

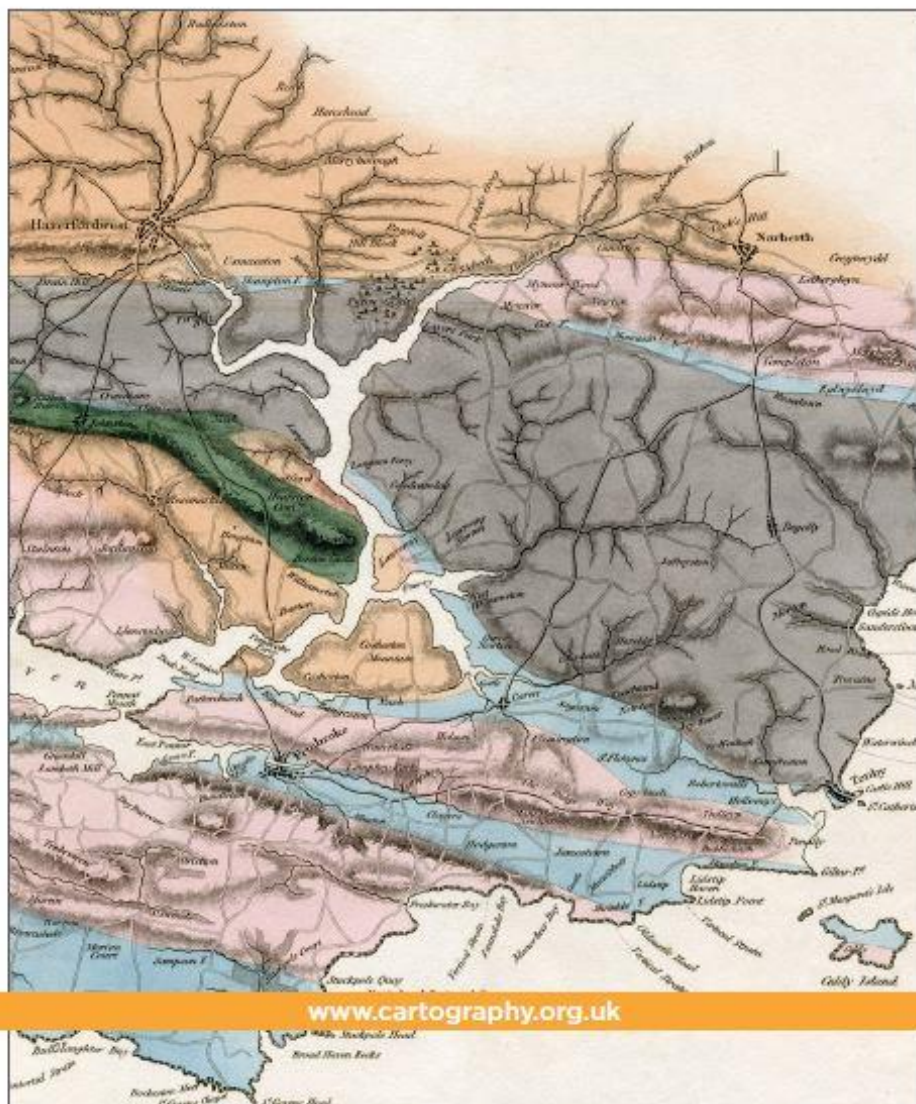
SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 99

# Cartographiti

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAP CURATORS GROUP

MCG  
Workshop 2021  
part 2



Part of De la Beche's Geological map of southern Pembrokeshire, [1829] - see pg 10

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## 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

I'm excited about our forthcoming workshop in September, 'Finding maps'. With topics ranging from compiling cartobibliographies, to locating collections, it promises to be fascinating. We are lucky to have international speakers; one of the advantages of being online is that it is easier to jump time zones. But the best bit about our workshop will be to see you and hear how you and your collections are getting on in these still 'interesting' times.

Throughout its existence the BCS has worked through many interesting times and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2023. There will be special events and an in-person conference to mark the occasion so we will all be able to get together at last! Look out for details soon.

In the meantime, sign up for this year's workshop; see you there!

*Paula Williams*

who sadly died in March this year. He will be much missed.

As things start to return to normal, it is to be hoped that face-to-face map events will also resume. However, I think we have all been able to appreciate the variety of talks that have taken place online over the last couple of years, and the ease of attendance when only a Zoom button needs to be clicked. Perhaps a hybrid format would be the way to go – I have certainly enjoyed many talks (both live and recorded) where it would have been difficult to get there in person, and a few where the presenter was in a different time zone! Hopefully this will be one of the positives to come out of Covid.

*Judith Fox*

## Editorial Effusion

In this issue we have the final papers from the 2021 MCG Workshop, together with a short history of the Defence Geographic Centre and an appreciation of former BCS president Peter Jolly,

# Around the Libraries

## *National Library of Scotland*

### **New map transcription projects**

In February we launched our first of [three map transcription projects](#), in collaboration with the British Library to transcribe all of the names on the Roy Military Survey Map of Scotland (1747–55). 415 volunteers registered an interest, and within the first four weeks, all 33,522 names had been transcribed by two separate people. We also asked volunteers to transcribe a nearby/related Ordnance Survey 1st edition name to help with searching and to provide a qualifier for the Roy name. Further phases of work have edited and revised both Roy and OS names, with completion expected during June. An initial [Roy Gazetteer interface](#) allows the names to be searched and browsed.

In April we launched our second project, in collaboration with Scotways, to trace all of the footpaths from the OS six-inch 2nd edition maps of Scotland. 412 volunteers traced 26,000 footpaths (over 11,000 miles) within the first two weeks. Further work is extending the core network of paths, with completion expected within the next two months. The work in progress can be seen in our [side by side viewer](#). Identifying footpaths and making them available as an open layer, will help facilitate Scotways' work in researching the backgrounds of footpaths today and safeguarding them as rights of way.

Our third project launched on 17 May, in collaboration with the Machines Reading Maps Team at the Alan Turing Institute. This project plans to transcribe all of the textual content from the OS

25-inch to the mile 2nd edition maps of Edinburgh and environs, using tags to categorise them and link them to OpenStreetMap. 312 volunteers have registered an interest. As well as creating a very detailed gazetteer of Edinburgh from a century ago, the names will also be useful as a training dataset for machine-learning, hopefully encouraging the more widespread automatic ways of harvesting names from OS 25-inch maps.

Whilst the transcription process has involved significant work to manage, it has been very well-received and enjoyed so far, and we hope to follow on with other crowdsourcing activities. An initial interview about the projects was published in [Archivoz Magazine](#) in March, with a follow-up interview planned for June. All the interface software is open-source and easily re-usable. We also plan to release all of the datasets for free onward use through the NLS Data Foundry, as well as via the collaborating partners.

### **Lost Blossom – Orchards project**

During January-February, we collaborated with the National Trust and ArchAI on a project to automatically identify orchards on OS 25-inch to the mile 2nd edition maps of England and Wales. Machine-learning techniques achieved good levels of accuracy, with the hope that a possible crowdsourcing project could help confirm and improve on this. The results were summarised in a BBC news article in March.

### **Outreach**

We have recently acquired two visualisers: an Epson ELP DC-21 desktop version, which is suitable for smaller collection items, and a ceiling-mounted Wolfvision VZ-C6 in the Maps Reading Room which can be used for larger items, such

as maps, posters or bound newspapers. The visualisers can be used for 1-2-1 consultations with enquirers or for outreach events to display collection items relevant to a talk or topic. The Library has already undertaken sessions for readers as far away as California and Germany, making accessible items that they would not previously have been able to view without travelling to Edinburgh.

*Chris Fleet, NLS*

### **National Library of Wales Staff**

The Library's reorganisation is more or less complete now. We have a new member of staff. Elan Owen started with us in January and is currently learning to catalogue maps.

### **Acquisitions**

More items have come in as part of the Warrington's South Wales Railway Records collection. We have also just received a collection of redrawn tithe maps of Powys in PDF format. Acquisition is currently focusing on trying to add to our holdings of early maps of Wales, especially different editions of Humphrey Llwyd's maps

### **Outreach**

Ellie King has recently published a blog about her work on the African maps in the collection. <https://blog.library.wales/cataloguing-colonial-maps-of-africa/>

2022's Carto-Cymru symposium was held online on 20 May. The theme was 'Mapping in Megabytes', with talks from NLW's Jason Evans on decolonising Welsh mapping through the Welsh-language OpenStreetMap, Jon Dollery of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and

Historical Monuments of Wales speaking about creating interactive digital data from historic mapping, Dr Gethin Rees from the British Library on the Legal Deposit Libraries' Map Viewer, and NLW's Sally MacInnes and Dr Sarah Higgins of Aberystwyth University on digital preservation processes for born-digital mapping. It was a great day and well attended. Next year we are hoping to be able to hold Carto-Cymru in-person at the library, with a focus on the Ordnance Survey to coincide with the Charles Close Society's AGM at NLW in May.

*Huw Thomas & Ellie King, NLW*

### **Cambridge University Library Staff**

The Library has welcomed a new Deputy Librarian from June. Alastair Flett has joined from the University of Liverpool, where he was Deputy Director for Libraries, Museums and Galleries.

### **Outreach**

We welcomed a group of students undertaking a U3A 'mapping on the web' course. The same class has visited several times in the past, though not last year.

We have also welcomed our first school group since the beginning of the pandemic. The school groups are usually coordinated by the Colleges and are aimed at introducing Cambridge University to students who might otherwise not think of applying.

*Anne Taylor, CUL*

### **Bodleian Library, Oxford Staff**

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Martin Davis to

the post of Digital Map Curator. Martin took up his role on 9 May, joining us from the Royal Geographical Society (with the IBG). Many of you will know Martin, and he arrives with an impressive cartographic background, and is actively involved in the International Cartographic Association.

In March we were saddened to learn about the sudden death of Peter Jolly, a former BCS President who had been volunteering with us since 2013. There was a splendid memorial event for Pete in Christ Church Cathedral, with many familiar faces from the cartographic community in attendance.

### **Research**

Our three-year Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Understanding the medieval Gough Map through Physics, Chemistry and History' scheduled to come to an end at the end of this month has now been awarded a 12-month 'no-cost extension', so we now close on 31 May 2023. We have signed a contract with Brill to publish a hefty volume in their Mapping the Past series which will outline the findings of the project's endeavours.

### **Outreach**

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) has remained a fully virtual experience for 2021/22, which has enabled us to more than double the number of seminars we are able to host.

We have launched a new eight-minute film on the Sheldon tapestry map of Oxfordshire, which features Stuart Ackland, Debbie Hall and Nick Millea as talking heads, and is currently being beamed on a larger-than-life

loop in Blackwell Hall. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xU4X9rlkNKS>

We have finally launched our series of ten *StoryMaps* online – they can be found at: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/storymaps/>. Subjects are: the Gough Map; Imaginary lands; Islamic maps; the Laxton Map; Layla Curtis' 'The Thames ...'; Oxford; the Oxford Drink Map; Oxfordshire; Tudor tapestry maps; and World War I trench maps.

*Nick Millea, Bodleian*

### **British Library Cataloguing**

The Modern Maps Cataloguing Project processed a final 6,905 items, bringing to an end the project which began in 2016. In total 97,297 items have been added to the collection, with a further 7,338 map records upgraded over lockdowns.

Funding has been provided to set up a new project to process and make available maps held in the India Office Maps Collection. Huw Rowlands has been recruited to the role of Processing Coordinator and Cataloguer.

### **Digitisation**

The British Library released 7,891 images from George III's Topographical Collection onto the Georeferencer platform in March. The images of maps were selected from the 32,000 images that were digitised from George III's collection of atlases and albums of views, plans, diagrams, reports and surveys, produced between 1550 and 1820. The Georeferencers have been making quick work of the maps having already completed 15%.

The AHRC-funded project, 'Locating a National Collection', is drawing to a close and held its end-of-project webinar: Locating a National Collection through Audience Research and Interface Design on 25 May.

The webinar featured presentations on public audience research, the role of location in school education and using Pelagios methods to map cultural heritage, alongside demonstrations of the project's Peripleo web-map software and tools. The 'Locating a National Collection' project has been helping cultural heritage organisations to use location data — such as where objects were made and used or the places they depict and describe — to connect collections and engage the public. Funded as part of the 'Towards a National Collection' programme, the project uses audience research and exploratory technical work to scope a UK-wide approach in using location to discover cultural heritage collections.

### **Outreach**

The Library's maps and views treasures display was rehung in April 2022. The new display includes a manuscript map made in MI4 from Gertrude Bell's journey notes in central Arabia, a protest map from the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, Le Corbusier's *Plan of New Capital, Punjab*, made in the years following the Partition of India, the 'Eichstätt map of Europe' of 1470, and others.

*Tom Harper, BL*

### **Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) Covid-19**

PRONI is operating a limited onsite service, by appointment only. Appointment slots are made available six weeks in advance. We have returned to an on-demand document ordering service.

### **Research**

*OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage*

Led by Keith Lilley (QUB) and Catherine Porter (UL), this project will gather historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and texts to form a digital platform that will help uncover otherwise hidden and forgotten aspects of the life and work of those employed by the OS as they mapped and recorded landscapes and localities in Ireland. PRONI will facilitate the public engagement strand of the project.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7cedc565e15e4ba58444f9eaf435d1de>

*Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Records Treasury*

30 June 2022, marks the centenary of an explosion and fire at the Four Courts, Dublin, which destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland (PRO, I) and, with it, seven centuries of Ireland's collective memories. Led by Peter Crooks (TCD), *Beyond 2022* is an ambitious project to create a virtual reconstruction of the Record Treasury by identifying copies and surrogate material of what was lost, and making digitised images and searchable content freely available for researchers in a single online portal. Historic maps form a major part of this work, which will create a truly unique resource.

<https://beyond2022.ie/>

*Mapping Irish Earth: using deep mapping to curate an historic landed estate as a three-dimensional educational and cultural resource*

Annie Tindley (Newcastle University) and PRONI have secured a successful bid for a Collaborative Doctoral Award, which has been awarded to John Witchell at Newcastle University. PRONI is acting as the archival partner, providing access to the Dufferin and Ava Collection, supervising work on historic maps and GIS approaches, and facilitating a major public engagement element to the project.

<http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/studentships/cda/>

#### *Connected Treescapes*

This project focuses on the role that trees and forests play in and around UK towns and cities to enhance social and cultural benefits whilst facing considerable environmental pressures. PRONI is supporting work on two northern Irish estates (Clandeboyne Estate and Mourne Park) with research focusing on the historic development of treescapes since 1700 using archival material and deep-mapping in GIS.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/yesi/research/resilient-ecosystems/connected-treescapes/>

*Glynn Kelso, PRONI*

### **The National Archives Cataloguing**

Cataloguing and some redating of early maps continues, including some apparently unknown; Mark Girouard has identified a mystery plan as probably a proposed design for part of Kenilworth Castle's redesign by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, to entertain Elizabeth I.

### **Postdoctoral Archival Skills Training in maps**

Rose Mitchell contributed map sessions to three subject areas – early modern, overseas and military – in this established annual TNA training programme that aims to equip new doctoral candidates with research skills for work on historic documents. Onsite document sessions restarted, to complement virtual workshops.

#### **Outreach**

Rose's talk on English early maps at the 2019 Archives Nationales conference (on French local maps) appears in the proceedings just published under the title *Pour une histoire des cartes locales/Towards a history of local maps*.

*Rose Mitchell, NA*

### **University of Reading Staff**

After 33 years in the Reading map collection, first working with Bob Parry in the Geography Department and later moving into the Library, I have decided that the time has come to retire.

Sadly, but unsurprisingly, I am not being replaced. The map collection will be looked after by the Collections team in the Library, with the outward facing part managed by a colleague in the Academic Liaison team. I have left copious notes and am sure they will do their best to maintain the collection in the future.

I am planning to continue as editor of *Cartographiti*, so will not disappear off the radar altogether, and I am looking forward to using more maps by (motor)biking around Europe (and perhaps further afield) and also to not

getting up at 6.30 to get on a train!

*Judith Fox, University of Reading*

## MCG News

### ***MCG Workshop 2022: Finding Maps***

Our workshop will be held online as part of the BCS symposium on the afternoon of Wednesday 14 September 2022.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Wouter Bracke, KBR The Royal Library of Belgium
- Jon Dollery, RCAHMW
- Debbie Hall, Bodleian Library
- Mike Peters, Eastview Geospatial
- Kim Plassche & Carole McAuliffe, ALA-MAGIRT
- Gethin Rees, British Library

### ***Describing maps: a basic map cataloguing workshop***

Mr Paige G. Andrew, maps cataloguer and faculty member at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries will present a virtual workshop on basic map cataloguing over five consecutive afternoons between 28 November-2 December 2022. The workshop is supported by the British Cartographic Society and facilitated by the Map Curators' Group.

The workshop will provide attendees with the basic knowledge and necessary skills to ensure creation of accurate and high-quality bibliographic records for sheet maps. You will gain a good understanding of the differences in descriptive elements between maps and other formats of material, primarily monographs, and the variability inherent in these types of resources. You will

also gain confidence to apply your cataloguing skills to this format of material.

By the end of this workshop you will have learned:

- Basic principles to guide you in making decisions about descriptive elements
- How to decide which title to choose as title proper when more than one appears on a map
- Techniques for measuring a map(s) and how to record that and other physical description information
- To record scale information correctly when provided and determine a scale when it is not explicitly stated
- How to use the Klokán Bounding Box tool or Extent Helper to determine coordinates values for both the 034 and 255 fields

In addition, we will review 'match criteria' for identifying copy in OCLC's WorldCat database and view short videos about correctly measuring maps and how to use a Natural Scale Indicator. You will also receive a pack of reference materials to use during map record creation into the future.

Prerequisites:

Attendees should already be conversant in use of the MARC 21 content standard structure and input standards, AACR2 or RDA cataloguing rules/guidelines, how to navigate OCLC Connexion and use OCLC's Bibliographic Formats and Standards and similar tools.

Spaces will be limited to 20. Booking will be available, through the BCS website, shortly.

## Forum

*The Map Curator's Group workshop took place online on Wednesday 8 September 2021. In this issue we conclude our coverage of the day.*

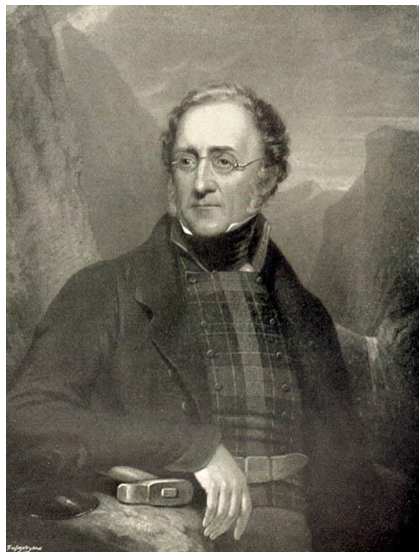
### ***A brief history of geology and cartography at the British Geological Survey.***

#### **Henry Thomas De la Beche — gentleman geologist**

The history of the British Geological Survey begins with Henry Thomas De la Beche, who started out as a gentleman geologist of independent means. His income (£3,000 pa) was derived from a sugar plantation in Jamaica which he inherited from his father who died when De la Beche was just five years old. A few years after his coming of age he visited Jamaica in order to discover what exactly he had inherited and what might be done to improve the situation of the slaves on his estate. In addition to visiting other plantations, he also found time to produce a pioneering geological map of the eastern half of the island (published 1827) and is today regarded as the father of Jamaican geology.

#### **Geological map of southern Pembrokeshire**

Even before his visit to Jamaica, De la Beche was making geological maps. The open-air life of a field geologist and the challenge of working out the geological structure of a complex tract of country was something that De la Beche relished. In mapping the geology of southern Pembrokeshire, which he surveyed in 1822, he had the benefit of recently published Ordnance Survey one-inch topographical

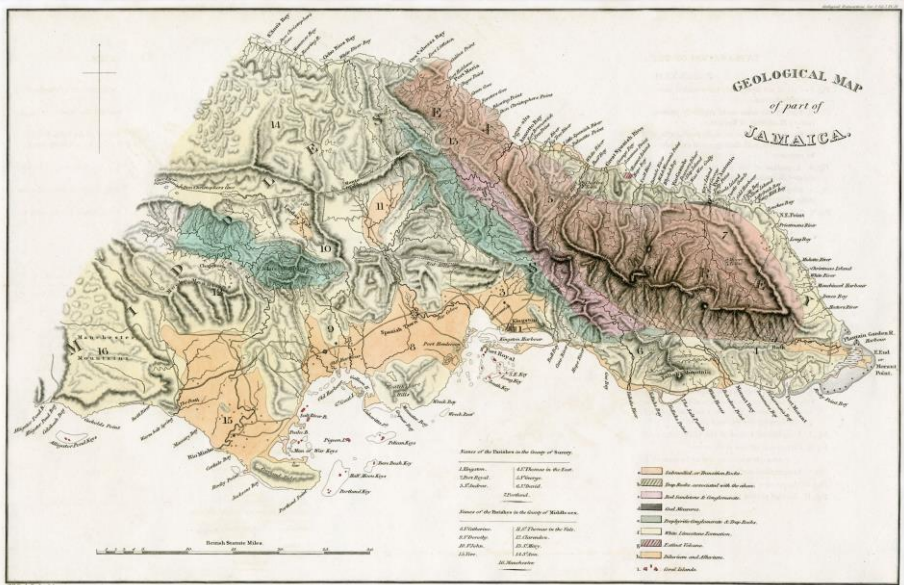


*Henry De la Beche, 1848. Image Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=636713>*

maps on which to plot his geological lines. He noted that prior to the appearance of the OS maps it would have been impossible to produce a half decent geological map of this region, and felt bound to state that “it is scarcely possible to appreciate too highly the assistance which this and the other parts of that splendid survey of England are calculated to afford to the geologist”.

#### **First official Geological Survey one-inch map**

From 1830–31 De la Beche took it upon himself to geologically survey a complete Ordnance one-inch map: old series sheet 22, covering SE Devon and part of Dorset. His choice of area was based on the fact that he was then living at Lyme Regis. He was probably the first person to geologically survey a complete OS topographical map. He claims that



Geological map of part of Jamaica, 1827. Image courtesy of David Bate

he did this purely for his own recreation, and obviously at his own expense. However, it seems quite likely that he was already aware that his financial situation was about to become very precarious on account of the worsening situation in the West Indies. Thus in 1832, immediately after completing this map, he approached the Board of Ordnance with a proposal to add geological lines and colours to the eight one-inch maps of Devonshire for the modest sum of £300 over three years. He made it clear that the cost to himself of conducting this survey would greatly exceed the sum that he was asking. He provided a cost benefit analysis demonstrating the profit that would accrue to the Board from the sale of the completed geological maps. The offer was accepted, and the eight one-inch geological sheets were delivered for engraving over the next three years.

One of the conditions of acceptance laid down by Frederick Colby, the Director and Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, was that De la Beche should agree a scheme of colours with the Geological Society of London. Colby of course was very much in favour of adding geological information to the OS maps and was himself a fellow of the Geological Society. Colours at that time were chosen to match the colours of the rocks themselves.

### Formal establishment of Ordnance Geological Survey, 1835

In May 1835, on completion of the work, De la Beche suggested to the Board that they might wish to fund him to extend the geological survey into Cornwall and beyond. Their acceptance of this further proposal led to the formal establishment of the Ordnance Geological Survey on 11 July 1835 as a department within the

Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey. Under the Ordnance Survey officers of the Geological Survey were required to wear an official uniform consisting of a tightly buttoned dark blue serge frock-coat, white trousers and a top hat. The official uniform was considered inconvenient for scrambling about in rough country, but on the other hand, such officers were less likely to be challenged by suspicious farmers. After 1845 the Survey was transferred from the Board of Ordnance to the Office of Woods & Forests, so the uniform was dispensed with.

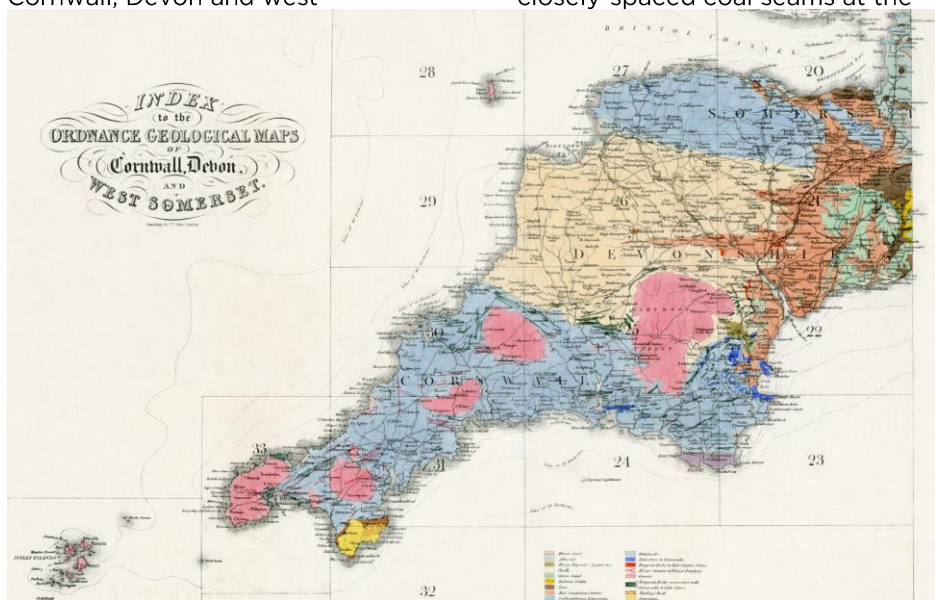
### Report on the geology of Cornwall, Devon and west Somerset, 1839

De la Beche completed the mapping of southwest England in 1837 and then moved into the South Wales Coalfield. In 1839 he published a fairly substantial volume on the Geology of Cornwall, Devon and west

Somerset, to accompany the one-inch geological maps. This was effectively the first Geological Survey 'memoir', as they later came to be called. These early maps had no geological marginalia or any kind of additional explanation engraved on them. The Index of colours and symbols had to be acquired separately. The Ordnance at the Tower of London simply added the geological boundaries as fine pecked lines on the original topographical copper plates. The hand-colouring of the maps was a separate operation.

### Limitations imposed by base maps

When De la Beche entered the South Wales Coalfield he lamented that fact that he didn't have six-inch maps to work with. Of course, Ireland was then being mapped by the Ordnance Survey at the six-inch scale. De la Beche's problem was that he found it difficult to delineate individual closely-spaced coal seams at the



De la Beche's map of SW England, 1837. Image courtesy of David Bate

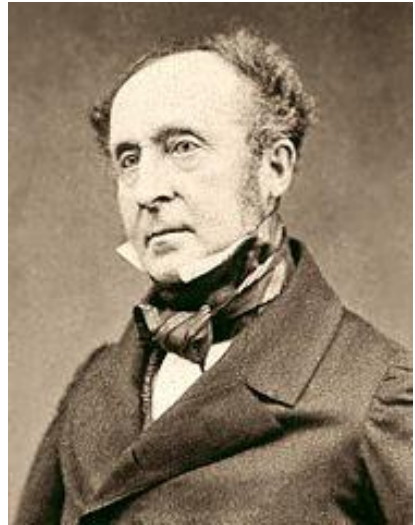
one-inch scale. Another problem with these early one-inch maps was that they didn't carry contours, only vertical hachures. Surveyed contours are essential for accurate geological mapping because they allow the geologist to extrapolate the bedrock geology in areas where the exposure is poor or partly concealed by superficial deposits, provided the direction and amount of dip of the geological stratum being mapped is known.

### **Introduction of new colour scheme and symbols, 1856**

De la Beche died in 1855 and was succeeded by Roderick Impey Murchison, one of the Survey's most distinguished leaders. One of his first tasks in office was to revise the scheme of colours and to add symbols to each formation. The explanation that Murchison gave was as follows: "With the extension of the survey into districts occupied by very numerous and different rocks, it has been found necessary to simplify the colouring of the general map of the United Kingdom, so as to convey to the mind through the colours employed a clear idea of the class or group to which each formation belongs. Thus, all rocks of igneous origin are now represented in various tints of the same bright red colour, and each great division [System] of the sedimentary rocks has its own peculiar colour, no tint of which will ever be used for strata of a different age. This arrangement will shortly be rendered still more effective, by imprinting a letter upon each subdivision, thus avoiding all ambiguity, even should the colours fade away."

### **Mapping at large scale**

The topographical mapping of Scotland by the Ordnance was



*Roderick Murchison, 1850s. Image Public Domain  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roderick\\_Murchison.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roderick_Murchison.jpg)*

commenced in 1846 at the six-inch scale following its introduction in northern England (Lancashire) in 1842. Geological mapping in Scotland was started (as a separate undertaking in parallel with the England and Wales survey) in 1854 and was carried out on the six-inch scale for publication at one inch to the mile. Thereafter all geological mapping was undertaken at the larger scale as such maps became available. In general, the BGS does not formally publish maps at the larger scale, but there have been exceptions in the past, notably for coalfield areas. There was a beautiful series of colour-printed six-inch County Series maps of London issued in the 1930s, which included details of many borehole and well sections on the face of the map, as well as highlighting the courses of London's so-called lost rivers, which are still there, but often hidden.

## **Amalgamation of GSGB and OGS**

In 1965 the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Directorate of Overseas Geological Surveys were brought together to form the Institute of Geological Sciences under the newly formed Natural Environment Research Council. The OGS had been set up in 1947, and incorporated the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute which had been around since about 1894. The OGS brought with it many new or enhanced disciplines, particularly in aerial-photographic interpretation and regional geophysics and geochemistry.

From 1965 there was a great expansion in overseas activity, focused initially on large-scale regional mapping and mineral assessment projects across Central and South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Most of these projects also involved institutional strengthening and capacity building in the host country. Since 1965 BGS has worked in over 160 countries around the world.

## **Geological maps from air photographs**

In about 1949 a Photogeology Section was established by OGS with the cooperation of the Directorate of Colonial Topographic Surveys. A short article in 1951, by K. V. Stringer of the Photogeology Section, seems to have been the first published demonstration by OGS of the application of air photographs in geological interpretation. The technique was widely used for making photogeological maps of large remote areas in arid and semi-arid terrains in Africa and the Middle East, invariably supported by a field campaign of ground truthing.

## **Mapping Conan Doyle's Lost Word, 1976–86**

One of the most ambitious mapping projects undertaken by BGS was carried out from 1976 to 1986 in northeastern Bolivia over an area of almost a quarter of a million square kilometres of the Amazon. The terrain varied from remote and almost inaccessible jungle and swamp to mixed grassland, scrubland and deciduous forest. It included the plateau of Serranía Huanchaca on the border with Brazil, rising from lowland jungle and surrounded by precipitous cliffs, better known as the inspiration for Conan Doyle's novel, *The Lost World*. In this remote region BGS geologists, together with their Bolivian counterparts, first had to make their own topographic maps, which included naming features such as rivers, ridges and waterfalls for the first time. Conan Doyle's description of living dinosaurs and precious diamonds guarded by swooping pterodactyls turned out to be a myth! The plateau was effectively uninhabited and could only be accessed by helicopter. There were, however, encounters with hornets, sweat bees, anacondas, alligators, pirañas, sting rays, and the occasional jaguar.

## **Digital cartography and data capture**

Before 1894 all maps issued by the Geological Survey were available either uncoloured or hand coloured at extra cost. Water-colouring made the maps very expensive to purchase, but in 1894 the Survey issued its first colour-printed map, using chromolithography. This was an important step which made geological maps more affordable. The second great cartographical leap was in the electronic

production and delivery of geological mapping data.

Experiments on what was then called automated cartography began in the early 1970s and the first geological map to be published using digital production methods was the one-inch to the mile Abingdon sheet, issued in 1971. In regard to field data capture for geological mapping, the traditional paper field slip and black leather mapping case beloved of some older geologists, has now been superseded by a tablet PC which is able to present the mapped area with remote sensing, geophysical and sample point data overlaid onto it. Of course, this clever tablet requires specially written software and infrastructure to support it, whereas the old paper field slip required only a pencil and a rubber.

Today, it is now possible for anyone to freely access a seamless geological map of most of the UK at a scale of up to 1:50 000 via a smartphone app called iGeology. Currently iGeology doesn't operate on all smartphones, but attempts are being made to overcome this problem.

An ongoing initiative that originated with the BGS in March 2007, under the principal leadership of Ian Jackson, aims at encouraging geological surveys around the world to collaborate to create a global inter-operable geological map dataset called OneGeology. It is a mission fraught with difficulty, but currently the OneGeology portal contains over 480 datasets provided by 190 organisations from 121 countries.

*David G Bate, Honorary Research Associate, BGS*

## **Advocating for our map collections**

*The following questions were asked as part of our annual workshop. The answers are compiled from those given by a range of map curators, archivists and librarians from across the cultural heritage sector. Feel free to use any of them to advocate for your own collection!*

### **Why are your map collections important?**

- Maps allow people to visualise social, political and environmental change
- Maps provide evidence of activity (by nations, governments, corporations)
- What is a 'special' collection? Special isn't just because they are rare or unique but because they are relevant to your community, but not only local maps – so researchers don't have to travel a long way, ie to BL to access maps
- The map collection may be of local importance rather than 'special' things – where that is locally valued then important

### **What do maps offer that other collection items don't?**

- Maps show an overview of geography in the past and the present day. They (especially thematic maps) graphically represent data sets in a way no other object does
- Maps are an effective managerial tool (this included examples as diverse as military strategy and attempts to make public transport access more equitable)
- Maps express the relationship between society and the landscape, in what is

included, what is left out, how things are represented (and research on maps as social constructs is well established)

- Maps also have an artistic dimension, a visual appeal, and are a source of inspiration to artists, graphic designers etc.
- Show data in a way that helps decision making
- Visualise places through time
- Give specific spatial information
- Artistic dimension – enjoyment, design, graphicacy
- Graphicacy versus text – provide a different kind of access to information
- Broaden your mind and make you want to travel/understand other places
- People like them!

### **Are your map collections valued beyond your team?**

- Physical map gets attention
- Visual appeal – valued by marketing, communications and outreach teams
- Some people were able to give a resounding yes to this, as recent successful map-focused exhibitions (and accompanying publications and merchandise) at the Bodleian have been enormously popular with the general public. Similarly, the NLS maps website is very highly regarded and heavily used
- Having the ability to showcase a map in a public area of the building is very beneficial

There were several caveats however:

- Is access to the physical collection valued as well as the high traffic to the website?
- Do front-of-house staff know how to refer people who want to access the physical collection?
- And where collections are sited away from the rest of an organisation (for reasons of space) will they be forgotten or overlooked?

### **Who knows about your map collection?**

- Researchers willing to travel!
- Libraries and Archives in general suffer if not in an easy-to-access location
- Need to appeal to the ‘right’ audience... Who ‘needs’ to know?
- There is a perception that collections in major institutions and capital cities get more attention (people sometimes assume that the NLW is in Cardiff)
- Often libraries don’t have the staff to promote collections as actively as they would like
- Indiscriminate advertising may generate random enquiries that take up staff time and don’t particularly help the enquirer
- It is important that people who would benefit from using a particular collection know that it’s there

### **Why does your institution need maps?**

- Because it’s part of our remit
- Legal reasons/requirement
- To help provide services
- Facilitate commercial development and planning
- Wellbeing

- Public service
- To facilitate decision making

### **What value does a map curator and/or GIS specialist bring to the Collection?**

- They answer difficult spatial questions and can build a tool, or custom answers
- They can show how to navigate the collections/troubleshooting
- Keep collection and information up to date and relevant
- In-depth knowledge of the collection
- Promoting collections to users – increasing access
- Save time and money!

*Compiled by Paula Williams*

### **2022: A Special Year for Defence Geography**

In a year of many significant anniversaries, HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee notwithstanding, Defence Geography has its own. 2022 marks 60 years of Defence Geography at Feltham, Middlesex.

Feltham has had a defence presence since 1886 as an ancillary depot to the Cavalry Barracks at Hounslow, a Royal Army Ordnance Corps depot, a Royal Army Service Corps depot, a Royal Flying Corps Air Acceptance Park, and from 1962 home to HQ Directorate of Military Survey (D Mil Svy).

Established in 1943 under the direction of Brigadier Martin Hotine, D Mil Svy provided all geographical map and survey support to HM Armed Forces throughout World War II and by 1953 two Survey Production Centres (SPC) under the Corps of Royal Engineers (RE) were well

established at Bushy Park (SPC RE No. 1) and Park Royal (SPC RE No.2 AIR) whilst the directorate HQ and the map library was located at Tolworth in Surrey.

By 1962 the HQ and the two SPC RE had relocated to Feltham, the SPCs merging into a single organisation whilst the map library remained at Tolworth. At Feltham the organisation evolved over the following years. SPC RE was renamed the Mapping and Charting Establishment RE (MCE RE) in 1970 until reorganisation of D Mil Svy in 1991, as the Military Survey Defence Agency (MSDA). At this time MCE RE was absorbed into MSDA as Geographic Services Division and later Geographic Production Division. In 2000 the MSDA was reorganised again becoming the Defence Geographic and Imagery-Intelligence Agency (DGIA). What was once MCE RE re-emerging as a discreet unit – the Defence Geographic Centre (DGC). The DGC endures to this day whilst the higher headquarters has reorganised a further three times to become the National Centre for Geospatial Intelligence (NCGI) in 2020.

The MOD Map Library eventually relocated from Tolworth to Feltham in 2003 into a purpose-built facility named for Maj. Gen. Malcolm Neynoe MacLeod CB DSO MC. The library continues to hold a global collection of maps, charts, atlases and geographical information in paper and digital form.

In this anniversary year the DGC reflects on its central role in supporting HM Armed Forces and the UK's allies in major military and humanitarian operations over the past 60 years, Northern Ireland, the South Atlantic, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia,

Kuwait, Iraq, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan to name but a few.

It is MOD intent to close MOD Feltham and move the DGC to RAF Wyton, co-locating with HQ NCGI and its subordinate units. When the re-location is complete a history of over 136 years will come to an end for MOD Feltham and a new chapter will open for Defence Geography at Wyton.

*Colin Wright, Head MOD Map Library*

### ***Jolly by name, Jolly by nature: an appreciation of Peter Jolly***

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and unexpected passing of Peter Jolly, a much-loved volunteer in the Bodleian Map Room since November 2013.

Peter came to us with a seriously impressive cartographic pedigree. He spent most of his career as an RAF navigator, but civilian life saw him blossom in his role as Cartographic Consultant at ESRI UK Ltd. During this time Pete served as BCS President, and also became the first non-American President of the International Map Traders' Association. Such roles reflected Pete's networking prowess, and over the years we at the Bodleian came to benefit from his bonhomie, as he advocated for the map collection internationally, continually extolling the virtues of the Library to anybody who would listen. When he wasn't 'working the room', he was always coming up with ideas to promote the Bodleian, and regularly drafted short articles about our collections which appeared in the cartographic press, most notably in *Maplines*.

Prior to his retirement, Oxford-based Pete had been closely

connected to the Library. He persuaded ESRI to sponsor The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA), and we were also able to call on his expertise when he sat as the external member of the interview panel which appointed our first Digital Map Curator back in 2011.

The move to becoming a volunteer seemed like an obvious career path to Pete. We simply had to identify the correct projects for him to work on. He began by collaborating with Markus Oehrli from the Zentralbibliothek Zürich working on a major article, tracking down rare German-published Second World War maps of Switzerland, many of which are held here in the Bodleian.

Moving on, Pete was then unleashed on a unique collection of eighty boxes of fragile glass negatives which had been donated to us by the Defence Geographic Centre in the 1990s. Each negative, and there were at least twenty in each box, featured a map. Pete's job was to compile a complete listing, and this has subsequently proven invaluable to colleagues working in the field.

Pete was also a willing and engaging 'front-of-house' performer. In those long ago pre-pandemic days, he was a stalwart of our daily tapestry map talks in Blackwell Hall. What most readers will not appreciate (but not find surprising) is how competitive this became when Pete was around. We would count how many people we spoke to for each daily half-hour slot, but rumours abounded that Pete could be found outside on Broad Street soliciting extra punters to boost his daily totals. He never denied this!

He was also a huge asset during our 'Talking Maps' exhibition, and regularly gave lunchtime talks – we held off-the-cuff half hour sessions three times a week for the nine-month entirety of the show, each session largely dependent upon who was in the audience, and tailoring it for their interests.

However, he finally found his niche when we persuaded the BCS to deposit its collection of maps and atlases submitted for the annual awards with us in the Library. It was Pete's job to track down these award submissions and ensure they were delivered to Oxford, before listing, cataloguing, and then housing at the Book Storage Facility at Swindon. This would have been a thankless task for most, but something at which Pete excelled. He knew everybody. He was friends with everybody. And so the collection grew and grew. One of the great ironies is that nobody seemed certain as to when the BCS started running its awards programme. We had suspected some time in the late 1970s, and one of those sad coincidences is that in his final week of working in the office, Pete was finally able to confirm that those first awards were presented in 1978.

2023 is the BCS's 60th anniversary, and plans were already afoot to feature a small selection of this collection as part of the celebrations. He helped organise something similar a few years ago when he was informed that Oxford was hosting a gathering of each nation's national mapping agency's director-generals. In no time at all he convinced them to visit the Bodleian, and we were able to showcase some of the BCS awards submissions at a

wonderful reception in the Library's historic Divinity School and Convocation House.

In many ways Peter was the glue that held the Maps team together. He arranged for lunches in the King's Arms, just across the road from the Library, and instigated the annual celebration of April 7, a day on which he reckoned nothing traditionally is celebrated. We have been offering cartographic celebrations on that date since at least 2009, all at Pete's behest. Whilst Covid recently dominated our lives, as soon as we were permitted, he invited the Maps team round to his house for a socially-distanced al-fresco gathering on a chilly winter's day, which was rather wonderful. As a team, we have met socially via Zoom every week pretty much without fail since March 2020 – our meetings are considerably less jolly now.

We will miss Pete enormously – for his cartographic know-how, his connections throughout the map world, and his 'colourful' fashion sense!

*Nick Millea,  
Bodleian Library*



Pete modelling his infamous map jacket. Photo courtesy of Nick Millea

## Endpiece



*Photo courtesy David Sherren*

### **Map gate spotted in Southsea**

This 'map gate' was recently commissioned by University of Portsmouth Map Librarian and BCS Hon. Secretary, David Sherren. Inspiration for the design came from a pair of gates in the form of simple mazes that can be seen outside the former Southsea home of maze designer Adrian Fisher. While sketching ideas for potential designs for new railings and a gate, David realised that the road network around his house could make a pleasing abstract design. To his surprise, his wife agreed! He provided the metal fabricators with a drawing traced

from the 1950s 1:1250 map and they managed to create an enlarged copy in iron. Now, if he spots any lost pedestrians outside his house he can point to the gate and say "you are here". For cataloguing purposes, the scale of the map gate is approximately 1:350. David would be very interested to hear from anyone who may have come across something similar before.

*David Sherren*

## Not the last Page

### *Dates for your Diary*

*It is hoped that face-to-face meetings will resume soon. At the moment however most events are scheduled online.*

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

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>

### 2022

The *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom have finished for 2021-22. See <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/maps/tosca> for the 2022-23 programme.

The *Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography*. Via Zoom have finished for 2021-22. See <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem> for the 2022-23 programme.

The *Maps and Society Lecture Series*, Warburg Institute have finished for 2021-22. See <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whatson/maps-and-society-lecture-series> for the 2022-23 programme.

14 September 2022. Map Curator's Workshop 'Finding maps'. Online via Zoom. Details TBC.

28 November-2 December 2022. 'Describing maps: a basic map cataloguing workshop'. Details TBC.

### *lis-maps*

lis-maps is a forum for discussing news, ideas, issues, policies and practices related to map & spatial data librarianship. Topics can be broad ranging including: acquisition; cataloguing; use; information retrieval; management of metadata; relationship to GIS & 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](mailto:jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk)

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