

CAIRT

Issue 23
July 2013

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in 2002:

- ♦ To encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers
- ♦ To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections
- ♦ To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context
- ♦ To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests
- ♦ To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont

CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17th century Scots for map.

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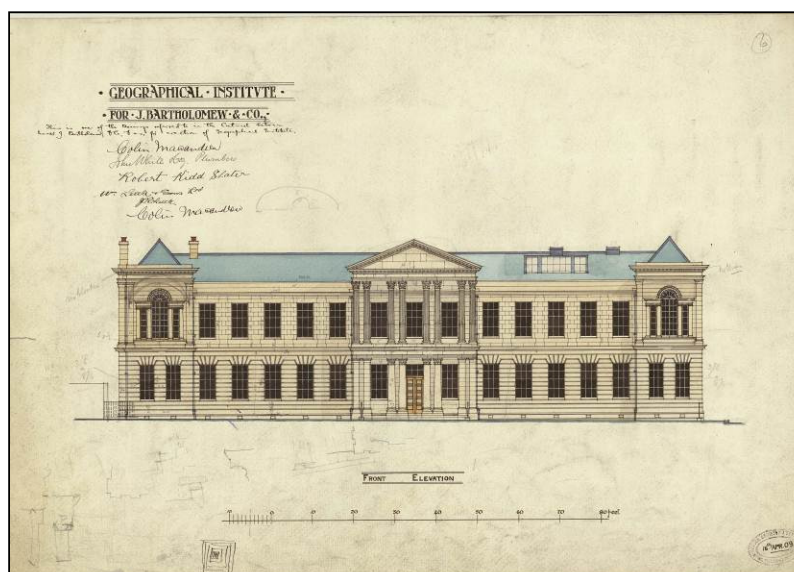
THE DUNCAN STREET EXPLORER

Our latest website addition, the Duncan Street Explorer (DSE) offers new access to the Bartholomew Archive, and brings together a variety of materials including original documents, staff photographs, oral history recordings and film footage.

The DSE is structured around the original architectural drawings of Bartholomew's Duncan Street premises. This has allowed us to explore Bartholomew's map-making process through a focus on individual departments. Relatively obscure techniques such as lithographic stone polishing and misunderstood roles such as the colourists, finally take their place in the story of how Bartholomew produced their world-famous maps. The DSE includes an in-depth look at the three generations of the Bartholomew family who ran the firm during its time at Duncan Street, as well as a look at life outside of work for its employees.

Amongst the highlights are an anecdote involving a rat and a draughtsman's trouser leg, the unlikely connection between map-making and gramophone needles and the evocative story of what it was like to experience your first day as a Bartholomew apprentice.

(cont. overleaf)



Reproduced by permission of Collins Bartholomew

The Duncan Street Explorer (continued)

The DSE pursues many of the themes which were featured in the recent Bartholomew exhibition, but it allows us to expand the themes and to tackle them in greater detail. That said, the structure of the DSE allows users to easily target specific areas of interest, to focus on specific types of materials and to explore to a range of depths.

We hope the Duncan Street Explorer is a fitting celebration of this influential firm and that it inspires people to look at their Bartholomew maps in a new light.

View the Duncan Street Explorer at: <http://digital.nls.uk/bartholomew/duncan-street-explorer/>

Karla Baker
Bartholomew Archive Curator

New website resources

Scotland's Oldest Bridges

This new website is the result of detailed research by David Simpson - the author of the Roy's Roads website (<http://www.roysroads.co.uk/>) and documents the location and history of 499 bridges across Scotland that were in use before 1750. David has based his research on the early maps of Scotland by Pont and Blaeu in the 17th century, and the Roy Military Survey of Scotland in the mid-18th century. The locations can be easily browsed on a modern Ordnance Survey background map (using OS OpenSpace), with many links to further information (along with photographs) about each bridge. The markers are colour-coded according to age, with red markers for pre-Reformation Bridges, maroon markers for pre-1750 bridges, and blue markers for those replaced with more recent structures. The website reveals that an impressive 385 bridges were shown by Roy, 121 bridges by Pont, and 164 bridges by Blaeu, and there are 31 intact bridges today which date from the 16th century.

David has also included some helpful background information on bridge engineering, architecture, engineering principles, and his information sources.

<http://www.scotlandsoldestbridges.co.uk/>



Pont's depiction of Avonbridge, Stirlingshire (Pont 32)

ScotlandsPlaces - new OS Name Books and new transcriptions project

As reported in the last issue of *Cairt*, from August 2012 the *ScotlandsPlaces* website began to add digitised content from historic tax rolls and Ordnance Survey Name Books. Two thirds of the OS Name Book counties are now available, with the remainder due by September 2013.

From July 2013, the *ScotlandsPlaces* website has also included a new transcription project, where members of the public are encouraged to contribute transcriptions of these handwritten sources to open up the valuable content for further research and exploration. Within just a few weeks, over 1000 pages have been transcribed, and new volunteers are most welcome!

ScotlandsPlaces: <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

ScotlandsPlaces transcriptions project: <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/transcribe>

George Chalmers' *Caledonia*

NLS has recently digitised and made available all the volumes of George Chalmers' *Caledonia* - an encyclopaedic chorographic survey of Scottish history and antiquities published between 1807 and 1824. The work includes Chalmers' detailed research on Scottish cartography and map-makers, along with natural history, agriculture, manufacturing and ecclesiastical history. The text of the volumes has also been OCR'd and is searchable by keyword.

<http://digital.nls.uk/chalmers-caledonia/>

Research Projects

Mapping the Nation Workshop and Blog : Connecting Scottish teachers and academics in Scottish studies

This collaborative project between Edinburgh University and NLS, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, began with an initial inter-disciplinary workshop on 19 June in the NLS Causewayside Building attended by over 50 people. The workshop explored how Scotland has been represented and visualized by its own and other people, with particular reference to Scotland's place within the British Isles. It included short papers by a number of historians: Dauvit Broun on the medieval period, Roger Mason and Nicola Royan on the Renaissance, and creeping into the eighteenth century with Karin Bowie and Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart. Jamie Reid-Baxter reminded us of the sound of the Renaissance with a resounding blast of music that we cannot view on a page or a painting, and Chris Fleet briefly illustrated collaborative opportunities with digital mapping. This workshop will inform the structuring of the follow-on event, 'Mapping the Nation: knowledge exchange', to present projects to secondary school teachers in Scottish studies, which will take place in the early months of 2014. Further details at:

<http://mappingthenation.wordpress.com/>

Mapping Edinburgh's Social History (MESH)

We are very pleased to report that the AHRC are funding a 3-year project, beginning this September, to create a digital and hard-copy Atlas of Edinburgh. The MESH Atlas will be structured around six temporal periods: the early city; medieval city c.1300-1550; the early modern city 1550-1680; Enlightenment Edinburgh, 1680-1820; the 'modern' city, c.1820-1914; and the capital city, 1914-2000. The project will be led by Richard Rodger, Professor of Economic and Social History in Edinburgh University, and will also build upon the former *Visualising Urban Geographies* project (<http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist/>) using open-source mapping technologies to create a dynamic, interactive spatial repository and resource.

Two Ph.D students have already been recruited to begin research in September: Philip Dodds will research 'Capital Mapping: Geographies of Enlightenment Edinburgh' under Professor Charles Withers, and Anna Feintuck will research 'Print City: Printer and Publishers, c.1840-1980' under Professor Richard Rodger. A GIS Technician and Project Administrator is being recruited over the summer.

Nithsdale Archival Mapping Project (NAMP)

Following an inaugural meeting in February 2013, a Steering Group has been formed to further the digitisation and broader availability of pre-1856 maps of Nithsdale. The intention is to always have 3-4 members on the Group who are landowners or their representatives (who are the custodians of the majority of relevant estate maps), whilst the rest of the Group will be made up of those who are interested in the project, whatever their background. The Group hopes to gather expertise and support with the aim of making funding bids to further progress.

Contact Archie McConnel (info@mcconnel.co.uk) for further information or look at the blog at:

<http://archivalmap.blogspot.co.uk/>

Bartholomew doctoral success

Congratulations to Julie McDougall and Amy Dawn Prior for receiving their doctorates in July 2013 from the University of Edinburgh. Their 3-year AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Studentships with the National Library of Scotland allowed the first Ph.D research to be undertaken on the Bartholomew Archive. Julie's thesis was on the *Publishing history and development of school atlases and British geography, c.1870–c.1930* and Amy researched *British mapping of Africa: publishing histories of imperial cartography, c.1880 – c.1915*.

PDFs of these theses are available through the Edinburgh Research Archive:

<http://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

Bartholomew Archive Creative Residencies

As reported in the last edition of *Cairt* two Artists in Residence came to work with the Bartholomew Archive and our general map collections between February and May 2013. Diane Garrick, a Shetland-based textile artist and Tom Pow, a writer and broadcaster, spent three months with us, exploring our collections from their unique perspectives.

Diane and Tom were set quite a challenge, tasked with producing new collaborative and solo works, as well constructing and delivering workshops for NLS staff, school children and people with visual impairments. Their ability to engage with people in an original and creative way allowed Diane and Tom to connect with groups who might otherwise feel marginalised by the complex, visual nature of maps.

The boundless enthusiasm for maps that Diane and Tom share was evident throughout the Residencies. Whilst the Bartholomew Archive acted as a focal point, Diane was keen to explore some of the historical mapping in our general collection, with a focus on maps of Shetland.

Like myself, Tom was drawn to some of the great characters who worked for or managed Bartholomew, with John George Bartholomew (1860-1920) offering more than his fair-share of inspiration.

Diane produced a number of new works during the Residency and one of the largest pieces remains on display in the Maps Reading Room.



The artwork in question is called 'EH' and was created using the technique of free machine-embroidery. When writing about her inspiration, Diane said:

'Edinburgh's heritage and history was the starting point for a fascinating journey through maps...I was particularly inspired by John George Bartholomew's 1919 'Chronological Map of Edinburgh', as well as several of the Post Office plans that had to be frequently updated in order to keep up with the speed of change.

In the process of collaborating with writer Tom Pow, the journey progressed into a philosophical and conceptual exploration of the meaning of maps. Charted on a contemporary post code district map, the journey begins with the historic and becomes - the map as a journey through life'.

'EH' includes short lines from Tom's poem 'Silences'.

Meanwhile, Tom produced a large collection of new works, which we look forward to collaboratively publishing in the future. Tom has generously allowed us to print one of these pieces in *Cairt*, a poem entitled 'The Engraver'. One of the sources of inspiration for this poem was an original copperplate for Bartholomew's half-inch to the mile series.

THE ENGRAVER

Four months I'd spend, bent over
a sheet of copper, 2 feet by 2, glinting
like a coal scuttle on my worktop:

the engraver's task, to inscribe there
the reverse image of a map.
Always, I worked away from the body,
pushing thin threads through the metal -
I was tight-in as a dog on a trail.

*Where I began, I soon forgot.
Where I'll end, you'll never know.
(This map too keeps its secrets.)*

In time, a density of effects formed
below my blind hand. Few will be as intimate
with its contours as I was; or with the
wilfulness

of a river, its horseshoe turns, its hidden
gullies through the marked fields.
I followed wherever it went: a nib, a beak,
a blade on the ice.

Yet there came a time,
when I'd lift my head -
not godlike or summit-sure -

but almost casually,
in the way of someone lost
in a book on a speeding train.

He glances up – on an evening
when a coppery light slants
across the sky –

to see the landscape unfold
before him: lay itself out
without guile.

He can read its familiar fields, its farms,
the sailing boat on the molten river

which reminds him of a dhow
he once saw engraved in a silent world

the breeze tipping its sail, gently,
towards the water.

As Tom remarked in a short interview filmed for NLS' YouTube Channel:

'I'm coming out of here with a whole range of poems, all united by maps and it reconfirms my thought that, In the beginning, was the Map.'

Karla Baker
Bartholomew Archive Curator

Further information:

- Short films of Diane and Tom reflecting on their experiences at the Library can be found on our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NLofScotland>
- Diane Garrick kept a blog during the Residency which can be read via her website <http://www.dianegarrick.com/category/nls-map-residency>
- Further information about Tom Pow, including his current and future projects, can be found on his website <http://www.tompow.co.uk>

New service for copying Ordnance Survey in-copyright maps

Are you interested in obtaining copies of Ordnance Survey maps published within the last fifty years? If so, you may be interested in a new service, launched in April, which allows anyone to obtain copies of in-copyright Ordnance Survey maps. In March 2012, Ordnance Survey withdrew their former Superseded Paper Map Copying Licence, and the only way of obtaining these maps now is through an Ordnance Survey Licensed Partner. NLS therefore became an OS Licensed Partner in February, and we hold a comprehensive set of all these in-copyright OS maps.

The maps can cover anywhere in the United Kingdom, at scales of 1:50,000 and larger. We can supply copies on paper or as digital images. We charge our basic copying fee, plus the OS royalty fee.

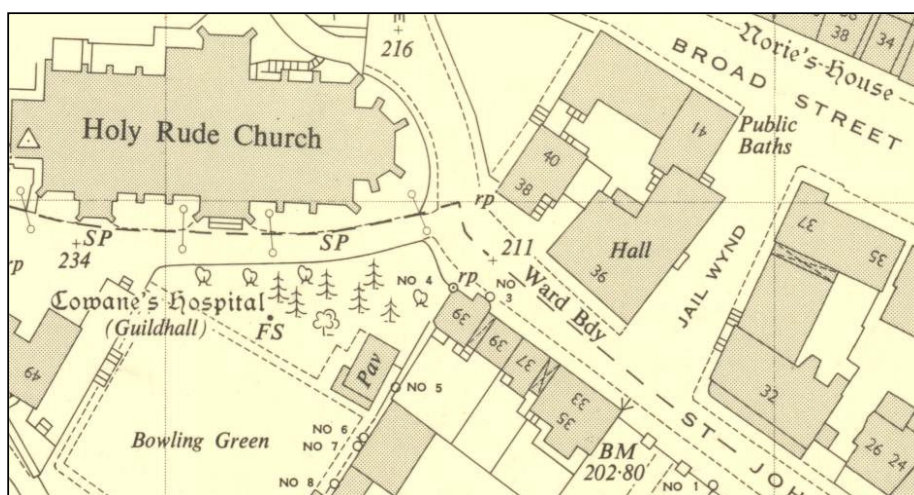
Our National Grid viewer <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/national-grid/> displays the sheet lines of all 1:1,250, 1:2,500 and 1:10,000 sheets for the United Kingdom. For Scotland we have also recorded the dates of all these large-scale sheets. There are details about the service at:

<http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/services/reprographics/os-licence>

along with brief details of the main map series that can be copied at:

<http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/services/reprographics/os-licence/map-series>

We hope to extend the service to supply georeferenced in-copyright mapping when OS license this from the Autumn.



Right:

Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 map of Stirling (NS7993NW), published 1952

Obituary: John McLintock (1957-2013)

Friends and colleagues were saddened to learn of the untimely death of John McLintock on 26th May after a brave, two-year battle with cancer. Before his early retirement in 2012, he had been Head of Maps and Plans at the National Records of Scotland (NRS). Born in 1957, John was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh and was a graduate of the Department of Scottish History at Edinburgh University. He joined the Scottish Record Office (SRO, the predecessor to NRS) in 1984, after working for Glasgow University Archives and as Archivist for the Trustees Savings Bank. He planned and oversaw the introduction to SRO of STAIRS, its first computer system for cataloguing Scottish Office files. Subsequently he managed SRO Conservation and Reprographic Services through a period of significant change. This experience led him in his next post as Registrar of the National Register of Archives for Scotland, to write the first preservation guidelines for Scottish private owners of papers. He was Registrar 1993-2002 and during this period he researched and wrote 'An Archival Account of Scotland', the first national audit of the state of archive provision in the country. He took up the Maps and Plans post in 2002, which also involved managing the public search room at West Register House. As well as revising the standard for NRS plans listing, he superintended the transfer of the existing plans catalogue into CALM. He undertook extensive work in arranging and reducing the backlog of unlisted plans. He was a member of the Scottish Maps Forum Steering Committee and contributor to *Cairt*, and he had also latterly published articles in learned journals on Anna Damer's statue of King George III at General Register House, as well as on the early history of the building's design. During his final illness he guided a project with Historic Scotland to produce a remarkable series of 3D moving images of General Register House.

**David Brown, Head of Court, Legal and Private Records
National Records of Scotland**

Scotia Ultramarina - musings on the Isle of Scotland

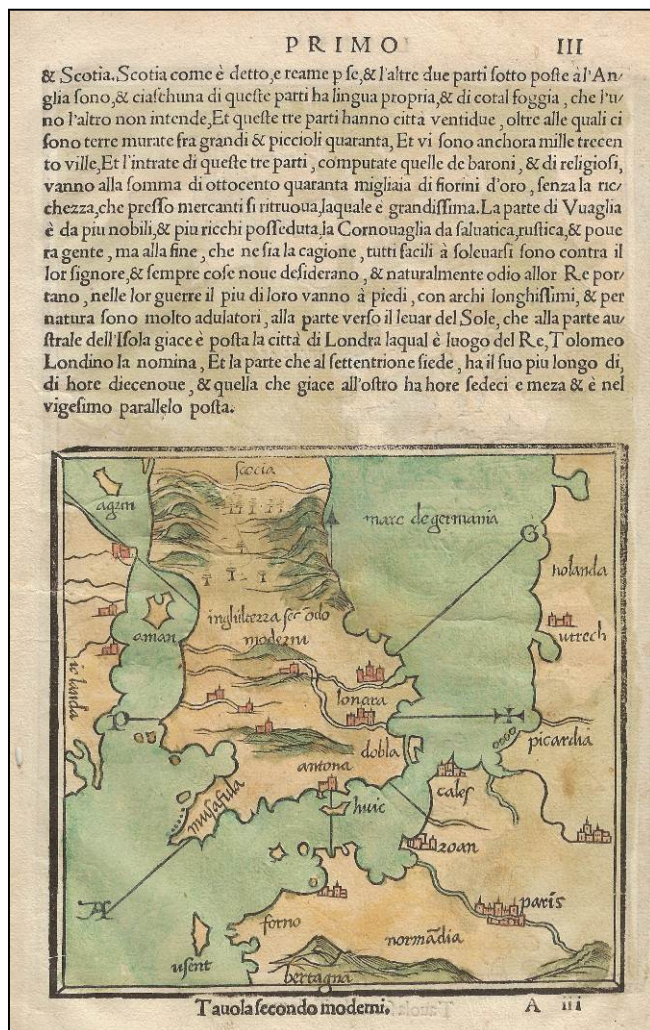
The Americans have delighted for centuries over the 300+ maps including California as an island issued in the 243 years between 1622 and 1865 (listed by McLaughlin and Mayo¹, which includes all 100 examples listed by Tooley², and all but a number of eclectic examples also listed by Burden³), although I am not aware that any of these have been cited in any attempt to instigate the independence of California.

Claudius Ptolemy, for all his faults on Scotland's geography (he was, after all, a Roman, writing in Greek, and working in Alexandria), never seems to have drawn any boundary between England and Scotland, but Matthew Paris⁴ drew four manuscript maps of Great Britain (thought now to have originated in St. Albans, c1260-69) which also depict in map A (*pace* the pun!) walls separating the Scots and the Picts, and the Picts and the English - seemingly the Antonine Wall and Hadrian's Wall. He also clearly shows *Scotia Ultramarina* (also described on the map as "Albania" - St. Albans was in the fifteenth century also Sancti Albani or Sanctum Albanum⁵!) as an island north of a sea channel joining the Firths of Forth and Clyde - a myth perpetuated by Pietro Porro in his woodcut maps (Shirley⁶ entry 16a - ascribed to 1524-26 - and entry 21, with North-West at the top of the map - ascribed to 1528), and by Benedetto Bordone in his "modern" map (1528, or a later reissue to c1565 - figure 1)

In contrast, Jansson⁷ and others show Korea as an island way before this was discredited as untrue, when an international boundary became shown instead along roughly the same line.

Unlike California, these few examples of Scotland as an island are very atypical of the vast majority of manuscript and portolan charts - based on sailors' knowledge, and drawn for sailors - and very much the exception to the rule⁸, ranking with mythical islands of Brasil and Thule as simple misprisions, if not intentional loss leaders!

Neil Davidson
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NOTES:

1. McLaughlin, G and Mayo, N H (1995) *The mapping of California as an Island - An Illustrated Checklist*
2. Tooley, R V (1980) *The Mapping of America*, chapter 3, "California as an Island", pp. 109-134
3. Burden, P D (2007) *The Mapping of North America II : a list of printed maps 1671-1700*, Appendix 2, "California as an island", pp. 507-578
4. The Trustees of the British Museum (1928) *Four Maps of Great Britain Designed by Matthew Paris about A.D. 1250*
5. Stillwell, M B (1930) *Incunabula and Americana*, reference section IV, "Place-names of Fifteenth Century Printing Towns", pp. 227-248
6. Shirley, R W (1991) *Early Printed Maps of the British Isles 1477-1650*
7. van der Krogt, P (1997) *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*, volume 1, map 8410:1B
8. Two portolan examples based on Benincasa's work which show this aberration can be viewed at <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/unvbrit/n/001e9e000002855u00007vrb.html> and <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/unvbrit/p/001add000010132u00002000.html>

Left: Bordone's "modern" map of England and Wales, 1528 or later to 1565 (from the author's collection)

General Maczek's Great Polish Map of Scotland - news and update



We briefly mentioned the *Mapa Scotland* campaign to restore General Maczek's Great Polish Map of Scotland in *Cairt* 18 (January 2011), and are very pleased to report significant progress since that time. This 50 x 40 metre, three-dimensional outdoor 1:10,000 scale model of Scotland sits in the grounds of the Barony Castle Hotel, by Eddleston. It was constructed in 1975 by a group of young Polish geographers from the Jagellonian University of Krakow at the request of General Maczek. It is possibly the largest of such topographical relief models in the world – at least 2.8 times greater in area than the model map in British Columbia, currently listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

The *Mapa Scotland* team have actively met and made progress on a number of issues since then. Through their efforts, in September 2012, Christine Grahame MSP secured a debate in Holyrood to discuss the importance of the Great Polish Map of Scotland, and the Scottish Parliament acknowledged that the *Mapa Scotland* project deserved their formal support. Last year, Historic Scotland confirmed that the Great Polish Map has category B listed status as a significant historic site. The *Mapa Scotland* group also now has charitable status to consolidate their broader eligibility for grant aid, and has completed lease negotiations to secure public access to the site.

Mapa Scotland welcomes new members and support for the project. For queries about membership and project plans, please contact the Secretary, Keith Burns, at mapascotland@gmail.com.

The *Mapa Scotland* website also contains a wide range of background information about the map, including photographs, the history of the map, and project progress:

<http://www.mapascotland.makers.org.uk/>



Photographs courtesy of the *Mapa Scotland* website

Cairt Competition - Win a facsimile copy of John Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland* (1832)

This year we are commemorating the completion of the Great Atlas of Scotland publishing project with Birlinn. Although the Blaeu Atlas facsimile has now sold out, there are still a few copies available of the Roy/Military Survey Great Map (1747-55) volume, John Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland* (1832), and the Bartholomew Survey Atlas (1912) (<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Limited-Editions-12/>).

To win copy of John Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland* (worth £150), just let us know **which county map** the detail shown at the top left of the front cover is from.

Please send or email your answers, marked *Cairt Competition*, to maps@nls.uk or to the address on the front cover by **30 September 2013**. The winner will be picked randomly from the winning entries and informed by 15 October 2013.

Congratulations to Charles McKean for winning a copy of the Bartholomew Survey Atlas from the last issue's competition – and to everyone who correctly identified the mystery town as Broughty Ferry.

There will also be a talk and discussion on the Atlases of Scotland at the Edinburgh International Book Festival at 10.30 am on 15 August, and a talk in NLS at 18.00 on 26 November.