber-attack that took place last October. The outage is still affecting our website, online systems and services, as well as some onsite services, however our buildings are open as usual. More information, including a link to a blog post about the incident, can be found [here](#).

Cataloguing

The India Office Maps Project completed its second year of processing and cataloguing material held in the India Office Map Collection. So far over 44,000 maps have been sorted and over 10,000 maps catalogued.

Digitisation projects

The cyber-attack has affected digitisation projects: the process of adding around 20,000 OS 25 inch first and second edition sheets to the Library's Universal Viewer was halted and the release of rasters from the Georeferencer onto the BL's research repository has been delayed.

Gethin Rees has been working on a Sloane Lab project community fellowship 'Rethinking Web Maps to present Hans Sloane's Collections' awarded by UCL. The aim of the fellowship is to create interactive maps that enable users to view the global breadth of Sloane's collections, to discover collection items and to click through to their web pages. He has been working with geographical data from the catalogues of the British Library and British Museum. The fellowship critically evaluates the use of mapping technologies to present cultural heritage collections on the web. In particular, the visual and historical problems in using Web Mercator will be highlighted and the advantages of equidistant and equal area projections investigated. For more information see <https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2024/03/a-generous-approach-to-web-mapping-sloanes-collections.html>. Gethin will be giving a virtual presentation at UCL on 11 June.

Outreach

The People's Republic of Bangladesh map, 1972, is exhibited in the Diverse Voices display in the BL Treasures Gallery, along with other items selected around the theme of British-Bangladeshi women's experiences of diaspora. The map was chosen by co-curators from Bangladeshi communities in London and in Leeds.

Tom Harper, BL

The National Archives

Early maps

Cassini maps: Rose Mitchell discovered that a War Office map library factice atlas, which contains plates from 'Les glorieuses Conquêtes de Louis-le-Grand' by de Beaulieu, also had dozens of other 'maps of Italy, dated 1685, by various surveyors'. These are now confirmed to be by Coronelli and his studio, for places beyond the Mediterranean, and coloured, which is very unusual.

Digitisation projects

The *National Farm Survey of the Second World War* is the subject of a massive new [digitisation project](#). Our [research guide](#) reveals more about these records. Maps and forms will be captured from this third major national survey: tithe maps and apportionments are already online, while Valuation Office survey records are in process of a huge multi-year digitisation project.

Legacy data: Work on editing previously accessioned War Office map library maps (WO 78) is complete; a pilot project to upload this immensely complex set of data was successful, and the remaining data can now be uploaded in the near future.

Outreach

[Great Escapes exhibition](#): Our popular exhibition is on until 21 July, well worth a visit or watch military specialist Will Butler's [curator tour](#). It features an escape and evasion map as part of the Colditz escape story of Airey Neave, plus civilian internees' stories.

Postgraduate skills teaching: Rose ran an early modern map workshop as part of a wider PAST programme, aimed at equipping students with skills for archival research, which ran in February and March 2023.

Rose Mitchell, NA

University of Manchester

Outreach and teaching

- Public Health (UG2): Mapping Disease
- History in Practice Workshop (MA): Irish in Manchester
- History (UG1): Research in Practice – History of Cartography
- Japanese Studies (UG1): Introduction to Japanese Collections
- History (MA): Race, Migration and Humanitarianism
- Library and Archive Studies (MA): Diversifying Map Collections
- Manchester Metropolitan University (UG & MA): Introduction to Map Collections
- English (UG3): Global Renaissance
- English (MA): Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature - Mediterranean maps

Two students on the new Library and Archive Studies MA course have completed their project: *Mapping Change: cataloguing educational wall maps in the UoM Map Collection*. Blogs will be available soon.

Donna Sherman, University of Manchester

National Library of Wales

Carto-Cymru 2024

This year's symposium took place on Friday, 17 May, at the Library, on the theme of 'Maps and their makers'. The event was held in association with BCS and I gave the BCS Teatime talk the evening before. The event was hybrid (see report in this issue).

Digitisation projects

The Library and Royal Commission are working together to seek funding to progress our project to digitise OS 25-inch mapping of Wales.

Outreach

The Haverfordwest exhibition finished in February and was a huge success. In February Ellie wrote a [blog](#) about some of the exhibits in Haverfordwest, and particularly related to the artworks created in response to the maps.

Filming for the S4C programme on the Library has been completed and the show will be broadcast in the autumn. In the meantime, a short article on the Library has appeared on ITVX and features a section about Humphrey Llwyd's map of Wales.

Huw Thomas, NLW

MCG News

Map Curators' Group Business Meeting

Held online at 3 p.m. Monday 26 February 2024.

Attendees: Tinho da Cruz (Dept. of Geography, University of Liverpool); Martin Davis (Bodleian Libraries); Judith Fox (*Cartographiti* editor); Nick Millea (Bodleian Library); Alexandra O'Rorke (Natural History Museum); David Sherren (Portsmouth University Library); Donna Sherman (University of Manchester); Anne Taylor (University of Cambridge Library)

Chair: Paula Williams (Convener)

1. Notes from previous meeting (13th February 2023, shared in *Cartographiti* 101)
2. **lis-maps.** (with thanks to Clare Gordon). There are 297 subscribers as of today (although some of these may be duplicated due to differing email addresses etc.), and an average of about 10 posts a month. It remains a quiet but useful list.
3. ***Cartographiti*.** Judith Fox has edited and published two online issues since the last meeting. The summer 2023 issue included a report on Carto-Cymru. The later issue contained synopses of presentations from the group's 'Exploring Maps' workshop. Please submit articles to Judith for inclusion.
4. **Training.** Suggestions were made for another cataloguing training, to include atlases as well as the sheet maps that were covered in the online training in November 2022.
5. **Workshop 2024.** Paula proposed our annual workshop could be on the topic 'Is it a map?' – e.g. Minecraft maps, virtual worlds, wall maps, relief maps and other geographic objects, storage, long-term preservation, description and metadata.
Following discussion, the group agreed that September has worked well for us in the past, between school new terms and university terms starting. BCS main conference is in planning to be at UCL 3 and 4 September so the workshop will be planned for the week after. The arrangement of online Carto-Cymru was given as an example of good structure for an online event, with useful breaks between sessions.
6. **Convener.** Paula will stand down after the workshop, having been in the role since September 2018.

We will circulate an advertisement for volunteers in June, with the aim of having someone in place by September 2024.

7. **[Map Curators' Toolkit](#).** There has been no progress since last year's meeting. We know that the toolkit is overdue for an overhaul – but it is potentially a large piece of work.

The group discussed the merits of moving to PDF booklet, whether a list of links or a bigger handbook of map curatorship.

8. Any other business.

- a. Diversifying our map collections – next (second) meeting due at end of March. Currently collecting useful links for topic-based discussion.

- b. A panel discussion on the future of Map Collections is being proposed for the RGS-IBG International Annual Conference 2024, which is on the theme of 'Mapping'. Donna Sherman and Paula Williams have both been asked to take part in the panel.
- c. Unwanted donations and disposals: The group discussed how difficult it is to dispose of collection items.

A list of disposal suggestions will be collated to appear in *Cartographiti*. There was agreement that collections are trying to dispose of the same kinds of material, and with the reduction in the number of collections, and even collectors of some kinds of maps, that finding 'good homes' for items is difficult and time consuming.

- d. [Map Collections Directory](#): Anne Taylor enquired after the Directory. There is no improvement on it since last year, bar a few individual records.

Paula Williams

Diversifying our map collections

A small group of MCG members from a range of institutions and collections are meeting quarterly to discuss topics on the themes around Diversifying our Map Collections. The meetings are quarterly and will be advertised on lis-maps. Meeting notes and links to examples will be shared here in *Cartographiti*. The next meeting will be on 'Description, cataloguing and subject headings'.

Content warnings – Meeting Notes from 11 April 2024

Areas of potential sensitivity identified in maps:

- Map content (which we can't change but can provide explanation or interpretation)
- Depictions of people – racial, stereotypical, lack of women
- Place names – language of colonial power rather than local, or generally anglicised, or offensive names
- Association of people and places on the map – connections to slavery
- Categorisation or description of features e.g. lunatic asylum, workhouses for the 'undeserving'

Omissions – what is not included on the map?

- Projections
- Maps of war – contentious outcomes and boundaries

Map description (which we provide)

- Placenames in headings and names allocated to polygons on digital mapping
- Subject headings – LCSH, Getty, etc.

The group agreed that where content warnings or explanations are desirable they perform two main functions – to alert people whose lived experience means that some items may cause them personal offence or upset, and more generally to readers why we make those materials available and to provide context.

Our discussions generated more questions than answers:

- Should we assume that our readers understand maps as cultural constructs or provide additional explanation and if so what level of explanation is appropriate?
- How do we give readers the choice to see the content warnings or explanations?
- Is any content warning required or desirable? This may depend on your institution, the nature of your collection and on your readership (ie university or public). Also consider whether the content is mediated or curated in any way through a blog or web-article, or whether it is accessed only through a catalogue, or online.
- How will any warnings be applied?
- Is a general content warning or statement adequate?
- Is it preferable to create levels of warnings that are more collection or even item specific?
- How do we best communicate that we do not condone offensive language or imagery, whilst making items containing them available as we will not censor our collections?
- Do we need a specific map-related content warning?
- Should we provide a feedback channel if readers do find offensive material? And if so, how is that monitored and responded to?

We also discussed that it is important to avoid implying that all historical viewpoints are 'wrong', and all current ones are right. Our viewpoints will be the historic ones of the future, and our viewpoints vary.

Cataloguing is itself not a neutral act, but we can aim for neutrality in our descriptive practice.

Links and examples

Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Cambridge. Although primarily aimed at university teaching staff, and not in any way map specific, this is a useful overview of many of the discussions around the use of contents notes.

<https://www.cctl.cam.ac.uk/content-notes>

Examples of content notes and warnings:

John Rylands. This is an example of a curated blog explanation for collection material.

<https://rylandscollections.com/2020/11/05/rylands-reflects-content-warnings-for-collections-and-catalogues/>

Royal BC Museum.

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/archives/about-us/content-warning>

SOAS. Statement on Potentially Offensive Materials and Descriptions at SOAS Library

<https://soas.libguides.com/c.php?g=704753&p=5185431>

Stanford Libraries. This is an example of a content warning note provided within a curated web feature. The notes are not provided for all features.

<https://exhibits.stanford.edu/ams-city-plans/feature/atomic-bombing>

National Library of Australia. An example of an item specific warning.
<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/7085598>

National Library of Scotland. Harmful Language Statement
<https://www.nls.uk/about-us/equalities/harmful-language-statement/>

Paula Williams

Forum

Carto-Cymru 2024: Maps and their makers

On Friday 17 May the National Library of Wales (NLW) held our 8th Carto-Cymru symposium in Aberystwyth. This year's theme was 'Maps and their makers', shining a light on the cartographers and surveyors behind the map.

Following on from our successful first hybrid event last year, the event was held simultaneously online and in person at the Library. About 50 people joined us in Aberystwyth, with a further 26 online.

As always, we worked closely with our colleagues at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and this year we also partnered with the British Cartographic Society (BCS), whose support was greatly appreciated.

Douglas Lockhart got us underway this year with a talk on George Robertson (1783–1845), a land surveyor, farmer and factor whose life took him from northern Scotland to Hawarden in Flintshire. He was displaced from his work in Aberdeenshire by the murder of his employer and the subsequent breakup of the estate at Brucklay Castle, but his reputation for expertise led to his being headhunted by the Gladstone family of Hawarden as their land surveyor. The changes he made at Hawarden, including longer leases for tenants with progressive rents for tenants who used modern Scottish-style agricultural practices, evidently impressed the landowner. After Robertson's death in



One of George Robertson's surveys, showing Seaton in Forfarshire, 1817.
National Records of Scotland RHP141372. Image courtesy of Douglas Lockhart

1845, Sir Stephen Glynne wrote to John Gladstone, "I should rather be inclined to employ a Scotchman as the Scotch system has been in some measure introduced on my estate &c I feel anxious to carry it out in the way in which it is begun." He succeeded in finding another Scot, Gregory Burnett, who was agent for the Hawarden estate for the next 23 years.

We relocated from Wales to Turkey for the next talk, given by Peter Collier. He took us through the intrigues involved in creating the map series IDWO (Intelligence Department, War Office) 1522 in the late 19th century, and in particular the contributions of Francis Maunsell. Maunsell was a military attaché and archaeologist who used these roles as cover for surveying and mapping in eastern Turkey. Some covert mapping of Turkey had been done prior to this work, most notably by a British team nominally involved in reforming the Ottoman Gendarmerie. The IDWO map was the beginning of British overseas mapping in anticipation of potential future need, rather than as a result of an immediate crisis. The Ottoman authorities were not naive about the potential ulterior motives of such missions. Maunsell wrote, "they imagine that between exploration and annexation is only a very short step". Peter pointed out that although the sources given on the maps themselves identify some individuals who were not officially engaged in surveys, there was likely another layer of information-gathering that was deemed too sensitive to print on the maps.



Francis Maunsell. Image courtesy of Peter Collier

An article by Peter Collier with more detail on Maunsell and IDWO 1522 is available here:

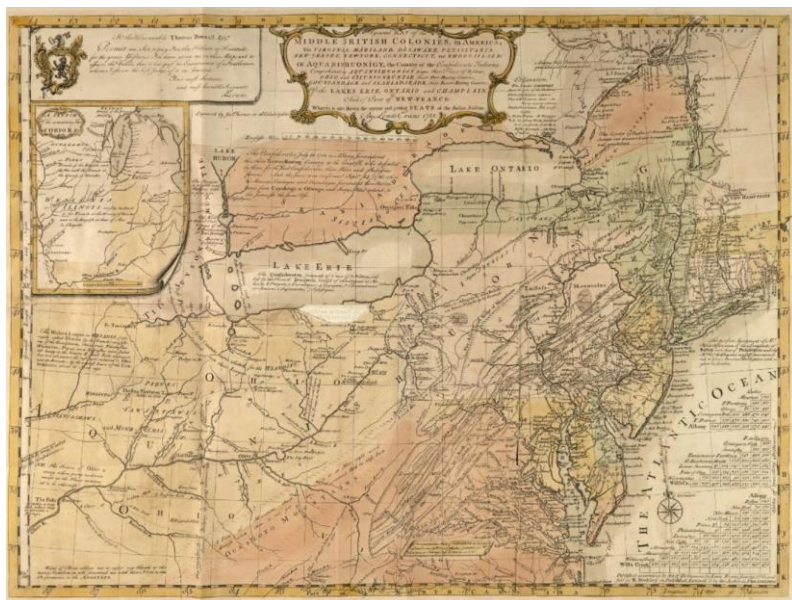
https://icaci.org/files/documents/ICC_proceedings/ICC2013/_extendedAbstract/14_proceeding.pdf.

Huw Thomas, map curator here at NLW, gave us a whistlestop tour of early Welsh cartography, beginning with Gerald of Wales, moving on to Emanuel Bowen, mapmaker to the kings of both England and France, Lewis Morris, customs officer and chart maker, and Lewis Evans. The crowning achievement of Lewis Evans' career was his highly detailed and ambitious *General map of the middle British colonies* (1755). The map contained an unusual amount of information about the Native American population. It was published, along with an analysis of the region, by Benjamin Franklin. Evidently there was some closeness between Evans and the Franklin family, as after Evans' death his daughter was cared for by the Franklins.



Huw Thomas presenting at Carto-Cymru. Image courtesy of Ellie King.

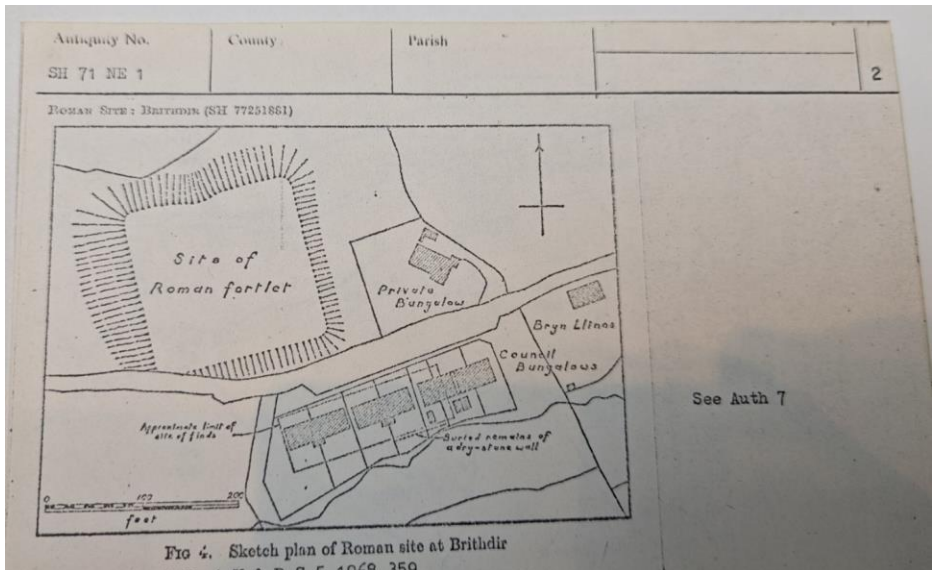
The map itself was pirated by Thomas Kitchin a year after its publication, perhaps an indication of its importance! The original map was reissued in 1776, probably for the benefit of Evans' daughter. The map was used during the War of Independence, and reached 19 editions of the three different plates, over 60 years, during which time the



General map of the middle British colonies, Lewis Evans, 1755. Image courtesy Huw Thomas.

title shifted from *General map of the middle British colonies* (1755) to *General map of the middle dominions belonging to the United States of America* (1794).

Rounding off the morning session was Jon Dollery of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Jon explored depictions of heritage sites on Ordnance Survey maps. The Archaeological Division of the OS was created in 1947, to create a 'national non-intensive record' of archaeological sites. Each site was given a record card with site plans and other details. In the late 70s this work was passed to the Royal Commissions of England, Scotland and Wales (only the Welsh Commission is still run as an independent organisation today), who were responsible for revising the records and recommending updates to the depictions of antiquities on OS maps.



Part of an OS antiquity record card. Image courtesy of Jon Dollery.

A personal favourite OS map antiquity note was this Bowling Green with a difference:



Image courtesy Jon Dollery.

After a buffet lunch, Hannah Engelkamp of Slow Ways kicked off the afternoon session. Delivered in Welsh, with simultaneous translation provided, Hannah took us through the Slow Ways project. Slow Ways is trying to create a national network of walking routes connecting towns, cities and national parks. Volunteers have drafted routes connecting over 2,500 places across Britain, and more volunteers are now walking the routes to confirm that they should be part of the network. The project has attracted 30,000 users, creating a massive scale participatory mapping project. Hannah also spoke about the importance of place and her own experiences walking Slow Ways that connected her to the history of the landscape and a feeling of belonging in it. The Slow Ways network map is mainly digital, but they have also created a physical planning map showing the whole network on one sheet. The map is available in a Welsh and Scots Gaelic edition as well as an English one. A Cornish version is forthcoming too. While Hannah was in the Library for Carto-Cymru, she also found time to present copies of the map to NLW map curator Huw Thomas for inclusion in the collection, and all attendees had the opportunity to take a free copy home too.

You can find out more about Slow Ways here: <https://beta.slowways.org/>



Hannah Engelkamp presenting Slow Ways maps to Huw Thomas (in front of Humphrey Llwyd's map of Wales). Image courtesy Ellie King.



Seppe Cassettari presenting a drone survey of his home village. Image courtesy Ellie King.

Seppe Cassettari, president of the British Cartographic Society (BCS), took us on a wide-ranging tour of digital visualisation techniques and technologies, starting when floppy discs really were floppy, right up to the current and future challenges for cartography. One key problem Seppe identified was the rapidly multiplying amount of data that is being produced – a small drone survey of Seppe's home village, covering two square kilometres produced 167 TB of uncompressed data. The sheer volume of data now available makes it difficult to present and interpret in any useful way, and raises questions about the quality and trustworthiness of geographic data — and the metadata (or lack thereof!) attached to it.

John Davies and Alex Kent brought the day to a close with a fascinating talk on secret Soviet mapping of Wales. Part of a mammoth attempt to map the entire world by the Military Topographic Directorate of the General Staff of the Soviet Army, John and Alex estimate that the maps of Wales are just a few of perhaps more than a million different maps produced in secret. For this talk, they presented a deep-dive into the maps of Aberystwyth. They point to Pen Cwningen (Пен-Кунигген), by Aberystwyth Castle: named on the Soviet map, but not on contemporary OS maps. John and Alex have identified the name on a quarter-inch to the mile Bartholomew map from 1904, and on



Speakers at Carto-Cymru on the Library's terrace: Hannah Engelkamp (Slow Ways), Douglas Lockhart, Huw Thomas (NLW), Seppe Cassettari (BCS), Jon Dollery (RCAHMW), John Davies, Peter Collier, Alex Kent (ICA). Image courtesy Ellie King.

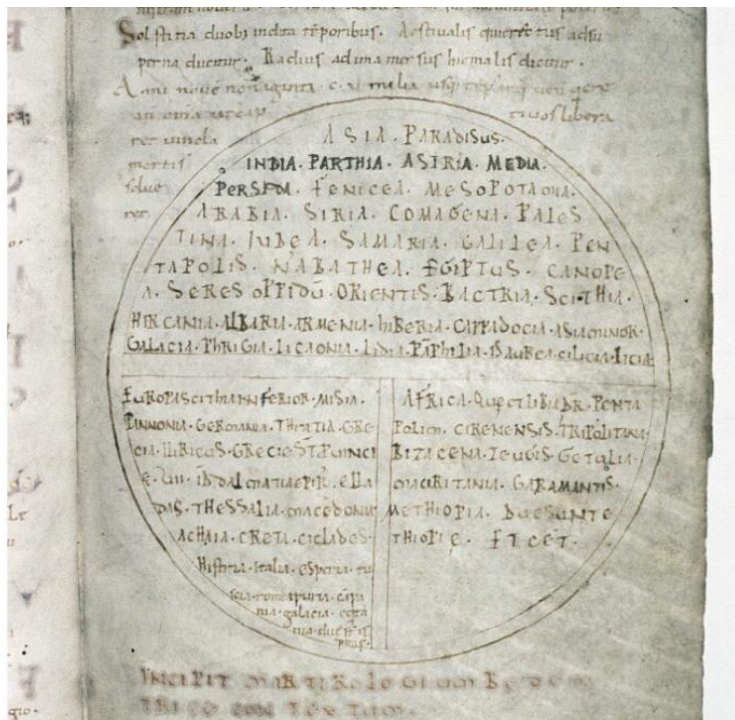
Lewis Morris's sea charts. Contours and spot heights also indicate sources broader than the OS maps that are purported to be the exemplars for the Soviet cartographers. Soviet cartographic conventions can also convey more information than their OS counterparts: river names given in uppercase were navigable, those in lowercase were not.

The transliteration of placenames also shows an understanding of local pronunciation, rather than simply following the English or Welsh spellings. Knowledge clearly developed over time, as the Welsh letter *f* (pronounced like an English *v*) in Sarn Gynfelyn is transliterated to the Cyrillic *ф* (*f*) in 1965, but by 1985 had been corrected to *в* (*v*). Interestingly, the OS also updated this same spelling between 1980 and 2024 – from Sarn Cynfelyn to Sarn Gynfelyn!

As well as the symposium, we again held a small exhibition of items from NLW's collections, and the Royal Commission also had an array of material on display in their reading room. Once again, it was a great opportunity for map experts and enthusiasts to meet and chat throughout the day, and we are already looking forward to Carto-Cymru 2025!

Ellie King, National Library of Wales

Endpiece



Bodleian Library MS. Canon. Misc. 560. Image courtesy Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

The Bodleian Map Room team recently set out to discover the earliest map among the two million or more in the library's collection. After consulting various catalogues, a likely contender turned out to be this Medieval map of the world, dating from between 1055 and 1074 – one of several mappae mundi in the collection. It appears in an Italian manuscript copy of *De natura rerum* ('On the nature of things'), originally written by the Anglo-Saxon monk St Bede in 703. Part of Bede's work provides a detailed description of the known earth, with this manuscript also including a map of the world (mappa mundi), using the 'T-in-O' style typical of the time. The map faces east, with the upper section representing Asia, and the lower sections representing Europe and Africa, with lists of known places in each section. The 'T' shape dividing the continents represents the Mediterranean Sea and the River Euphrates. The map was recently displayed to the public as part of the Oxford Literary Festival, where the clear discrepancy in geographic knowledge between Europe and the rest of the world attracted much interest.

It is available online as part of the Digital Bodleian
<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/530c071a-3c39-41a8-be67-1887bd7deb99/>

Not the last Page

Dates for your Diary

BCS Teatime Talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, see <https://www.cartography.org.uk/teatime-talks> for more information. Previous talks can be found on the BCS YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/BritishCartographicSociety>

Previous Oxford Seminars in Cartography are available from the TOSCA events YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMMT6JPEQdLrxAgd4Q2dfdUMB265XJ7kT>.

2024

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) have finished for 2023–24. See <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/tosca> for the 2024–25 programme.

The Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography have finished for 2023–24. See <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem> for the 2024–25 programme.

The Maps and Society Lecture Series, Warburg Institute has finished for 2023–24. See <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series> for the 2024–25 programme.

4-5 September 2024. British Cartographic Society Annual Conference. University College, London. In-person. More information and booking: <https://www.cartography.org.uk/annual-conference>

September 2024. Map Curator's Workshop. **Is it a map?** Online. Tbc.

lis-maps

lis-maps is a forum for discussing news, ideas, issues, policies and practices related to map and spatial data librarianship. Topics can be broad ranging including: acquisition; cataloguing; use; information retrieval; management of metadata; relationship to GIS and RS; collaborative work; conservation. For more information see: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lis-maps.html>

To join lis-maps just send the message: join lis-maps <your name>
as the only text in the body of an e-mail addressed to: jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk

Contacts

Convener:

Paula Williams

Email: paula.williams@cartography.org.uk

Acts as MCG representative on BCS council, BRICMICS, BSI, etc., and deals with all general business of the Group.

Newsletter Editor:

Judith Fox

Email: judith.fox@cartography.org.uk

Edits and compiles *Cartographiti*.

Subscriptions co-ordinator:

BCS Administration

Email:

admin@cartography.org.uk

Organises online distribution of *Cartographiti*.

COPY DEADLINE

Anything you would like publicised, or any item you would like included in the next *Cartographiti* should be sent to the Editor by

30 November 2024