



CAIRT

Issue 28
January 2016

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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 **National Library of Scotland**
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

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Blaeu Atlas Maior, 1662-65

Our latest online addition is the *Blaeu Atlas Maior* or *Cosmographia Blaviana* - one of the largest and most splendid of the multi-volume Dutch world atlases. Published in 1662-5, its 594 maps and 3,368 pages of texts spread across 11 volumes collectively presented the state of geographic knowledge of the world in the mid 17th century. Volume VI of the work was devoted to maps of Scotland and Ireland, bringing forward the original mapping of Scotland from the work of Timothy Pont, first published in Blaeu's *Atlas novus* of 1654, into their final published form.

The *Atlas Maior* was a work of many superlatives: for cartography, publishing, printing and its customers. It is estimated that just typesetting the text pages of the *Atlas Maior* took 7 man years of work, and when we add to this the significant time spent drafting and engraving maps, binding, and printing, the immensity of the achievement is apparent. It was the most expensive book that could be acquired in the mid-17th century - a lavish and splendid item for display by its powerful and wealthy customers. For Joan Blaeu, the *Atlas Maior* in some ways represented the culmination of a long and successful career, following a string of leading cartographic and political appointments - although his glory was short-lived. Within a decade of publishing the *Atlas Maior*, a catastrophic fire raged through his main printing press at Gravenstraat, largely destroying the firm, and within a year, in December 1673, Joan Blaeu died.

View the Atlas at: <http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/blaeu-maior/index.html>



Recent website additions – new maps

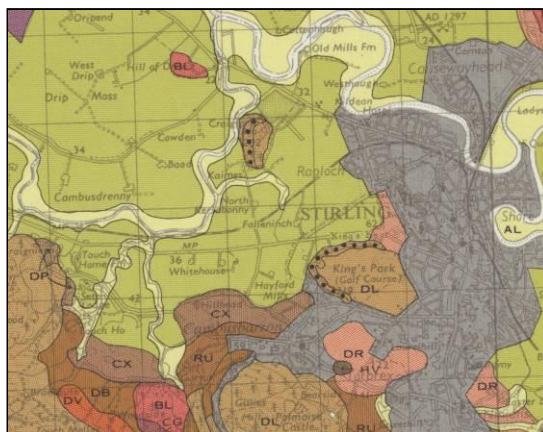
Soil Survey of Scotland mapping (1950s-1980s)

We have been pleased to collaborate with the James Hutton Institute in putting online a set of one-inch to the mile/1:50,000 maps covering the Lowland parts of Scotland. The *Soil Survey of Scotland* began mapping in 1938 and by 1947 was given the responsibility of the systematic mapping of Scotland's soil resource by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. The initial surveys were in connection with afforestation but at the onset of the Second World War, the focus switched to agricultural land and increasing food production. The Survey effectively came to an end in 1986 and by this time it had produced a range of soil maps at scales from 1:10,000 up to 1:250,000.

The main output was a series of 34 maps at one-inch to the mile (1:63,360) based on the Ordnance Survey one-inch Seventh Series, and seven sheets at a reconnaissance scale of 1:250,000 that covered the entire country. Approximately 95 per cent of the cultivated land in Scotland was therefore mapped at a scale of 1: 63,360 (with some at 1:50,000 scale). During this period, the 'Survey' was based in Aberdeen and was a department within the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research.

The soil maps are available on our website as individual sheets and as a georeferenced layer.

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/series/soils/index.html>



OS 25 inch County Series England and Wales (1841-1952)

Virtually all our map digitisation work is externally funded, and this explains our main current emphasis on scanning Ordnance Survey mapping of England and Wales. Since the last issue of *Cairt*, we have doubled our online coverage of the 25 inch County Series, and now have 32,744 sheets available online – all NLS 1:2,500 holdings covering southern counties of England (roughly south of a line from Gloucestershire to Essex).

The 25 inch to the mile maps are the most detailed covering rural areas as well as smaller towns and villages, allowing almost every feature in the landscape to be shown. We hope to complete the scanning of this series over the next two years, working our way north. A georeferenced layer of 2nd ed ca. 1900 mapping and other counties is also available.

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

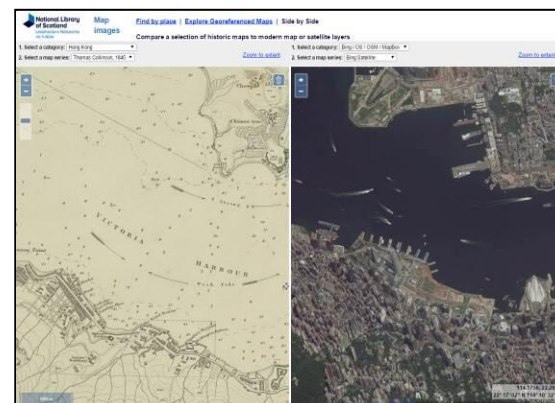


Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire in 1898

Ordnance Map of Hong Kong by Thomas Collinson (1846)

As a legal deposit library, the National Library of Scotland has good holdings of official British mapping of overseas territories. This finely engraved map depicts Hong Kong just after the time that it was formally ceded to Great Britain under the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, and is available as individual sheets and as a georeferenced layer. This latter presentation is particularly impressive in showing how much Hong Kong harbour has changed (and shrunk in size) in the last century and a half.

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/hongkong/102621568.html>



Collinson's map of Hong-Kong, georeferenced in our Side-by-Side viewer

Recent website additions – new map resources

New Historic Maps Subscription API layers

In 2010 we launched our free Historic Maps API (<http://maps.nls.uk/projects/api/>), allowing a single layer of mapping of Great Britain to be easily integrated inside other websites. The layer included scales from 1:1 million to 1:63,360 during the 1920s-1940s time period. As with access to our maps website images, we intend to keep this original API as a freely available service. It has proved extremely popular with a growing demand to use our other historic georeferenced layers of mapping as web services inside other websites.

The Historic Maps Subscription API allows the incorporation of five of our more detailed historic georeferenced map layers into other websites. The layers have been optimised for rapid display and distributed under a reliable, scalable hosting, with an annual subscription fee to cover these costs. The layers include Ordnance Survey coverage of Great Britain at six-inch to the mile (1888-1913), medium-scale mapping at 1:25,000 (1937-1961) and 1:63,360 (1955-1961), as well as London at 1:1,056 scale (1893-1896).

The screenshot shows the National Library of Scotland website. The main heading is "NLS Historic Maps Subscription API Detailed historical Maps of Great Britain for use in mashups". Below this, it lists several use cases for the seamless historic map layers, such as embedding into websites, research purposes, and use as a backdrop for markers. It also mentions that these layers complement the free NLS Historic Maps API. A list of available map layers is provided, including the Subscription API for Great Britain at various scales and dates.

Home page:

<http://maps.nls.uk/projects/subscription-api/index.html>

The screenshot shows the TileServer website. It features a map of Great Britain with a time slider in the upper right corner. The website lists various web viewers and desktop GIS software that can be used to access the maps.

Digimap for Schools update - OS Seventh Series addition

We have been pleased to collaborate with EDINA over the last two years in making available historic map layers in their *Digimap for Schools* application. *Digimap for Schools* allows access via subscription to a range of modern and historic Ordnance Survey map layers, through a specially designed interface. There are useful tools and functions for schools, such as customisation of maps, annotation, printouts, and an extensive range of guides and exercises pitched for different ages. In September we added our OS Seventh Series layer to *Digimap for Schools*, complementing the 1890s layer we added last year. The Seventh Series is an attractive mid-20th century presentation of the British landscape, which can also be viewed on our website at: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/one-inch-seventh-series/>

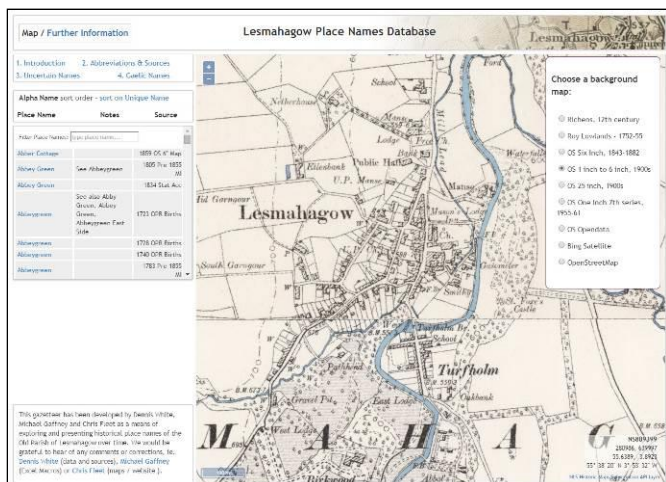
The screenshot shows the Digimap for Schools interface. It features a map of Galashiels with a time slider in the upper right corner. The interface includes search, display, and print options, and a "make printable map" button.

This interface shows the Seventh Series and time sliders (upper right) for comparing different dates of mapping

Digimap for Schools home page: <http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/>

Recent website additions – new map resources (contd.)

Lesmahagow Place Names Database



Map / Further Information

Lesmahagow Place Names Database

1. Introduction 2. Administrations & Sources
3. Recent Place Names 4. Gaelic Names

Alpha Name sort order - sort on Unique Name

Place Name	Notes	Source
Aldon	1859 OS 4" Map	
Aldon Green	See Aldongreen 1855 P.N. 1855 161	
Aldon Green	See Aldongreen 1855 P.N. 1855 161	
Aldon Green	1834 Stat. Ac.	
Aldongreen	See also Aldon Green, Aldon Green, Aldongreen East side	1753 OS 8" Barish
Aldongreen		1718 OS 8" Barish
Aldongreen		1740 OS 8" Barish
Aldongreen		1763 P.N. 1855 161

Choose a background map:

- Richards, 19th century
- Ray Landrath - 1770-95
- OS 6" Inch, 1843-1882
- OS 4" Inch to 6" Inch, 1900
- OS 25" Inch, 1963
- OS One Inch 7.5" Series, 1955-61
- OS Quadrants
- OS Six Mile
- OS StreetMap

This gazetteer has been created by Dennis White, Michael Gaffney and Chris Farnes as a means of exploring and presenting historical place names of the 161 parishes of Leicestershire. It is intended to be a useful resource to those who are interested in the history of Leicestershire and its place names. It is not intended to be a definitive list of place names and is subject to change as more information becomes available.

This new web application provides an interactive map-based interface to a detailed gazetteer of some 4,000 records which relate to over 600 place names in the old parish of Lesmahagow. The names have been gathered from a wide range of sources by Dennis White, with technical assistance from Michael Gaffney. The resulting resource will be useful for family history researchers, local historians, linguistic place name researchers and anyone with an interest in the area. The gazetteer is presented in two main orders, with a text search facility too for filtering the names, and with details of variant names and the sources - both textual and cartographic - that the names have been taken from. Clicking on the name positions the map at that location, and users can select a set of

georeferenced maps, from the 12th to the 21st century, for viewing the name geographically. The application also includes a list of unconfirmed locations, examples of Gaelic place names, and a poem about the people and place names of Lesmahagow parish, published in 1914 but describing the scene in the 1860s. The authors welcome comments and corrections, and it is hoped to incorporate these and other updates in the future.

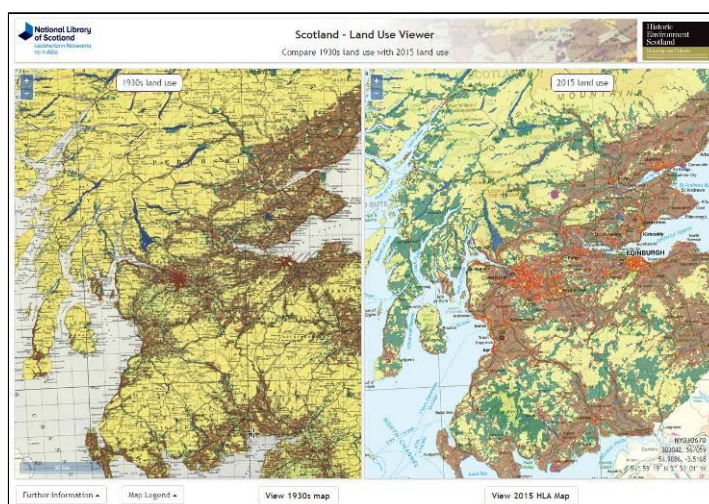
Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/projects/lesmahagow/>

Scotland Land Use – compare the 1930s to the present day

This new viewer is a collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland, and allows the 1930s land utilisation maps that we put online last year to be compared to the 2015 Historic Land Use Assessment Layer from Historic Environment Scotland. The HLA layer has been deliberately coloured to match as closely as possible the six main categories of the 1930s land utilisation survey. The viewer shows how striking the changes in Scotland's land use have been during the 20th century, particularly due to afforestation and urbanisation, with significant changes too in the patterns of arable and pasture land.

Home page:

<http://maps.nls.uk/projects/landuse/>



Keep up with us with Twitter, Facebook, the blogosphere, and e-news bulletins...

Whilst waiting for the next issue of *Cairt*, you can also keep in touch with our news in a growing number of other ways. In December, the Library launched a new blog, with regular posts about collections, including maps. Did you know too that we have an active map twitter account, with 2,700 followers? The Library also has its own twitter account and Facebook page. You can also keep in touch with map and other news through the Library's monthly e-newsletter:

Map Library Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/natlibscotmaps>

Library Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/natlibscot>

Library Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryOfScotland>

Library Blog:

<http://blog.nls.uk/>

Library E-newsletter:

<http://www.nls.uk/news/email-newsletter>

Alexander Ogg and his *Plan of New and Old Aberdeen* (1847-55)

Douglas Lockhart shares some of his recent research on the little-known Aberdeenshire surveyor, Alexander Ogg (1811-1865), and his work in Scotland and New Zealand.

Alexander Ogg was born in Kemnay Parish in 1811 and died 150 years ago at Hokitika on the west coast of South Island, New Zealand on 27 November 1865. He was associated with Kemnay Academy in the mid-1830s where he taught land surveying, farmed at Howford on the outskirts of Inverurie and was one of the founders of Inverurie Gas Works in 1839. He made a large number of plans of farms and estates in Kemnay, Monymusk and Culsalmond parishes, Aberdeenshire.

Ogg's *Map of New and Old Aberdeen* appeared in four different editions dated 1847, 1848, 1849 and 1855. The 1847 edition is held by the National Library of Scotland while the 1848 and 1849 editions can be consulted as 'Virtual Volumes' at National Records in Edinburgh [RHP804/2 and RHP45673/1]. The Special Collections Centre, University of Aberdeen also have copies dated 1848 and 1849 and Aberdeen Central Library had their 1855 edition on display in the Local Studies section to commemorate 150 years since the surveyor's death. Ogg's Map was given approval by the City Council and the *Aberdeen Journal* on 22 November records that the Finance Committee recommended its purchase. However, Ogg did not enjoy the proceeds from the sale of his Map. He was sequestered in December 1848; the 1848 edition was not published until 1854 while the 1849 edition was promised to subscribers to *Ravenscroft's Aberdeen Kalendar* [sic] which appears not to have been published. Instead he became interested in emigrating to New Zealand and the *Aberdeen Journal* and many contemporary newspapers carried advertisements during the early months of 1850 describing his plans to travel there and inviting people from Aberdeenshire to accompany him.

He arrived in New Zealand in December 1850 where he carried on farming and land surveying near Nelson and taught briefly at one of the Nelson School Society's new schools. His family however remained in Aberdeen; Ogg having been unable to secure an assisted passage for them. He was employed by the Provincial Government to investigate new routes through mountainous countryside that coincided with a growing interest in prospecting for gold for which a reward, known as the Gold Bonus was offered to a prospector who located a viable goldfield. He laid out the township

of Havelock in 1858. Gold dominated the latter stages of his life and he moved to Otago (1861) then Invercargill (1862) and finally to Hokitika (1864-65) where gold had recently been discovered.

There is a memorial stone to Alexander Ogg, his wife Agnes Johnston and three of their six daughters in Allenvale Cemetery, Aberdeen. An illustrated article on his life in Aberdeenshire can be read in *Scottish Local History* 93 (Winter 2015-16) and his surveying career in New Zealand will be in print later in 2016.

The NLS copy of Alexander Ogg's Aberdeen map can be viewed at:

<http://maps.nls.uk/towns/detail.cfm?id=3957>

with a zoomable image at:

<http://maps.nls.uk/view/115109637>



Above: the 1847 edition of the map, held in the National Library of Scotland, with detail (left).

Professor Charles Withers appointed as Geographer Royal for Scotland

Professor Charles Withers (Ogilvie Chair of Geography at the University of Edinburgh) was conferred as the first Geographer Royal for Scotland in 118 years at a ceremony in the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Perth on September 15th. As *Cairt* readers will know, Professor Withers is a world-leading historical and cultural geographer, a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Professor Withers was awarded the title by HRH The Princess Royal, Vice President of RSGS. The role of the Geographer Royal is to act as an international and national ambassador for geography, helping to promote Geography in research, education and in society more widely.



The first Geographer Royal for Scotland, Sir Robert Sibbald, was appointed in 1682 by King Charles II. Sibbald was the first Professor of Medicine at University of Edinburgh, and he was co-founder of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Sibbald took a great interest in Scottish topography and mapping, and through Sibbald many early topographic collections - including the Pont, Gordon and Adair maps - survive today in the National Library of Scotland.

There have been four individuals who have previously held the title of Geographer Royal for Scotland, the last being George Harvey Johnston, a leading Edinburgh cartographer and publisher who was Geographer Royal for Scotland to Queen Victoria from 1897.

After Johnston, the related title of "Cartographer to The King" was bestowed as a corporate warrant to the Bartholomew map making firm (also from Edinburgh) in the period when John George Bartholomew was at the helm. Professor Withers is therefore only the fifth personal honorific and he will hold the title for an initial 6 year period, when it will be reviewed.

Left: Professor Charles Withers and HRH The Princess Royal at the RSGS in Perth

Recent publications relating to Scottish cartography

Douglas Lockhart, 'Alexander Ogg: land surveyor, farmer and gold prospector, Aberdeenshire and New Zealand. Part 1: Aberdeenshire', *Scottish Local History* 93 (See previous page for more details)

John Moore, *Glasgow: Mapping the City*. Birlinn, in association with the National Library of Scotland and the University of Glasgow Library, 2015.

David Spaven, *The Railway Atlas of Scotland: two hundred years of history in maps*. Birlinn, in association with the National Library of Scotland, 2015.

(Please see the last issue of *Cairt* for more information on these two books).

David L. Walker, 'The troubled progress of the Scottish triangulation 1823-1858' *Sheetlines* 104 (December 2015), 5-18 <https://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue104page5.pdf>

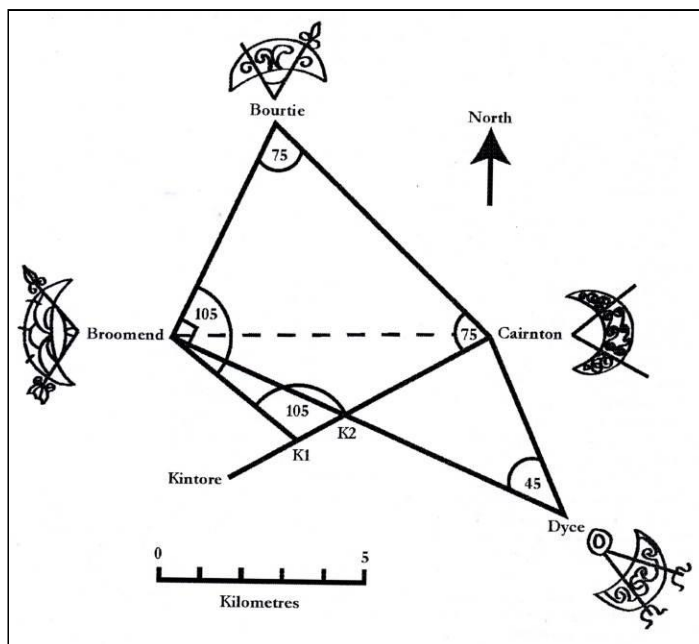
This detailed, and thoroughly researched paper continues David Walker's earlier research into the initial Ordnance Survey triangulation of Scotland in the first half of the 19th century, and shows how much more detail can be added to the story. The initial triangulation of Scotland was nearly finished between 1809 and 1822, but remained incomplete until 1841, and was not finally published until 1858. This paper examines the reasons for this, and the uses the principal triangulation was put to, including various secondary triangulations and collaborative surveying work with the Hydrographic Office, eventually allowing the important definition of county origins for OS topographic surveying work. The triangulations involved much physical work observing angles from the summits of Scottish mountains, and mathematical work through the Astronomer-Royal, George Airy and subsequently Alexander Ross Clarke of Ordnance Survey. The paper also explains why Airy's spheroid continues to be used as a basis for the National Grid, rather than the more accurate spheroid computed by Clarke.

Recent Research

By coincidence, two recent research projects have looked at symbols on stone, and their possible meanings in connection with the landscape

Surveying the Symbol Stones

Helen Mulholland's recent paper presents the results of original and detailed empirical research on Pictish symbol stones in Scotland and the possible meanings of these symbols. It builds on earlier studies of these stones, but looks at them primarily as markers for territory and administration of land. The symbols can be divided into four main groups: symbols which indicate cardinal directions, such as North-South and East-West; symbols which identify natural landscape features such as rivers and lochs; geometric symbols which reflect the instruments and methods of triangulation; and symbols referring to man-made structures such as hillforts or chapels. The detailed analysis of these symbols is brought together into a thoughtful summary, with useful diagrams and maps, and with a detailed gazetteer of the stones themselves.



A simplified illustration of how the symbols on four selected stones, north-west of Aberdeen, can be interpreted as an integrated network.

The paper can be read and downloaded from:

https://www.academia.edu/12867723/Surveying_the_Symbol_Stones



Maps, patterns and pictures on stone

Dr Fiona Mulgrew has recently sent in striking pictures and commentary about stones gathered primarily around the coasts of East Lothian, on which geographic lines and colours can be traced. There is not space in *Cairt* to do proper justice to the pictures or commentary she has sent, and so we invite readers to view fuller details and a zoomable image of one of these, called *The Emperor's Map*, on our website at:

<http://geo.nls.uk/maps/mulgrew/index.html>

CAIRT COMPETITION - two copies of John Moore's *Glasgow: Mapping the City to be won...*

As described in the last issue of *Cairt*, this beautifully illustrated book was published in October 2015, and features 80 maps which have been selected for the particular stories they reveal about different political, commercial and social aspects of Scotland's largest city.

To win a copy, please use our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer to tell us how far the south-east corner of Glasgow University Library **where it was in the 1890s** is from the nearest trigonometrical station / trig point. The *Cairt* judging panel would be happy to accept the distance in imperial or metric measures, rounded to the nearest 10 metres / 30 feet.

Please send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to maps@nls.uk or to the address on the front cover by 31 March 2016. The winners will be picked randomly from the winning entries and informed by 15 April 2016.

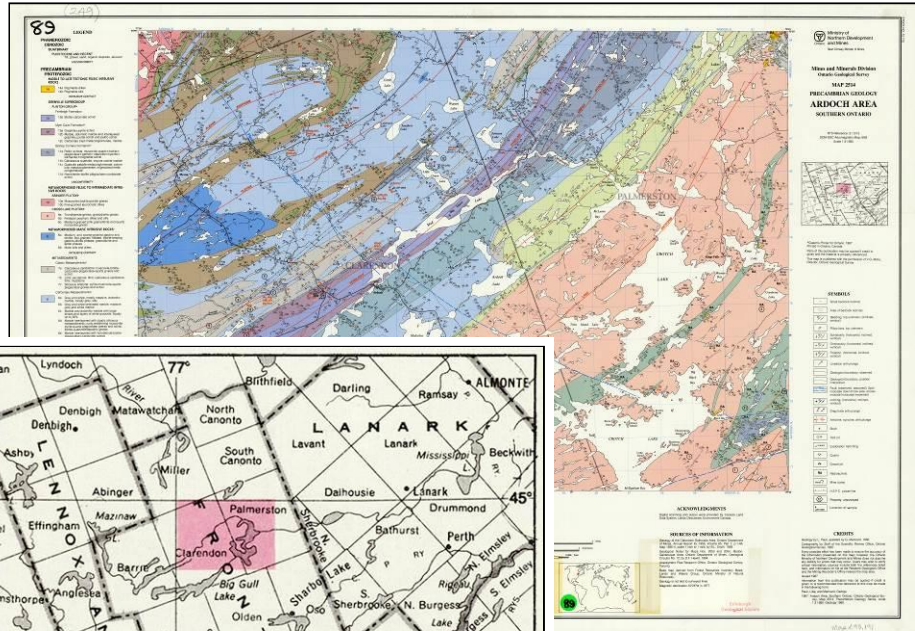
Congratulations to Andrew Parrott and John Samson who each won a copy of *The Railway Atlas of Scotland* from last issue's competition.

Recent National Library of Scotland acquisitions

Edinburgh Geological Society donation

The Library has received a kind donation from the Edinburgh Geological Society. It consists of almost 300 maps which were largely collected by the Society to display in three separate exhibitions during the 1980s. The maps are produced by different geological mapping agencies from all around the world and demonstrate different styles of mapping and colour variations. They include examples of magnetic anomaly maps, mineral resource distribution, boreholes and water tables as well as surface and bedrock geology. Geographically they stretch over both Poles with many areas inbetween, and at a large variety of scales.

Particularly of note is a rare, 40 sheet, "Mapa gelogico de Cuba". Some are visually arresting as well as interesting, such as the volcano Soufriere on Guadeloupe, or the Canadian map of the Ardoch area of South Ontario, with its many Scottish placenames. The maps will largely be kept together as a collection.



Ontario Geological Survey, Map 2514, *Precambrian Geology, Ardoch Area, Southern Ontario*. Scale 1:31,680, 1980.

Self-service photography to begin in the Maps Reading Room

After the success of Self Service Photography in the Library's Special Collections Reading Room, it has now been decided to implement a trial in the Maps Reading Room. The trial will start in February and readers who have not already registered for this service will need to do so when they arrive at the Reading Room in Causewayside.



Although there will be some restrictions on the type of hardware that can be used to take photographs, and the material that can be copied (subject to conservation and copyright status), much of the collection will be available to be photographed for your personal use.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/maps/>

Exhibition update

The exhibition on **James Robertson: the Shetlander who mapped Jamaica**, described in the last issue of *Cairt*, was well-received in Lerwick from 26 September - 22 November 2015. The exhibition then went on to the Arbutnot Museum in Peterhead, and can be seen there until 20th February 2016.

The Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP - <http://www.damproject.org/>) are holding an exhibition "**Among the rigs o' Barley**": a cartographic tour of Nithsdale and Annandale in the 18th and early 19th century, 12 March - 18 June 2016 at Dumfries Museum.