Cartographiti

MCG
Workshop
2022

the newsletter of the

PROCURE

PROCESS

MAP CURATORS' GROUP

PROMOTE

PRESERVE

of
**THE BRITISH
CARTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY**

JANUARY 1983

www.cartography.org.uk

Cover from the first Newsletter of the Map Curator's Group, January 1983.

Contents

Convener's Corner

In the first issue of the newsletter of the Map Curators' Group, in January 1983 our then convener Barbara Bond noted that "the newsletter will only prove to be as successful as you make it … we shall rely heavily on a stream of contributions from you".

One hundred issues and fifty years later, I can only thank everyone who has contributed to *Cartographiti* over the years, and indeed all of you for continuing to read it.

That first issue also discussed the name of our newsletter – with suggestions ranging from Map Views, Neatline, The Legend, The Key, Mapparitions, Mappetizer etc... and of course Cartographiti. Favoured by the editors, Barbara Bond and Chris Perkins, Cartographiti stuck.

A graphic for the Map Curators' Group on the cover included the four Ps – Procure, Process, Promote, Preserve. These still form the foundation of our work with maps. The format of the maps may have changed but our group's relationship with them has not.

A well-attended workshop and over-subscribed map cataloguing training in the last few months show that Map Curators' Group is still relevant, providing professional support to our members, who come from many different backgrounds but are united in their work with map collections.

Here's to another hundred issues!

Paula Williams

Editorial Effusion

This is a very special issue of *Cartographiti* as it is number 100! The cover of this issue may seem familiar to many long-term members of the Map Curator's Group. It is the cover of the very first *Cartographiti*, in 1983, before it was *Cartographiti*. (Image courtesy of Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.) The logo was the idea of Barbara Morris, then Map Librarian at the University of Edinburgh, and the cover artwork was by Fiona Davies of the Mapping and Charting Establishment. The newsletter was not yet named and contained a list of potential names that had been put forward (Mapocalypse anyone?) for members to vote on. It included reports on meetings such as the IFLA Congress in Montreal in August 1982 and on the MCG visit to the Department of Geography in Edinburgh, as well as on the BCS lecture for 1982 (reproduced in Endpiece below). The proposed

British Library/British Cartographic Society Training Course on Map Librarianship was advertised, and some reading recommendations were made, such as the new second edition of *Map Librarianship* by Harold Nichols.

I was struck by how many of the themes are still relevant today – MCG is still organising training courses and the annual BCS lecture continues to take place, as well as more informal regular talks, now online as well as in-person.

However, the main thing that struck me was Barbara's point about contributions mentioned above by Paula. This is still as true now as then, so please keep sending your contributions to me!

Judith Fox

Around the Libraries

National Library of Scotland
Map transcription projects
Our Roy Gazetteer project was successfully completed in August, and our Edinburgh 25 inch project was successfully completed in October. Our footpaths project is nearing completion, having traced over 110,000 paths covering 37,000 miles.

All 33,523 names on the Roy Military Survey of Scotland (1747–55) can now be searched and browsed. It is possible to generate distribution maps of particular name elements, or dynamically view all of the names in a particular area. The Gazetteer can also be downloaded in accessible formats for onward use and research. We are very grateful to the British Library for collaborating with us on this project.

- [Roy Gazetteer information page](#)

- [Search all the Roy Names with a map](#)

- [Browse all the Roy Names as a list](#)

The Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Edinburgh Transcriptions viewer allows you to search all the text on Ordnance Survey 25 inch maps of Edinburgh from 1892–4. There are over 21,950 transcriptions – including street and other place names, real-world features such as breweries, churches, football grounds, hospitals, pubs and schools, as well as numeric transcriptions for things like acreages and heights. We have made available the transcriptions dataset for onward re-use, including machine-learning. We are grateful to the Alan Turing Institute for collaborating with us on this project.

- [Edinburgh Map Viewer and Search Interface](#)

- [Edinburgh Map Viewer Help](#)

- [Project Information](#) – datasets, fields, tags, and data download links

In August the second and final part of our [interview with Archivoz Magazine](#) was published, looking back on the project and recording experiences and lessons learned. On 8 November, we also held a 2022 Transcriptions Event online to commemorate the successes of the projects and to thank everyone involved.

New viewer – Irrigation tanks in the Kaveri River delta, India
This [new map viewer](#) aims to highlight the irrigation tank features on maps from the British Survey of India map collection

from the first half of the 20th century. It allows the user to see how the landscape has changed over time through satellite imagery, and whether the irrigation tanks are still visible, have become smaller, or have been replaced by buildings, roads, farmland, etc. The viewer was created by Charlotte Evans, PhD student at the University of Lancaster, and Chris Fleet. The application uses open-source software, and we have made it available on Github for onward re-use.

Outreach
Following the launch of the NLS Treasures Gallery in March, our Pont map of Clydesdale (1596) was on display for the first six months, and has been replaced by our Pont map of Stirlingshire in October. The intention is that this will be replaced by Mercator's Scotia Regnum map (1595) in March 2023.

On 1 September we held an online talk as part of the Scottish Maps Forum, given by Humphrey Welfare, on 'William Roy and the Military Survey of Scotland'. This was to commemorate Humphrey's new book *General William Roy 1726–1790: Father of the Ordnance Survey*. The talk was attended by over 70 people and well-received.

Following the Digital Preservation Coalition workshop in March on Where are we now? Mapping progress with geospatial data preservation, Chris was invited to write a case study, looking at the approaches to user engagement with NLS maps website users, and how this informs digital preservation decisions. This was published in October: *Understanding user needs: a case study from the National Library of Scotland.*

Chris Fleet, NLS

National Library of Wales
Acquisitions
More items have come in as part of the Warrington's South Wales Railway Records collection. We have also received more of the redrawn tithe maps of Powys in PDF format. We recently purchased a number of maps of South Wales which fill in gaps in our collection.

Cataloguing
We are currently sorting our backlog of MOD disposals so that we can see where we need space to insert new items into our existing run. Once this is done Ellie King will be embarking on cataloguing our maps of Asia.

Outreach
Ellie King has produced another blog, this time about a recently purchased pocket atlas and travel guide.
https://blog.library.wales/travellers-guide-to-england-and-wales/

2022's Carto-Cymru symposium was held online on 20 May and was a great success. Next year's Carto-Cymru will be an in-person event held in the Library on 12 May 2023, on the theme of OS mapping. This will coincide with the Charles Close Society AGM in the Library on 13 May.

Huw Thomas, NLW

Cambridge University Library
Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) Scoping Study
CUCAP is the result of airborne survey campaigns which were

started in 1947 by the pioneering J.K. St Joseph. Since then, the collection has grown to almost 500,000 images of obliques and verticals in black and white, colour and infra-red. Virtually the whole of Britain has been covered, with the obliques depicting a wide variety of landscapes and features and the verticals, being of survey quality, can be used in mapping projects.

The collection, however, has effectively been closed to researchers for some years and CUL and CUCAP are in discussion about the future management, housing, access and exploitation of the collection.

As a first stage to deciding on its future, we are commissioning someone to write a report outlining the resources needed to preserve and open-up the collection once more. The intention is that this report will provide the information that would be required to apply for funding to carry out the recommendations.

Outreach and teaching
In July we welcomed our first school groups since the beginning of the pandemic. The largest of these was from a local Community College, comprising 90 year 9 pupils (13 to 14 years old) over three days, three groups a day. They had a quick tour of the Library, a visit to the Map Room (where the Harry Potter map was the most popular item by far), and a tour of the Library's Darwin in Conversation exhibition.

Among other student groups, we also welcomed students studying French, who looked at facsimiles of early maps for the module 'Wondrous forms in the Age of Montaigne'. They were particularly taken with the two fantastic Moleiro facsimiles:

- Atlas Miller (1519)
- Vallard Atlas (1547)

Cambridge Seminars in The History of Cartography continue to be online for 2022–23. See 'Not the last page' for more information.

Anne Taylor, CUL

Bodleian Library, Oxford
Staff
Debbie Hall has been awarded funding from the Bodleian's Sassoon Research Fellowship to research and publish a much needed cartobibliography for Oxfordshire.

Research
Our Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Understanding the medieval Gough Map through Physics, Chemistry and History' has been awarded an additional grant by the Marc Fitch Fund to finance a research assistant until May 2024. For three days in June we teamed up with the ARCHiOx Project to deliver updated 3D scans of the Gough Map, as well as working with Durham's Team Pigment to capture new multispectral imagery of the manuscript.

Discover Maps, Unlock the Past website
The Bodleian Maps team presented at the virtual launch of the new Discover Maps, Unlock the Past website, hosted on a platform created by Yale-National University of Singapore. Starting in 2019, the project has delivered over 1,400 maps via IIIF, and went live on 30 August. The Bodleian is one of four partner institutions showcasing their collections

featuring pre-1900 maps of Southeast Asia. Teaming up with Leiden University Libraries, National Library Board – Singapore, and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 387 of our maps have been added to the site. We are particularly impressed with the 'tagging' that the Yale/Singapore team employed, as users can search for individual features, for example law courts or compass roses.

Teaching
We are delighted to be supporting Oxford's newly launched MSc in Digital Scholarship, which aims to showcase how digital tools and methods can be applied to traditional humanistic scholarship. Running for the first time this term, the cross-faculty programme is based in the Humanities Division but with teaching contributions from various Bodleian Libraries staff. Martin Davis is teaching the 'Spatial Mapping and GIS' course, with a mixture of lectures and practical sessions. It is hoped that the course will provide a useful guide to cartography and digital mapping techniques, while also drawing on items from our collections.

Outreach
Recent in-person presentations have been delivered to the BCS Map Curators' Group, Charlbury Beer Festival, Hanney History Group, the ICA Commission on Topographic Mapping and Working Group on Digital Transformations, Oxford Preservation Trust, and Wood Festival.

Martin Davis co-authored 'Soviet city plans and OpenStreetMap: a comparative analysis' alongside Alex Kent, which appeared in

International Journal of Cartography.

2022–23 sees The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) branching out to include occasional hybrid as well as online sessions. See 'Not the last page' for more information.

Nick Millea, Bodleian

British Library
Staff
Recruitment is under way for two posts: a permanent full-time map cataloguer (the first full-time cataloguing post to exist in the Map Library for over a decade); and a Project Assistant to join the India Office Maps project as a cataloguer and processing coordinator.

Cataloguing
The India Office Maps Project continues to process and catalogue material held in the collection. An inventory of material has been completed and over 400 items have been catalogued so far.

Over 6,000 foreign geodetic and technical publications donated by MOD to the main map collection after the closure of the Library Information Centre at Tolworth have been catalogued. The items are being re-housed in archival boxes and will be made available to the public soon.

The 350 original Ordnance Surveyor Drawings (Maps OSD) made between c.1789 and c.1840 have now been individually catalogued. Additionally, the related two-inch to-the-mile revision sheets and hill sketches of 1819–1837 have also been catalogued.

Digitisation

The Mapping the Archaeological Heritage of South Asia Project (MAHSA) at Cambridge University has now scanned over 2,000 maps held in the India Office Map Collection. Automated computer vision software will pick out mound features from 2,000 georeferenced images of early 20th century series maps covering large parts of India and Pakistan, and create a database of possible archaeological sites for investigation in the field.

The Locating a National Collection (LaNC) project is now complete and a final report and an open-access journal article 'Discovering the local in national cultural heritage collections' have been published. Another project output of LaNC is Peripleo, a browser-based map tool designed to enable users to explore and discover locations that represent the web pages of humanities and cultural heritage collections. Peripleo is open-source and examples of what can be done are available on the LaNC project website.

Outreach

On 27 October the British Library hosted Cartography on the Front Line, the opening panel of 'In and Against the Fog of War: Mappings from the Front Line', a programme of live events, webinars and workshops organised by the Livingmaps Network.

The theme of the British Library 2023 diary is the Topographical Collection of George III, and is illustrated by 54 images of maps, views and diagrams from the collection, produced between 1550 and 1820.

Tom Harper, BL

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
Research

OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage
Led by Keith Lilley (QUB) and Catherine Porter (UL), this project is gathering historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and texts to form a digital platform that will help uncover forgotten aspects of the survey undertaken in Ireland from 1924. PRONI will facilitate the public engagement strand of the project in 2023/24.
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7cedc565e15e4ba58444f9eaf435d1de

Mapping Irish Earth: using deep mapping to curate an historic landed estate as a three-dimensional educational and cultural resource
PRONI is supervising work on historic maps and GIS approaches and facilitating a major public engagement element to the project. Base mapping of the estate is complete, and work will begin on gathering archival materials on management of the estate landscape.

PRONI Historical Maps Viewer
PRONI is working with DfC Historic Environment Division and GIS specialists to source OS maps from other collections to fill gaps on the PRONI maps viewer, initially caused by preservation issues.

PRONI is also working with a community-based organisation to add an additional dataset which will georeference all church sites in NI and provide a spatial index to relevant church records held by PRONI.

D.A. Chart Seminar on Maps
PRONI was delighted that Rose Mitchell and Lucia Pereira Pardo

(TNA) delivered the 2022 D.A. Chart Seminar on 18 October. Ninety-three individuals attended the online seminar from several countries including the United States, Luxembourg and Italy. A recording has been made available on the PRONI YouTube channel.

Glynn Kelso, PRONI

The National Archives
Legacy data files
The editing of legacy data files has received an unexpected boost from three volunteers, who have been working once a week for several months now.

Outreach
Rose gave the keynote at an event celebrating Essex Record Office's acquisition of a 'lost' 1616 estate map by the foremost Essex mapmaking dynasty, the Walkers. She showcased TNA's Walker map, a Chancery exhibit, and a map she recently re-catalogued as Bradwell in Essex, not Lancashire, which Essex historians have been seeking for 70 years, they told her. Her talk was much appreciated by around 100 people, and the event included talks by other historians and a fabulous display of Walker maps from the various estate archives in which they lay, reunited with the 1616 map which had been hanging on a wall In a London townhouse.

Rose gave the annual PRONI map lecture on the archival context of early Irish maps held at The National Archives, with conservation scientist colleague Lucia Pereira Pardo presenting her new findings on the materiality of some of these maps.

Rose's short film about a 1606 map of Aldbourne Chase in Wiltshire made for a legal case,

appeared in TNA's Spotlight On … series in July (Spotlight on Maps).

Rose Mitchell, NA

University of Manchester
Cataloguing
Work on Manchester Geographical Society map collection resumed in April 2022. This should be completed by May 2023.

Research
The following researchers have been funded by John Rylands Research Institute (University of Manchester Library) to work on projects which utilise our map collections and Manchester Geographical Society material:

- James Watts (Visiting Fellow). Landscape, Environment, and British Imperial Identity, 1860–1914.

- Brian Wallace (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow). Gods from Machines: Technology and Magic in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Encounters.

- Luca Scholz (Lecturer in Digital Humanities, University of Manchester). Alpine Atmospheres: Environmental Data in Spatial History.

Donna Sherman, University of Manchester

MCG News

The online training course on map cataloguing took place in November/December 2022 and was very successful. It is hoped to follow it up with an in-person event in early summer 2023, but this is still in the very early stages

of planning. It will again be hosted by Paula Williams and Paige G. Andrew.

MCG Business meeting

The Map Curators' Group will hold a virtual business meeting on Monday 13th February at 3pm. Please contact the Group's convener at paula.williams@cartography.org.uk to receive an invitation and notes from the previous meeting.

Forum

The Map Curator's Group workshop took place online on Wednesday 14 September 2022. Our coverage starts with an overview of the day, followed by some of the papers presented.

Map Curator's Workshop 2022: Finding maps

The Map Curators Group reconvened online for the 2022 Workshop on Wednesday 14 September. It was originally hoped to have a face-to-face meeting, but at the time the arrangements were being finalised it was felt safer to go for a Zoom meeting which would definitely take place rather than risk a last minute cancellation.

The day kicked-off with a presentation by Wouter Bracke of the Royal Library of Belgium, talking on 'Deposit, donation or what else? Transfer policies in the Royal Library, Belgium'. In 2019, the decision was made to move the National Institute of Belgium to smaller premises. This led to the transfer of the majority of their maps and archives to three other collections: the State Archives, the Africa Museum and the Royal Library. The maps of Africa would go to the Africa Museum, the archives to the State

Archives and everything else to the Royal Library. The National Institute map collection was felt to be nationally and internationally important, and although the management of the Royal Library was eager to agree to the proposal, it was initially declined. Wouter talked though the reasons for this and the subsequent agreement to accept the donation, and the problems that ensued.

This was a fascinating story, and in many ways was a cautionary tale. The donated maps increased the size of the Royal Library's map collection by 30% and as they were completely uncatalogued and not even inventoried, it has totally taken over staff time. The move took place very quickly and there was no suitable space to house the maps when they were received. Wouter included some nightmarish pictures of maps piled high and taking up all available space. Three years later they are left wondering if the right decision was made. Not accepting could have led to the destruction of an important collection, but acceptance has monopolised staff time and cost a lot of money. The maps need to be first weeded and listed, then catalogued, preserved and digitised to allow them to be used and there is still no space to store them properly. All in all it was a sobering tale.

There was a change to the scheduled order next due to technical issues, and Gethin Rees followed. Gethin is Lead Curator of Digital Mapping at the British Library, and he spoke about 'Locating a National Collection through Interface Design', which was a scoping project for the 'Towards a National Collection' programme, funded by the AHRC. This programme aims to create a unified virtual 'national collection'

by dissolving barriers between different collections and opening access to UK heritage to the world. The aim of the Locating a National Collection project was to provide a map interface to locate items which have geographical information attached to them (such as where they were made or used). The partners in this included both Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAMs) and bodies which are involved with the historic environment, such as the National Trust and Historic England.

A map interface would obviously be very useful, both to allow institutions to make their collections more visible, and also to allow researchers and the general public to search (and browse) by geographical location. Gethin focused on how data would be shown on the interface and the problems involved, as well as how people interacted with an interface. They created two browser-based tools – Locolligo is a data curation tool to allow institutions to prepare and link their own spatial datasets, and Peripleo-2 will allow the public to explore these linked datasets in a map-based browser window. He then demonstrated Peripleo-2 using the Exeter area as an example. It seemed to work well – different items, including maps, are located onto a base map and clicking on the item gives more information about the item. It should allow people to engage with the culture and history their local area much more easily – I look forward to being able to access it.

Debbie Hall followed with **'Advice to those about to embark on a county cartobibliography'**. Debbie is a curator at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and it appears that Oxford is one of those counties with no cartobibliography of printed maps. Debbie is attempting to rectify this situation. Her talk was a summary of the pitfalls and problems which can be encountered when undertaking such a project.

Debbie started by discussing what cartobibliographies are available already and how they could be used to inform her project. The next problem was deciding on the geographical scope of the project, followed by the chronological scope. She gave an insight into the criteria she used to make these decisions (what maps do I include?), then moved onto what map information to include in the body of the text (what information about the maps do I include?). Finally, she showed some examples of maps she has come across in her research, including playing cards and miniature maps, and talked about how different issues of the same map can be distinguished. This project has already been going for five years, and it sounds as if there is a considerable distance to go, so I'm sure everyone wishes her all the best with her future research, and we look forward to her definitive cartobibliography of Oxfordshire.

Jon Dollery of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for Wales spoke next, and bravely gave a live demonstration of the **Deep Mapping Estates Archive project**. This is a website that brings together maps and other information from different series for an area of Wales. He explained that the large-scale OS maps were used as a base, and that the georeferencing of the maps went further than is usually the case and involved 400 to 600

georeferenced points for each map. This allows for very accurate georeferencing and facilitates close comparison across different series. The aim was to produce vector data, with information relating to each feature accessible through the map – a "Master map for the past." They then did the same for tithe maps and estate maps; it is possible to click on a field and see the OS land parcel number and past land use (information taken from the OS Books of Reference) or to find information about landowners, for instance, to see all the land that was owned by women. The online map also contains links to the source organisations that hold the original documents.

Jon showed an overview of how much of the area was common land before enclosure; not only does this demonstrate the loss of common land since, it also highlights areas for which fewer written records are likely to be available, as there are more likely to be historical records for estate lands. He showed an area where a detailed early estate map from the 1620s had been overlaid on a tithe map from the 1830s; many of the field names had survived. The detailed georeferencing meant that it was also possible to link the maps to a modern 3D model of the landscape, showing the historical maps overlaid on the area's physical geography.

The project (which is a pilot to assess feasibility) covers an area of 125 square km, and has been carried out by two members of staff working two to three days a week for the past three years. Jon estimated that it takes, on average, a day and half to reference each OS sheet. The result is clearly a wonderful website and there were many positive comments.

Carol McAuliffe and **Kim Plassche** then spoke on **'Creating and maintaining an online directory of library map collections.'** This is a project of the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) of the American Library Association. There were interesting parallels with the MCG's own Directory of UK map collections, but this was a more ambitious project incorporating a searchable map interface. Its basis was the printed Guide to US map resources, first published in 1986 and with subsequent editions in 1990 and 2006. In 2014 the decision was taken to create a new, online version; the searchable map interface should enable people to find collections geographically, which would be beneficial to both the general public and map collections staff wanting to contact colleagues.

In 2015–19 MAGIRT formed a project team to a develop a survey in Google forms for people to input information about their map collection, and the map interface was developed. There were some challenges early on, of which one was that the Google forms information couldn't be easily updated, so the survey was moved to a different platform, ESRI Survey 123 (this had improved since the project started, a valuable lesson to keep up with such changes). Initial take up was also rather low. Volunteers were recruited to serve as regional coordinators in the summer of 2022, and the directory has now grown to include 266 institutions including historical societies, and even private collections that their owners are prepared to make available to researchers.

Kim then demonstrated the current version of the system which includes a link to the survey for others to join. A map of the US has orange icons to show current information; users can zoom in and click on one to show the information the institution has provided. It's also possible to search across collections by subject, geographic strength, or by special collections. The directory is still being updated and has been more widely publicised thanks to research papers and announcements in newsletters. There is a dedicated Gmail account for people to get in touch if they have any difficulty adding information. It is already a great way to find collections that may be hidden or not widely known. There are ten regions, all with regional coordinators who may also research specialist subjects. There are future plans to expand to neighbouring regions outside the US, and to include a wider range of institutions such as museums.

Michael Peters from map dealer Eastview, a new corporate member of BCS, spoke next on **'How to make GIS data discoverable'.** He described three of Eastview's products. Mapvault is a subscription service which gives access to mosaic tilesets of raster data for specific countries. The aim is to keep it affordable, so it has a fairly basic interface with limited search functionality. There is a regularly updated title list including downloadable descriptive records and durable links for library subject guides. The second product is Global Census Archive, for census datasets sold as data deliveries by FTP. Over 50 datasets are available, some from same the country for different years. Some customers can load GIS data but can't link easily to supporting documentation, so Eastview is investigating moving to an eBook platform.

The third product was the main company website, Geospatial.com. This was relaunched two years ago. The company aimed to improve discoverability by using Google. Michael talked about the challenges of accessing records for sheet maps from within a series, an issue that all map librarians can relate to. The website now includes thumbnail images of individual sheets and better information on sheets within a series, and improved search functionality.

The workshop ended with Paula recommending the BCS quiz that evening and the main BCS conference the following day. She also announced that a free map cataloguing training course would be available later this year, aimed at people who are familiar with library cataloguing but not with cataloguing maps. Next year's MCG workshop will be on 20 September 2023, in person at the British Antarctic Survey.

Judith Fox, Cartographiti editor
Debbie Hall, Bodleian

Deposit, donation or what else? Transfer policies in the Royal Library, Belgium

In 2019 the Royal Library of Belgium received a proposal from the National Geographic Institute (NGI) for the deposit of the majority of its maps from its Map Room. The Institute was organising its move from the premises where its headquarters had been installed since the second half of the 19th century to a renovated building at the Royal Military Academy in Brussels. There was no room foreseen in the new buildings for the map

collection, nor for the institute's archives. The Institute had therefore decided to offer its archives to the National Archives, its collection of maps of Africa to the Africa Museum in Tervuren and the rest of its map collection to the Royal Library of Belgium. These three institutes have been collaborating for over ten years now in a project that offers their map collections online (www.Cartesius.be) and thus a deposit could be seen as another step in their collaboration.

The offer created a certain amount of discussion within the Library: as a national library, becoming the depository of the map collection of the country's national mapping agency, seemed to its map curators an obvious choice. Yet, after considering the costs coming with it, the offer was initially declined and a counter-offer made. In fact, the Map Room of the NGI was more a map archive, i.e. a deposit of maps that were no longer used by the institute. There was no complete systematic inventory of the collection, and no card catalogue, conservation conditions were not optimal. After a quick inventory of what needed to be done to preserve and give value to the collection, the Royal Library proposed a complete transfer of the Institute's collections, with the promise to inventory and catalogue in due time, to digitise to international standards the parts of the collection that were not yet digitised, and to georeference and make it accessible at some point in the future. The offer was eventually accepted, and the collection has entered the Library, but no written agreement has been signed so far and no long-term measures have yet been taken to meet the necessary requirements for the collection's treatment.

The story of the NGI map collection is but one example of a clear trend away from specialised reference libraries serving a small target readership with more and more libraries closing down. Sometimes this goes with an ambitious digitisation campaign, but always the question that arises is what to do with the physical holdings. In Belgium, ministries, semi-public organisations and private persons almost naturally turn to the national library, whose mission it is to preserve and conserve the country's manuscript and printed heritage. In recent years, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Economic Affairs and of Mobility and the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences, all with their own reference library, some going back to the early 19th century, have asked the Royal Library of Belgium to take over their library holdings. These transfers cause huge logistical problems. And it is not only a matter of numbers; some collections have inventories, or catalogues (on paper or online), all very much incomplete, others have none. Conservation conditions differ enormously. Because of the large amount of work and costs these transfers imply, only unconditional donations have been accepted. The library independently decides how to process the library holdings, what to keep and what not. What is not kept by the library can be offered to other institutions, or is destroyed at the expense of the donating institute. Although every case is treated individually, this overall policy appears to be a workable compromise for the benefit of both parties in the case of reference libraries with holdings of

less historical value (but who makes the selection? And on what basis?). But what about historical collections? Can or should we follow the same policy, and to what extent?

<div style="text-align: right">

Wouter Bracke, Royal Library, Belgium

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Advice to those about to embark on a cartobibliography

The title of this talk was a light-hearted reference to the famous advice in Punch magazine from 1845, "*Advice for persons about to marry*" – which was, of course, "Don't!"

The talk covered my experiences so far in attempting to create a cartobibliography for printed maps of Oxfordshire. There are many existing cartobibliographies of English and Welsh counties, and books on the history of county atlases in which most of these maps first appeared, which form a basis. The publication history of early maps is often complex. Maps were engraved on copper plates, which were often reused and sold on to different publishers. They might be altered or updated, and often the new publisher's name was added. My approach is to record each known printing of a specific plate as far as possible, listed under the first appearance of that plate.

It's useful to record as much information as possible about the maps: where, when and by whom published, if part of a larger work such as an atlas, as well as details like scale, size, and whether there is text on the verso (the latter can be helpful for identifying different printings). Giving details of what the map shows (roads, hundred boundaries, market towns, views) will be handy for researchers, and it's also worth recording everyone involved in its production (original source, engraver, etc.) as far as is known. Often the map's information would have been copied from an earlier one;
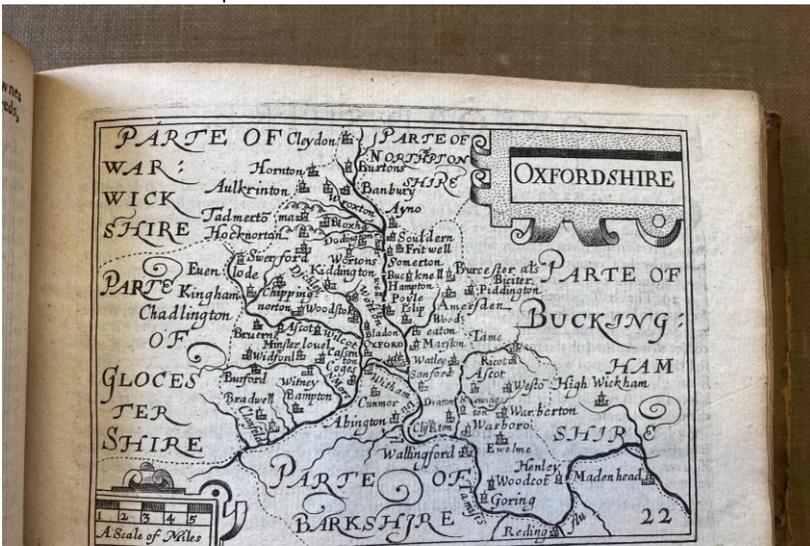

Figure 1. 'Miniature Speed' atlas. Tanner 2, image courtesy of Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.
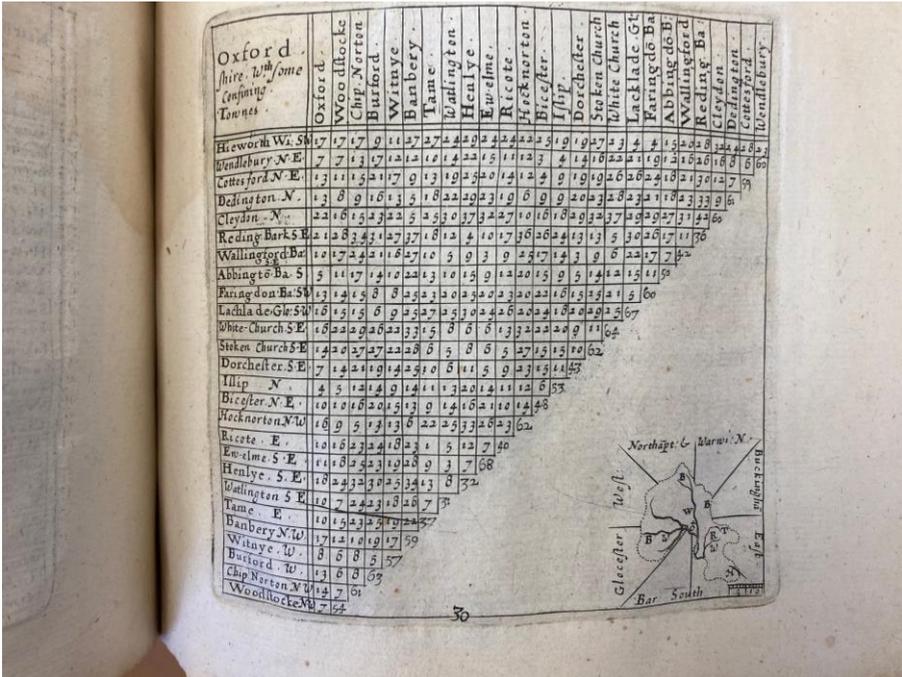
Figure 2. Simmons' Direction for the English Traviller. Wood C.49, image courtesy of Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

despite theoretical restrictions on copying from the 16th century on, plagiarism was common.

I then told the stories of a few individual map plates. This included Van den Keere's map of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, first published in Amsterdam in 1605. It was published in two completely different works, by different publishers, several years apart. After that the plates that accompanied it were mainly reproduced in another atlas, one of the so-called 'miniature Speeds,' in London, but the plate for Oxfordshire was replaced at this point. A few years later it was replaced again as it had got cracked (figure 1). Tracing its publication history is complex as the date on the atlas title page doesn't always match when different editions of the atlas were actually published. Another example is a tiny map from a set of playing cards from the 1590s, whose history has been subject to considerable speculation and reinterpretation over the last few decades. There is little doubt that the very simple maps formed the basis for those in Simmons' *Direction for the English Traviller* from 1635 (figure 2).

Finally, I explained some of the many positives of the experience, such as the chance to see some lovely maps, and to contact colleagues in map collections all over the country. I've also learnt a lot about the history of cartography in this country, and hope to end by producing a useful book.

Debbie Hall, Bodleian

Mapping the maps: digitising, vectorising and sharing our historic cartographic collections in the digital age

The 'Deep Mapping Estate Archives: A new digital methodology for Analysing Estate Landscapes circa. 1500–1930' project was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council between June 2020 and December 2022. The project was a collaboration between the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates (ISWE) at Bangor University, Aberystwyth University, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), North East Wales Archives Service (NEWA) and the National Library of Wales (NLW). The project focused on a small area of Northeast Wales, consisting of three parishes in Denbighshire; Llanarmon yn iâl, Llanferres and Llandegla and three adjacent parishes in Flintshire; Treuddyn, Nercwys and Mold (west of the river Alyn). The project aimed to devise a methodology by which a variety of historical cartographic sources could be georeferenced, vectorised and linked to accompanying books of reference. These sources included:

- 1869–1874: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey County Series Mapping (25.344 inches to 1 statue mile or 1:2,500).

- 1871: Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Mold (126.71 inches to 1 statue mile or 1:500).

- 1837–1848: Tithe Survey Mapping (Various Scales)

- 1800–1830: Enclosure Mapping (Various Scales)

- 1620–1858: Estate Mapping (Various Scales)

The core ethos of the project was to digitise all of the information from the map and any ancillary documentation, such as books of reference or apportionments. This
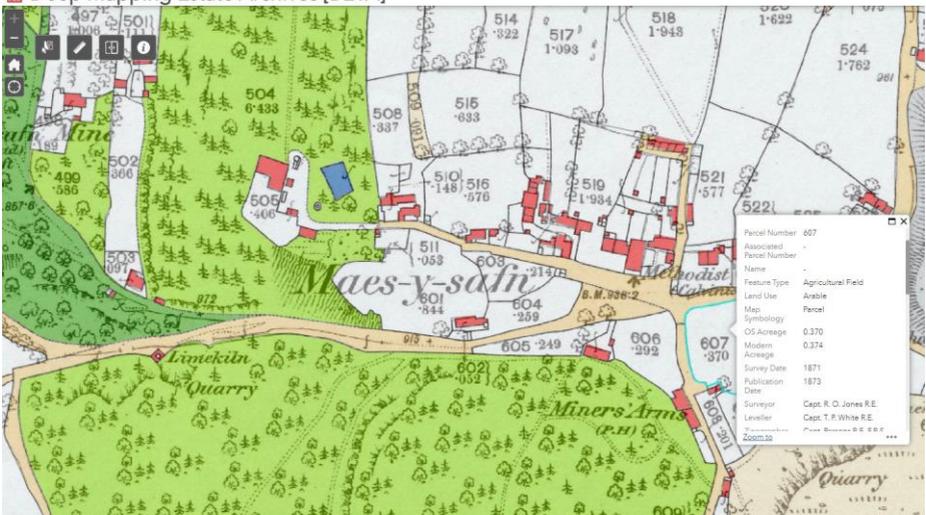

Image courtesy of Jon Dollery

was achieved by sourcing and digitising each map source and then applying multipoint georeferencing (over 200-600 points per map sheet), rather than the simpler four-corner georeferencing which has been widespread for some time. The points were generated from the intersections of field boundaries and corners of buildings which existed on both the historic and modern mapping. The Ordnance Survey (OS) MasterMap Topographic layer was used as the base map, allowing for control points to be snapped to the vertices of this vector data, providing as much accuracy as possible. A transformation called 'Spline' was then applied which brought the historical map in line with modern accurate survey. The next stage was vectorisation. This consisted of creating accurate vector (polygonal) data, within which additional information could be linked. Rather than creating polygons, the OS MasterMap Topographic layer was used. The polygons within this data were then merged or split to reflect the historical map source. Any information on the map or found in accompanying sources was then attributed to each topographic feature. The first series of mapping to be created utilising this process was the first edition 25-inch OS County Series mapping. The vector data created from this source had removed the modern noise of housing estates and carparks and could then be used to georeference and vectorise the next earliest historical map source in the sequence, such as the Tithe, Enclosure or Estate mapping.

This method allows for the quick georeferencing and accurate vectorisation of a range of historical map sources. The

georeferenced digital images can now be viewed, and the polygonal data analysed, via a freely accessible online web resource. More information about the project, the sources consulted, as well as the web mapping can be found using this link: deep-mapping-estate-archives-rcahmw.hub.arcgis.com/

Jon Dollery FRGS, Mapping Officer (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales)

Creating and Maintaining an Online Directory of Library Map Collections

Here in the United States, we have dozens of publicly accessible map collections located in academic, public, and historical society libraries. These libraries house government maps disseminated to U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) depositories from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other departments, historical atlases and sheet maps, current publications, globes, and a treasure trove of cartographic surprises. As a map librarian or curator, how does one identify other library collections to help a patron searching for a specific map outside their institutional holdings? If this is a trying task for a professional working with maps every day, imagine how difficult it could be for the average cartophile or researcher.

The *Guide to U.S. Map Collections* was created as a bibliographic aid to help librarians and researchers identify collections of interest. This publication, funded by the Map & Geography Round Table (MAGERT) of the American Librarian Association (ALA), appeared in three editions (1986, 1990 and 2006). Data for the

guide was collected by survey, which by the 2006 edition were emailed and submitted online.
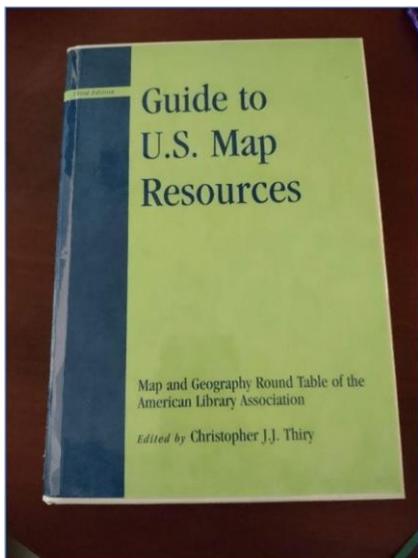

The third and final print edition of Guide to U.S. Map Resources. Image courtesy of Kim Plassche & Carol McAuliffe

By 2014, MAGERT had evolved to become MAGIRT (Map and Geospatial Information Round Table). The time had also come for the *Guide to U.S. Map Collections* to evolve as well – to an online directory. The benefits of converting the print publication included the ability to include updated information about growing collections, giving map library managers more control over their entries in the guide, and allowing users to search by map coverage or geographic scope. The MAGIRT (Map and Geospatial Information Round Table) Publications Committee formed a task force in October 2014 to determine specifics about the new online publication. Ultimately, the team chose ArcGIS Online as the best platform for the up-to-date map library directory.

From 2016–2019, the project team converted the survey used for the print guide to an online version in Google Forms. As the MAGIRT GeoTech Committee worked on the map interface, the guide project team shared the news in presentations and articles. Eventually the Google Forms survey was abandoned for the current form from Esri Survey123, which integrates seamlessly with ArcGIS Online. Other changes to the original process included changing the survey form in favour of one with fewer questions, creating a MAGIRT organisational account with Esri to allow editing of entries, and updating records from the original 546 institutions appearing in the 2006 print edition.

In 2019, the need to continue updating old information while adding new institutions to the directory became a priority. Regional coordinators were recruited from the MAGIRT membership. These coordinators are responsible for one of ten regions of the United States. Duties of regional coordinators include communicating with managers of collections already in the guide to ensure information remains current, working within professional networks to locate missed map collections for the guide (no matter how small), and doing independent research to find contacts for even more collections. Continued advertising through publications and presentations is encouraged, as well.
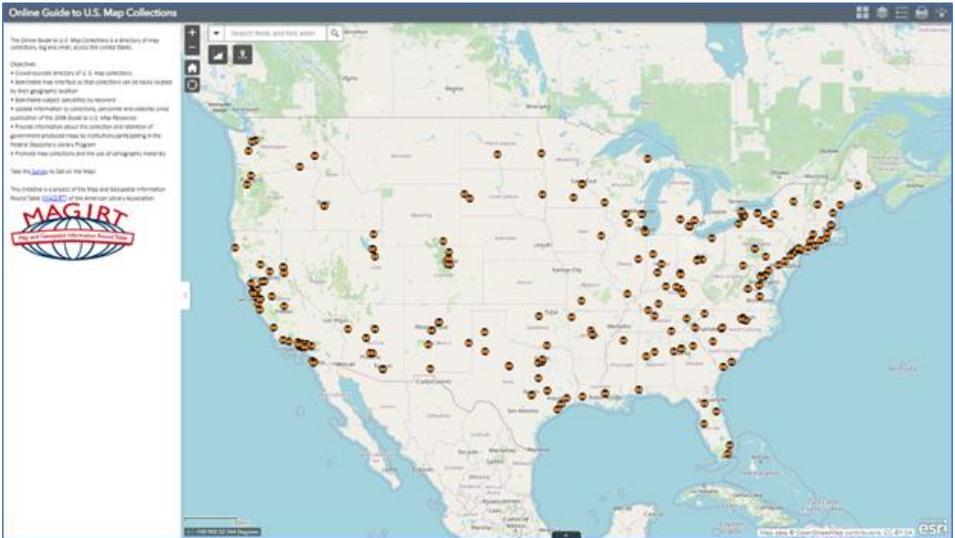
Screenshot of the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections, https://arcg.is/10iLj0 (7 September 2022). Image courtesy of Kim Plassche & Carol McAuliffe

MAGIRT members have always understood the value of sharing information about collections. The online team is fortunate to have the original print model and entries to use as the online guide was created and is now maintained. Other organisations or groups hoping to create a similar online guide may look for existing print or internet guides to begin building their network.

Kim Plassche, Map Librarian,
University of Buffalo
Carol McAuliffe, University of
Florida

The National Library of Wales and **The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales** present, in association with **The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps:**

Carto-Cymru: The Wales Map Symposium 2023 - *Mapping the nation* - 12 May 2023

Theme: Mapping the nation – exploring the work of the Ordnance Survey. How approaches to mapping the landscape have changed over time and how historical OS maps can help us to understand our physical environment both past and present.

Further details and booking: Events - National Library of Wales (available in the new year)

Endpiece

BCS lecture by Dr. Tim Nicholson of Readers Digest on 'Maps of Britain for the cyclist and motorist 1870-1940' in London on 30 November.

Report written by Francis Herbert, Royal Geographical Society Map Room.

Arranged to complement the Technical Group's January '83 meeting on road maps past 1950, Dr. Tim Nicholson gave members a fascinating talk aided by colour slides of items in his own collection, many of which he also laid out for inspection. He began by stressing that there was little point in collecting cycling and road maps of this period for their cartographic quality since old plates or stones were used many times over, sometimes over 100 years after the first issue: Cary's map of England and Wales of 1796 was still being re–issued by Exchange and Mart in 1905, and the circular Mogg's Twenty four miles round London map of circa 1805 was still being used in 1879. This did not apply equally to firms such as Bartholomew, W. & A.K. Johnston, and the Ordnance Survey.

Dr. Nicholson continued by stating that the interest of such maps was less in their investment value than in their record of social and transport history especially as illustrated by their advertisements geared chiefly to ideals of fitness, food and the Temperance Movement – although firms such as Pattison's Scotch Whiskey were to contradict this later! Map covers printed in colour began to appear in the 1890s which added attractiveness, either to make up for a poor quality map enclosed or to gain the attention of potential road users.

The market for cycling and motoring maps was explained in terms of the invention of these machines, their cost relative to people's earnings and leisure opportunities, as well as business necessities. Notably, with increased speed, and therefore larger areas of the country able to be covered, there was more demand for both more elaborate presentation (e.g. textual guides with suggested itineraries) and smaller scale maps such as Bartholomew's 1:1M map of 1907 vintage specifically for motorists, and atlases for the motorist of pre-WWI vintage produced by tyre manufacturers such as Michelin, Continental, and Gaulois.

Dr. Nicholson suggested that the 1920s and 30s were the apogee of "useless" maps issued with brand names. The fact that the maps were continually out of date, coupled with often inherent bad cartography, has resulted in much of the material being discarded and ignored by libraries and museums. Only recently, as part of the 'Ephemera Boom' is such potentially interesting and important material being sought and recorded. We have to thank Dr. Nicholson, not only for doing this apparently single-handed, but also for his willingness to show BCS members his treasures and increasing our awareness of an often forgotten source of social history.

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

2023

2 February 2023, 4.30pm UK time. Andrew Honey (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford) – 'Please use the postcode': navigating the past, present, and future conservation needs of the Hereford Mappa Mundi. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA).* In-person and online via Zoom. https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca

21 February 2023, 5.30pm UK time. Alan Marcus (University of Aberdeen) – Remapping and place naming in 'Beautiful Dachau'. *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography.* Via Zoom. https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem

23 February 2023, 4.30pm UK time. Mirela Altić (University of Zagreb) in conversation with Elizabeth Baigent (School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford) – 'Encounters in the New World: Jesuit cartography of the Americas'. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA).* Via Zoom. https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca

2 May 2023, 5.30pm UK time. Martijn Storms (Leiden University Libraries) – Maps that made history: the map collections of Leiden University Libraries. *Cambridge Seminar in the History of Cartography.* Via Zoom. https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem

4 May 2023, 4.30pm UK time. Madeline Hewitson (Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford) – 'An illustrated encyclopaedia of this great and varied universe': Mapping the Crystal Palace at Sydenham 1854-1936. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA).* Via Zoom. https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/tosca

12 May 2023. Carto-Cymru: The Wales Map Symposium 2023. Mapping the nation. In person. https://www.library.wales/visit/things-to-do/events (available in the new year)

25 May 2023. Bodleian Map Room Team – TOSCA Field Trip: A jolly for Peter Jolly: maps from the British Cartographic Society Awards collection. *Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA).* In person. (Booking essential for this. Further details, please contact: nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk or 01865 287119)

September 2023. Map Curator's Workshop. Details 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:
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