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ISSUE 104

Cartographiti

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAP CURATORS GROUP

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Figure 1 (see page 17) Liverpool Oratorio set
Image courtesy Philip Gresham/Cincinnati Opera

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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>

Conveners' Corner



Debbie Hall & Martin Davis. Photo courtesy of Judith Fox

The sharp-eyed and pedantic among you will have noticed immediately that the apostrophe in “Conveners’ Corner” has moved. The main news from the Map Curators’ Group is that the previous convener, Paula Williams, has stepped down after six years’ excellent work in the role. She will be greatly missed, but remains a member of the group. Martin Davis and Debbie Hall, both of the Bodleian Library Map Room, have now taken over and will be sharing the role, hence the move of the apostrophe. The Bodleian Map

Room has well-established links with the BCS and is the repository of the BCS Awards map collection, holding copies of many of the maps submitted for awards over the past 20 years.

So far there is little to report but we are making plans for next year. These include a map cataloguing training morning, to be followed by a workshop, in June next year. We are also hoping to participate in the main BCS conference in September 2025, which will be at British Geological Survey in Keyworth.

Debbie Hall and Martin Davis

Editorial Effusion

I’m sure I speak for everyone when I welcome Debbie and Martin as our new joint conveners. Paula will be a hard act to follow, but I am confident that they will be full of ideas to take to group forward. I have got to know them both since I started volunteering in the Bodleian Map Room and I know we are in safe hands!

I would like to thank those who have sent me contributions for this issue. The cancellation of the MCG Workshop meant that there were no papers to fill up the

Forum section, but fortunately, enough has been received to make for (I hope) an interesting read. I would remind everyone again that *Cartographiti* can only survive if you continue to send me contributions, so please don't be shy! I'm waiting with bated breath ...

Judith Fox

Around the Libraries

National Library of Scotland

Mills of Britain web resource

This new web resource presents the locations and details of over 15,000 mill sites mapped in 18th–19th century Britain. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, this project has been undertaken collaboratively by researchers in the University of Glasgow and University of Wollongong. It is possible to browse and filter the mill records by survey date, map symbology and mill type, as well as their distances from rivers. The mill locations have been carefully compiled from a wide range of sources, including county maps and the Roy Military Survey of Scotland. There is also detailed information on the background to the project and, the survey methodology, as well as sections on accuracy and georeferencing. The new Mills of Britain web resource complements the [Scottish Water Mills website](#), launched in 2021, but gathers information from earlier map sources, and covers England and Wales, as well as Scotland.

Second Land Utilisation Survey field sheets

The Second Land Utilisation Survey in the 1960s was directed by Professor Alice Coleman (1923–2023) and built on the experience of the First Land Utilisation Survey in the 1930s, directed by L. Dudley Stamp. The survey work was largely undertaken by volunteers using OS six-inch mapping as a base, and completed for all of England and Wales (and around one third of Scotland). However, only 110 sheets were published at 1:25,000 scale, so covering only around 15% of the country. Following Alice Coleman's death in 2023, her executors have been keen for the original field sheets to be properly archived and made available more widely. The Office of National Statistics are currently in the process of scanning them (about 6,000 sheets). The plan is for NLS to then georeference these maps and make them all available at [maps.nls.uk](#). The original field sheets will be deposited in an appropriate archive.

Chris Fleet, NLS

Cambridge University Library

Outreach

Recent visits include:

- Three groups from the Department of Architecture: MArch MPhil; MSt Building History; Architectural Apprentices
- Cambridge University Southeast Asian Society – maps of Singapore
- Group studying for MSt International Relations
- Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, Virginia. Students engaged in an Intelligence-based programme

Anne Taylor, CUL

Bodleian Library, Oxford

Staff

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

We welcomed Leah Brown as Tessa Rose's replacement. Leah was previously a graduate trainee librarian working in the English Faculty Library and joined the Map Room team on 20 August.

Publications

Hall, D. (2024) *Adventures in maps*. Oxford: Bodleian Library Publishing.

Outreach

Recent in-person presentations have been delivered by maps staff to the Association of Oxford University Pensioners, Belonging sessions for Oxford primary schools, Bodleian Library Visitor Guides, Bodleian Special Collections coffee morning talk, British Cartographic Society Restless Earth, Charlbury Beer and Wine Circle, Cold War mapping working group – Danish Royal Library, Continuing Education Medieval Art students, Danish Royal Library Special Collections curators, Florence Park Community Centre, Goring Gap Local History Society (two separate events), Kris Butler's *Drink maps in Victorian Britain* book launch, Longworth and District History Society, Oxford Prospects Programme, The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA), Widening Histories students – Queen Mary University of London, Witney Radio, and Wychwood School.

In addition, Martin Davis led a number of teaching sessions within the University.

Nick Millea, Bodleian

British Library

Cyber incident

The Library continues to recover from the cyber incident of October 2023. For the latest on the reintroduction of services including non-print legal deposit material please see [Cyber Incident Update: Information & FAQ's - The British Library](#) and [Restoring our services – 30 August 2024 update - Knowledge Matters blog](#).

Staff

Gethin Rees, Curator of Digital Mapping, left the Library in July.

Following the departure of the Library's CEO, Sir Roly Keating, in December, Rebecca Lawrence has been appointed as his replacement from January 2025.

Publications

Tom Harper, 'Public Map Exhibitions: What Goes in and What Comes out' in Tania Rossetto and Laura Lo Presti (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Cartographic Humanities* (London: Routledge, 2024).

Outreach

Map curators are working on the Library's major exhibition of Autumn 2025, *Secret Maps* (working title). The exhibition and accompanying book will examine the ways

maps have revealed and concealed spatial information in different ways and contexts over the past six centuries.

Tom Harper, BL

The National Archives

Outreach

Map exhibition wall proposed: a multi-sensory Irish map spotlight is planned next year outside the main exhibition space, by the main staircase to the reading rooms. The proposal aims to draw upon recent published conservation science analysis, to showcase pigment charts and multispectral images under different instruments. The idea of a tactile version of the map is also being explored by our Education Department, who are co-leading with Rose and our conservation engagement colleague.

Publications

Mitchell, R. and Janes, A. *Maps their Untold Stories*. The second revised edition is now with Bloomsbury in the production process, due out 2025 in softback format. A new chapter amplifies the focus of the buildings theme found in town plans, to showcase little-known manuscript and rare engraved plans. These include a Tudor community centre, pop-up shop in Greenwich market, a palatial poor house in Malta, and Dutch Expressionist married police quarters. There's also the story behind the British embassy in Washington, revealed by Edwin Lutyens' contract roll and the snagging list penned by the first ambassador's wife.

Retirement

After 30 years working with the amazing maps at The National Archives and with the second expanded edition of *Maps: their Untold Stories* due out later in 2025, Rose has decided to retire in April 2025.

Rose Mitchell, NA

University of Manchester

Research

Research IT at University of Manchester has a new group which now includes representation of our map collections: GISMAO (GIS, Maps and Earth Observation). The group forms part of the larger Computation and Data in Research group aimed at fostering interdisciplinary research.

Outreach and teaching

- American Studies: Mapping North America
- School of Digital Arts (Manchester Metropolitan University): Mapping Manchester
- English: Global perspectives on the Renaissance
- American Studies: Harlem and the state of urban America
- Architecture: Research skills (using colonial archives)
- Architecture: Research skills (mapping temporary architectures)
- Humanitarian & Conflict Response Institute: GIS & Disasters

Donna Sherman, University of Manchester

Royal Geographical Society

Outreach

The Map Collections of the Royal Geographical Society have been utilised by numerous student groups, individual researchers and events, including several of our Monday Night Lectures. We also have supported a variety of projects in the past few months, including:

- The publication of our book *Everest 2024*, which includes a chapter on the mapping of Everest.
- The installation of *Expanding Universe* in the Map Room, by Hormazd Narielwalla, which uses features from maps in our Collections in its design.
- The exhibition of ceramic globes, gores, and plates by Loraine Rutt, a partnership that resulted in the acquisition of an original piece of artwork inspired by the Collections.
- The re-hang of the Map Room and Main Hall to tell a wider variety of stories with our Collections on display in our fine rooms. The Map Room is themed around the 'past, present, and future of mapping'.
- The co-organisation of 'Map Conversations' at this years Annual International Conference, which featured fourteen experts discussing seven themes via the selection of 3-8 map objects each. The interactive sessions brought hundreds into the reading room over the course of the seven sessions. The panels and their outcomes will be the subject of a special set of articles featured in *Area*.

Katherine Parker, RGS

National Library of Wales

Carto-Cymru: The Wales Symposium 2025 - The Art of Maps

Carto-Cymru will take place at the National Library of Wales on 16 May and also online. The event will be free this year as we are not providing lunch. Further details to follow on [lis-maps](https://lis-maps.org).

Digitisation projects

Ellie has been busy preparing batches of OS 25-inch maps to go for digitisation. So far Anglesey, Breconshire, Caernarfonshire, Cardiganshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Merionethshire have been completed and Carmarthenshire is currently being scanned. In addition, our group of volunteers are continuing to list our 25-inch maps of Wales in detail and have nearly finished the project. This feeds into the work preparing for the scanning of the maps.

Outreach

I am currently working to complete a carto-bibliography of Pembrokeshire for the *Pembrokeshire Historical Society Journal*. I have also been asked to help write a section on the mapping of Breconshire for the county history.

Huw Thomas, NLW

MCG News

Map Curators' Group Business Meeting

The next Business Meeting will be held online on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 2pm. If you would like to join the business meeting, or have any other business we should discuss, please respond by email before Friday 7 February so we can share papers and the meeting link.

Debbie Hall and Martin Davis

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*.

Description, cataloguing and subject headings – Meeting Notes from 19 September 2024

We looked at samples of catalogue records for potentially contentious collection items (included below). They are reflective of current practice in bibliographic rather than archival description.

We agreed that a potentially distressing digital map image suddenly appearing on screen is more likely to cause distress to a reader than a hard copy item that has to be individually ordered via the given catalogue record. A clear description of the content of the item (in the record) can mitigate the need for a warning. If possible two-way links between the image on a website and the full catalogue record are desirable to give more information.

Good quality metadata is crucial. We should try to describe what is shown on the map in as neutral and factual a way as possible, to provide information without commenting on the content. Full use of the notes fields is advised.

Examples of notes from catalogue descriptions:

- “Includes table of population divided on racial grounds with figures on map showing numbers of enslaved people.”
- “Hand coloured to show degrees of civilization, ranging from 'Savage' to 'Enlightened.'”
- “Viewer discretion advised”.

This latter phrase, used in a blog post rather than a catalogue record, was felt to be useful in at once giving a warning but also enabling reader choice.

The use of quotation marks to show that the wording is derived directly from the item is a useful way to show item content and may flag up that there is potential contentious or distressing material on the map, if readers understand this use of the punctuation.

Avoid terminologies or phrases which are othering.

Refusing to offer material because it is potentially distressing is censorship and not acceptable to the group. Readers should be given enough information to self-select and make informed choices about what they see.

The members of the group were all from libraries on this occasion so discussion around the inclusivity, or otherwise, of the subject headings we use concentrated on *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (LCSH), and the simplified version for web use, *Faceted Application of Subject Terminology* (FAST), both of which are widely used for interoperability across the Library sector.

Maps give access to a particular place so many maps will only be categorised by their geographic content, often using LCSH geographic name headings. The *Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names* (TGN) is a commonly used alternative.

Is it inclusive to use a United States of America government sponsored set of headings? Particularly around their designated geographic names?

Now maps in our collections are used by researchers from a wide range of subjects and less by geographers. Thematic searching is important but not all catalogues facilitate this. And again, the issue of which heading thesaurus to use was raised.

Can we add thematic headings or fuller, more useful notes to a record retrospectively? Digitisation projects are an opportunity to see a large number of collection items and identify contentious material to improve the record before it goes online. Realistically time pressure may make it difficult to improve catalogue records retrospectively as much as we would like.

Extracts from sample catalogue records:

Title: [Clark's chart of the world](#), : exhibiting the prevailing religion, the form of government, state of civilization, & the population of each country. Together with the various missionary stations.

Contributors: [Souter, John, active 1814-1847, publisher.](#) [Galt, John, 1779-1839, cartographer.](#) [Tyrer, J. \(James\), engraver.](#)

Publisher: London : J. Souter, 73 St. Pauls Church Yard

Publication Date: Published Sep. 9th 1822

General Note: Hand coloured to show degrees of civilization, ranging from 'Savage' to 'Enlightened.'

General Note: Symbols indicate forms of government and main religion of different areas; latter includes only subdivisions of Christianity, 'Mahomedan' and 'Pagan'.

General Note: Table at bottom of map gives approximate Christian population for different countries, religions of Europe, and information on missionary stations.

General Note: John Galt produced religious and educational works for John Souter under the pseudonym Rev. T. Clark.

Title: [Plan of the Island of St. Croix](#)

Creator: [P.L. Oxholm.](#)

Publisher: London : Rd. Holmes Laurie

Date: 1824

Description:

Includes table of cultivation showing sugar, rum and cotton production

Includes table of population divided on racial grounds with figures on map showing numbers of enslaved people.

Showing areas of woodland and safe anchorage.

Title: [Territory of New-Guinea](#) administered by the commonwealth under mandate from League of Nations and Papua, a territory of the commonwealth of Australia

Creator: [Australia. Department of Lands and Survey.](#)

Publisher: Melbourne

Date: 1923

Description:

Drawn by Home & Territories dept.

Note at top right corner: Map No. 1.

Showing area in which 'native' population were counted or estimated & under government control. Includes statistics indicating size of 'native' population. Showing government posts.

Title: [Plan of the Isle of Trinidad](#), from actual surveys made in the year 1797

Publisher: London : Robert Laurie & James Whittle

Date: 1809

Description:

Includes note on population of Trinidad and regional areas.

'Native' [Indian] villages and footpaths distinguished from colonial infrastructure.

Showing roads, mountains, rivers, missions.

Title: [Field plan of movements of the military](#)

Author: Frankland, George, 1800-1838, surveyor

Access Conditions: This item contains words and pictures, and descriptions that may be considered offensive or distressing.

Description: [London] : [House of Commons], [1831]

Notes:

Map of south eastern Tasmania showing the progress of the 'Black line', Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur's attempt to corral the Tasmanian Aborigine population into

the Tasman Peninsula. Map shows towns, huts, historical notes, terrain notes, rivers, creeks, mountains and islands. Relief shown by hachures and spot heights. Depths shown by soundings.

Area: From Launceston to Cape Pillar, from Lake Echo to Schoutens Island.

In upper margin: Military operations against the aboriginal inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land.

Originally published as an attachment no. 9 to: Military operations against the aboriginal inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land.

Includes reference of military positions, names of commanding officers and dates, 7th Oct - 25th Nov 1830.

First Nations (AIATSIS) Subject:

Race relations - Violent

History - Frontier conflict - Tasmania

Subject (LCSH):

Special operations (Military science) -- Tasmania, Southeastern -- Maps

Aboriginal Tasmanians, Treatment of -- Tasmania, Southeastern -- Maps

Tasmania, Southeastern -- Maps

Paula Williams

Addendum

The US Geoscience Librarianship 101 meeting, held online on 22-23 October 2024, included a talk on *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility in a Geoscience Library* by Alma Parada (Branner Earth Sciences Library & Map Collections, Stanford) and was recorded. It has not yet been posted but see [lis-maps](#) for further information when available.

Forum

Churchill's secret chart makers – an exhibition

To mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and to tell some of the stories behind the production of over 35 million charts and publications by the Hydrographic Department during World War 2, I decided to hold an exhibition on this theme.

The venue I chose was Taunton library, which has an excellent space for exhibitions situated next to a small cafe near to the entrance of the building. There were a number of library staff who, in one way or another, helped promote the exhibition or assisted with numerous requests during the time it was opened from the 12 to the 24 of August 2024.

I would particularly like to thank the head of Taunton library, Alison Ewan, and her team, especially Grayham Puttock for being so helpful.

My thanks also go to the British Association for Local History and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society for kindly funding the costs of this exhibition.



Engraving tools. Photo courtesy Adrian Webb.

Preparing the exhibition took almost five months. Rather than reproducing the much-exhibited D-Day charts, that have been on display so many times before, I decided to focus on the people and the stories behind particular charts. I set about putting together a series of 32 panels about the staff and places from where the Department operated.

In addition to the panels, the library was able to provide 10 display units plus an abundance of tables. This allowed for the five chart-maps, which were produced specifically for D-Day, to be placed on display alongside the contents of a coastal view book, a unique apprentice piece started by a copper plate engraver in 1944 plus a few other interesting charts. The cabinets were able to house a scale model of the purpose-built chart making factory that was opened in 1941 in order for the Admiralty to be able to massively increase its chart production capacity. This model was made by Ian Coleby using a 3D printer and a great deal of patience. Other items in the cases included a brick with camouflage markings on it that was sold by the UKHO after the purpose built chart making factory was demolished in 2019, two original coastal view books of Normandy that were kindly lent from a private collection, a number of copper plate engraving tools, a series of medals awarded to a member of the Department from Somerset who served on HMS White Bear, an original printing of the English Channel Handbook produced in 1943 with information on all of the small ports and harbours along the Normandy coast and a number of World War 2 era drawing instruments that were kindly loaned by Mrs Rose Birley. Rose very kindly helped me put the exhibition together, proofread all of the panels and provided many good ideas that undoubtedly led to the exhibition being a success.

The exhibition was kindly opened by the mayor of Taunton, Councillor Vanessa Garside. Over the following two weeks we were absolutely amazed at the massive amount of interest shown as many people came forward with stories about



Brick and photograph of the chart-making factory. Photo courtesy Adrian Webb.

their parents or grandparents who had worked in the Department during the war, much of which was new to me and was incredibly interesting. Some people brought in photographs and one lady in her 90s was able to give me a first-hand account of her father's work on the run up to D-Day.

Over the space of just 12 days, we received an amazing number of just over 700 visitors. This included over 50 people who attended a special evening for families of those people who worked in the Department during the war. This special event was attended by three deputy lieutenants of the county of Somerset. Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff was the King's representative on that particular evening. There were also representatives of the Edgell family whose grandfather, Sir John Edgell, was Hydrographer of the Navy during World War 2. Sir John undoubtedly steered the Department throughout those difficult times with great calmness, foresight and understanding. A great number of former colleagues also attended this special event and helped out in some way over the two weeks, including Rose and Nigel Birley, Anne Kearle, Janice Banyard, Angie and Ian Coleby, Kevin Sydenham and John Bird, without whom I could not have undertaken what turned out to be a much bigger exercise than I initially envisaged.

Adrian Webb



Exhibition panels. Photo courtesy Adrian Webb.



Table display. Photo courtesy Adrian Webb.

Maps are too exciting!

This hybrid symposium held at the Weston Library, was a Sunderland Collection Symposium in association with ARCHiOx (Analysis and Recording of Cultural Heritage in Oxford) and Bodleian Libraries. Pioneering digital technologies are being used by ARCHiOx at the University of Oxford to examine documents and artefacts in the Bodleian collections, and new data generated has led to new research and new discoveries.

The seminar was intended to highlight the impact of new digital technologies on the world of maps. It consisted of eight papers, delivered in-person and online and discussions around the topics raised in each. The morning was on the theme of 'The art of cartography and new evidence' and focused on the digital technologies developed by [Factum Arte](#) and how they have been used to examine such items as the Gough Map and al-Idrisi's world map at the Bodleian, and a ship's globe at the Centraal Museum, Utrecht.

This was followed by a presentation by the designer and philosopher Bruce Mau on 'Nesting Globes: visualising the current global situation'. The afternoon session was on 'Mapping in a digital world' and consisted of three papers covering varied topics, from using AI to explore map content; creating interactive, immersive experiences using maps to explore archives; and finishing with a discussion of the increasing presence of maps and map-like images and data on mobile phones.

The day was recorded and the recordings of the sessions can be found at <https://oculimundi.com/maps-are-too-exciting-digital-innovations-in-mapping> – worth a look if you missed it!

Judith Fox

PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography

More than 400 maps have recently been added to the [PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography](#) at Cornell University. This is a collection of maps whose primary intent or effect is to influence opinions or beliefs – to send a message – rather than to communicate geographic information. There are now more than 1,200 maps in the online collection, in some 29 languages, dating from 1491 to the present. Maps in the collection address a wide range of messages: religious, political, military, commercial, moral and social. A variety of persuasive techniques are used, including allegorical, satirical and pictorial mapping; selective exclusion; unusual use of projections, colour, graphics and text; and intentional deception. The website includes detailed research notes on each of the maps, along with a variety of background information on persuasive mapping and links to video presentations. In recent years, maps from the collection have been used in some 180 books, scholarly papers and PhD and Master's degree theses. While many of these works have been 'about' maps, most have been about other subjects, including women's suffrage; racial, religious and ethnic discrimination; colonialism; art; theatre; literature; social sciences; various wars; the environment; and history (medieval, American, Western and Eastern European, Chinese, Latin American, African, etc).

PJ Mode



And we want France to disarm! 1932. Image courtesy Cornell University – PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography.

Adventures in the twittersphere

In the summer of 2012, we in the Map Department at the Bodleian began to realise that our maps weren't getting looked at as much as they used to be. We still had enquiries from postgraduates and the general public, but these were getting fewer and fewer and we'd lost pretty much any interest from our undergraduates. The increasing availability of online resources and the ability for students to make their own maps easily was to blame, and this left staff frustrated that our wonderful collections weren't being used. The answer was to find new ways to put ourselves out there, and so in September that year we launched a [blog featuring maps in the Bodleian](#). We wanted this to be an informal thing, something interesting but not too technical, and, with the ability to get articles featured in the library twitter feed, something that would hopefully appeal to all. We started with two rules; the first that we'd try and blog twice a month, the second that we'd only blog if we found a map interesting enough to blog about. These two may seem to contradict each other but luckily the collection is so rich in material that this was never a problem. Our first blog was a brief history of the map collections in the Bodleian, the research for which threw up some interesting facts. It seems that for the first two hundred years or so maps were considered a hindrance. In a history of the library it's written that "In default of means with dealing with them and of space for their storage, maps, it is to be feared, were regarded as an encumbrance", and for a time in the late 1800s the map room was in what is now the readers toilets.

In the twelve years since the start we've posted over 260 pieces, it's now the most popular of all the library blogs and can, if tweeted by the main library feed, reach an audience in the thousands.

Recently we've started a new online adventure. I've long been interested in the periphery of maps, the wonderful images you find separate from the main piece, the cartouches, monsters, covers and the like. If large enough these would be blogged about (for instance see '[Hey you get off my cloud](#)') but often these weren't significant enough to write a blog piece, so recently I joined X, with the feed 'Saw this on a map'. The inspiration for starting this was a lovely image on a cover of a Mexican town plan of a map person showing a blindfolded friend around the streets on the map. On this feed my colleagues and I posted images and included a short piece of text, and we'd built up a reasonable following, but now, like so many others, along with colleagues from the library and the main Bodleian Library feed itself, the site has left X and moved to [Bluesky](#). Overall, both the blog and twitter/bluesky have done what they were intended to do. It has been very successful in the original aim of promoting our maps, plus it's an enjoyable part of our work. It's just a shame about Elon...

Stuart Ackland, Bodleian

Endpiece



Figure 2. Liverpool Oratorio set. Image Courtesy Philip Groshong/Cincinnati Opera.

It has been brought to my attention by Iain C. Taylor of the History of Liverpool Mapping Project, that the production of Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* staged in summer 2024 by the Cincinnati Opera used maps of Liverpool as backdrops on the stage setting. The production was directed by Caroline Clegg and the costumes and set were designed by London based designer [Leslie Travers](#). The two photos shown here illustrate the maps that were used. Figure 1 (on the cover) shows the 'house' on stage which used the OS 1:25 000 Provisional edition. Sheet 33/29 (published 1946) is on the inner wall behind the singer (Jaqueline Echols McCarley as Mary Dee), but other sheets may also have been used to cover the outer walls and the furniture (thanks to Louise at the National Library of Scotland for this sheet identification).

The other map (figure 2 above) on the stage itself is slightly trickier to identify. Iain placed it as [Edward Weller's *Environs of Liverpool*, 1886](#), but that map does not have the railway key below the title, and the title panel is at the top left rather than bottom right. Tinho da Cruz at Liverpool University however managed to find a [different version](#) of Weller's map which does include the key. The title panel is still at the top left, so we assume that the set designer moved it to fit in with his design. The text in the link above dates the map as 1881, but there is no date actually shown on the image.

More photos can be seen in [Cincinnati Opera's summer review](#) and a trailer can be seen on [You Tube](#).

In all an interesting and imaginative use of maps.

Judith Fox

Background information:

Prof. Iain Taylor (formerly Chief Geographer, Federal Government of Canada. Retired) was in Miss Inkley's class in 1954 (one year behind Paul McCartney) at the Liverpool

Institute High School and aged 11 could have been one of the 'children' learning the Conejos song in the *Oratorio*!

Paul and Iain later shared Sixth form classes in English and Geography and a Home Room next to Miss Inkley in 1959 and 1960 at the Institute. He has just completed the entry for Mary Inkley as one of the 'Notables' from the Liverpool Institute for a history of the school from 1935 to 1985.

Iain has been engaged for some years in the preparation of an analytical union list of all maps concerning Liverpool and region to 1920, currently numbering nearly 200 such items. Inquiries and suggestions welcome to: iainct@icloud.com.

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>.

2025

30 January 2025, 4.30pm UK time. Tania Rossetto and Laura Lo Presti (Università degli Studi di Padova) in conversation with Elizabeth Baigent (School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford) – **Map Readings: 'Routledge Handbook of Cartographic Humanities'**. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom. <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca>

13 February 2025, 4.30pm UK time. Margriet Hoogvliet and Anouk de Vries (Universiteit van Amsterdam) – **Discussing decolonising cartographic heritage: theory, maps, and Dutch Brazil**. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom. <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca>

25 February 2025, 5.30pm UK time. Fionnán O'Cionnaith (Dublin) – **'A peculiar survey ... for our peculiar purpose': founding the Ordnance Survey of Ireland**. *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography*. Via Zoom. <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem>

27 February 2025, 5.00pm UK time. Louise McCarthy and Ladan Niayesh (Université Paris Cité) – **Cartographic Science at the Service of Company Propaganda in Early Imperialist Britain (1600–1625)**. Hakluyt Society Speakers. *Maps and Society Lecture series, Warburg Institute*. In-person and online via Zoom <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

13 March 2025, 5.00pm UK time. James Cheshire (University College London) – **Discoveries from the UCL Map Library**. *Maps and Society Lecture series, Warburg Institute*. In-person and online via Zoom <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

3 April 2025, 5.00pm UK time. Johanna Skurnik (University of Turku) – **Maps for Development? Finnish Mapping of the Global South, c.1970–2000**. *Maps and Society Lecture series, Warburg Institute*. In-person and online via Zoom <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

6 May 2025, 5.30pm UK time. Onur Engin (University of Cambridge) – **Echoes on the map: unveiling the auditory history of late Ottoman Istanbul through digital cartography**. *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography*. Via Zoom. <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem>

8 May 2025, 5.00pm UK time. Yvonne Lewis (Assistant National Curator (Libraries), The National Trust) – **Marking the Miles: Some annotated maps in National Trust Collections**. *Maps and Society Lecture series, Warburg Institute*. In-person and online via Zoom <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/whats-on/maps-and-society-lecture-series>

15 May 2025, 4.30pm UK time. Carolina Martínez (Universidad Nacional de San Martín-CONICET, Argentina) – **Trans-Pacific maritime routes and Peruvian agency in three 17th-century nautical atlases**. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom. <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca>

29 May 2025, 4.30pm UK time. Petter Hellström (Uppsala Universitet) – **Unmapping Africa in the Age of the Enlightenment**. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom. <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca>

12 June 2025, 4.30 pm UK time. Jean-Marc Besse (L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) – **Geography and Catholic censorship in Europe at the end of the sixteenth-century**. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA)*. Via Zoom. <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca>

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

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