



# CAIRT

Issue 31  
July 2017

*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 & 17<sup>th</sup> century Scots for map.

*For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:*

**Scottish Maps Forum**  
**National Library of Scotland**  
**159 Causewayside**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH9 1PH**  
**Tel: 0131 623 4660**  
**E-mail: [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk)**  
**Twitter: [@natlibscotmaps](https://twitter.com/natlibscotmaps)**



ISSN 1477-4186

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Editor: C. Fleet      Technical Ed: J. Parkerson

## New online OS National Grid maps of Scotland, 1940s-1960s

Our latest online addition is all out-of-copyright Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 scale maps of Scotland in the post-War period (6,164 maps). These cover the largest Scottish towns and cities in great detail (the most detailed scale published by OS of them in the 20th century). As well as a being a goldmine of detailed urban information, these maps are the earliest to show house numbers consistently for all residential buildings. This addition is an initial stage of a larger project to make available online all post-War maps of Scotland at 1:10,560 and larger scales that are out-of-copyright. We expect to put all the 1:2,500 scale maps (covering smaller settlements and rural areas in Scotland) online by the autumn, and the 1:10,560 scale maps by the end of 2017. We are also creating a georeferenced layer of the earliest edition of these maps.

### Home page:

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/national-grid/index.html>

### View map sheets:

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=7&lat=57.0551&lon=-3.6548&layers=61&b=1>

### Georeferenced layer:

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=8&lat=56.6035&lon=-3.8900&layers=170&b=1>



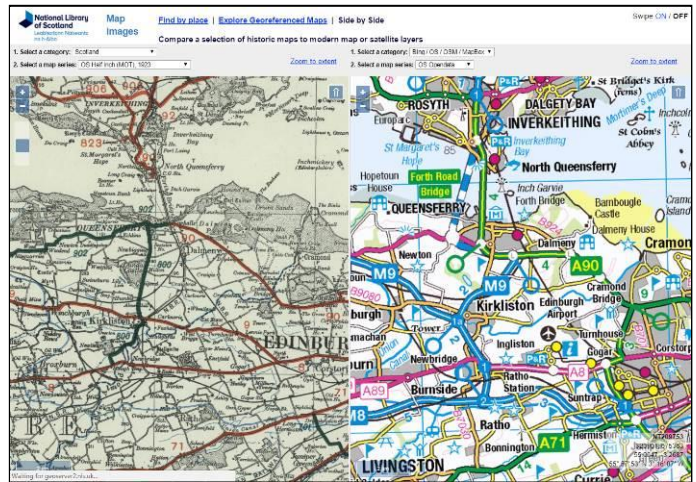
Above: The environs of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, in 1949. Many of the buildings to the east were demolished in the 1960s to make way for the M8.

## Other website additions

### OS Half-Inch to the Mile, Ministry of Transport Road Maps of Scotland, 1923

These Ministry of Transport road maps, issued by the Ordnance Survey in 1923, were the first to accurately show the initial numbered roads in Scotland. The roads depicted on this set of maps are Class I roads (in red) showing important routes connecting large population centres or through roads, and the less important Class II roads (in green).

The Ministry of Transport was formed in 1919, and following the Roads Act in 1920, the Government was allowed to generate revenue from an excise duty on road vehicles and licenses. With the rapid increase in road traffic, a method for managing the road network was needed, and the Ministry of Transport devised a road classification system for this purpose, publishing a definitive list of road classifications in 1922/3.



Comparing the MoT maps (left) with modern OS OpenData (right) in our Side-by-Side viewer

Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/half-inch-mot-roads/index.html>

### Kitchener's Survey of Cyprus, 1882

This set of maps represents the first full triangulated survey of the island of Cyprus, carried out between 1878-1882 by H.H. Kitchener (later Field Marshal Earl Kitchener). It was the most accurate map of the island when published, and the maps are also very detailed, marking roads, tracks, telegraph lines, and locating vineyards, monasteries, ruins, sheepfolds, springs, wells and aqueducts. Towns and villages are identified as being Christian or Muslim, and are given both their Greek and Turkish names. This is part of a collaborative project with the University of Glasgow.



Home page: <http://maps.nls.uk/cyprus/>

### Scottish History Society publications

The Library has recently digitised the Scottish History Society series, which include transcriptions of original and primary material, several of which have a particular relevance to Scottish topography and map-making:

- Series 1, Volume 23 - Itinerary of Prince Charles Edward Stuart from his landing in Scotland, July 1745, to his departure in September 1746 (W.B. Blaikie)
- Series 1, Volumes 51-53 - Macfarlane's Geographical Collections (ed. A. Mitchell)
- Series 2, Volumes 14 and 15 - Contribution to the bibliography of Scottish topography (A. Mitchell & C. Cash)
- Series 3, Volume 27 - Survey of Lochtayside, 1769 (ed. M.M. McArthur)
- Series 3, Volume 52 - John Home's survey of Assynt (ed. R.J. Adam)
- Series 4, Volume 1 - Argyll Estate instructions: Mull, Morvern, Tiree 1771-1805 (ed. E. Cregeen)
- Series 4, Volumes 8-9 - Papers on Sutherland Estate Management 1802-1816 (ed. R.J. Adam)
- Series 4, Volume 15 - Papers on Peter May, Land Surveyor, 1749-1793 (ed. I.H. Adams)

View these all through: <http://digital.nls.uk/scottish-history-society-publications/>

## Other website additions (contd.)

### New *Find by Place* - with *Marker* search interface

We now have over 190,000 maps online, and so finding the right one quickly becomes ever more important. We have just launched a new, easy way of finding all our online maps using a marker pin - just place the marker pin over your location of interest, and the maps that cover it appear straight away. You can search for places using a gazetteer of names, addresses or postcodes, and toggle between a background map and satellite layer. The results can be narrowed, if necessary, by adjusting the date range and the scales (or levels of detail) of the maps returned. Its also easy to toggle between the new interface and our traditional *Find by Place* - with *Bounding Boxes* search interface. As before, you can also search for all our maps by mapmaker and by series/groups.



Try out the new *Find by Place* - with *Marker* search interface at: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/>

We have also created historic map search interfaces for three recent websites showcasing other Library collections:

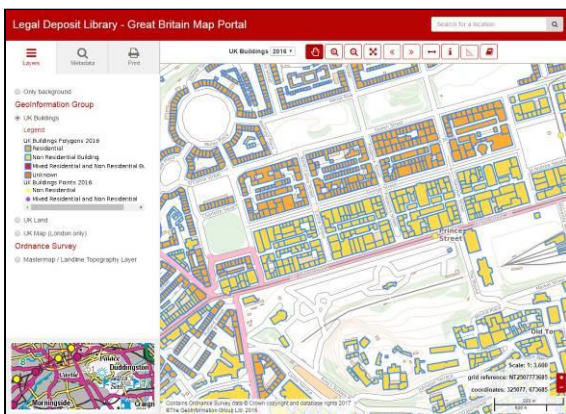
- Journals of Henrietta Liston, 1796-1801: <http://digital.nls.uk/travels-of-henrietta-liston/map/>
- Thomas Annan's photographs of Glasgow tenements, late 1860s: <http://digital.nls.uk/learning/thomas-annan-glasgow/historical-maps/>
- Iolaire disaster, Stornoway, 1919: <http://digital.nls.uk/learning/iolaire/en/map.html>

### OS 25 inch County Series England and Wales, 1841-1952

This project continues, and we have now completed coverage of England, by adding all our 25 inch mapping online for the counties of Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland and Yorkshire. We have recently scanned maps of Wales to complete this major scanning project, and hope to have all maps online soon.

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

## New modern digital mapping available in Library reading rooms



LDL Modern Map Viewer interface showing the Geoinformation Group's UK Buildings dataset for the Edinburgh New Town

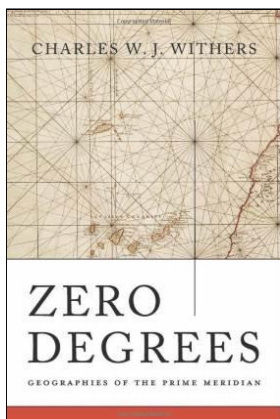
Did you know that you can access the most detailed up-to-date maps of the United Kingdom, published by Ordnance Survey, from 1998 to the present day, in the Library reading rooms? As well as the Maps Reading Room in Causewayside, this includes George IV Bridge and Kelvin Hall. In April we launched a new, improved map viewer for this, which will grow to include many other modern digital map publications. We have recently added digital mapping from the Geoinformation Group to this viewer, including land-use, and building categories for the United Kingdom. These and other digital map datasets are being received under the *Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013*, and are a collaborative project with the other UK Legal Deposit Libraries.

Read more on the new digital map datasets at: <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/electronic-legal-deposit>

... and on Ordnance Survey digital mapping at: <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/os-mastermap>

## New / Forthcoming Map Publications

### Zero Degrees: Geographies of the Prime Meridian



Space and time on earth are regulated by the prime meridian, 0°, which is, by convention, based at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. But the meridian's location in southeast London is not a simple legacy of Britain's imperial past. Before the nineteenth century, more than twenty-five different prime meridians were in use around the world, including Paris, Beijing, Greenwich, Washington, and the Canary Islands – the traditional location in Europe since Ptolemy.

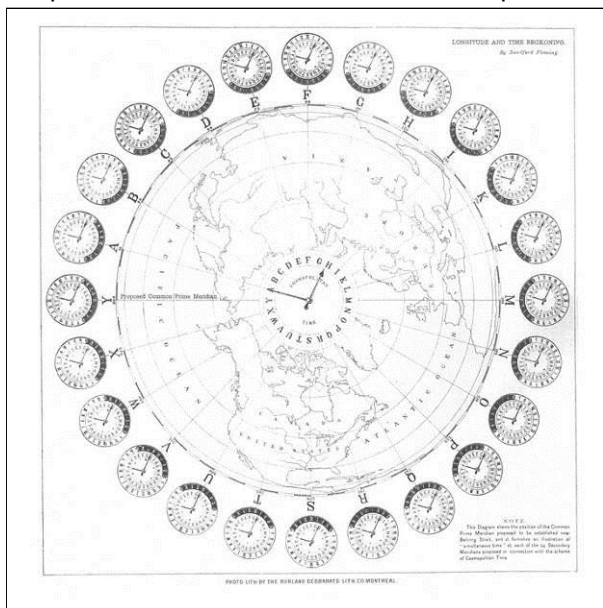
Charles Withers explains how the choice of Greenwich to mark 0° longitude solved complex problems of global measurement that had engaged geographers, astronomers and mariners since ancient times. He guides readers through the navigation and astronomy associated with diverse meridians and explains the problems that these cartographic lines both solved and created. He also shows that as science and commerce became more global and as railway and telegraph networks tied the world closer together, the multiplicity of prime meridians led to ever

greater confusion in the coordination of time and the geographical division of space. After a series of international scientific meetings, notably the 1884 International Meridian Conference in Washington, DC, Greenwich emerged as the most pragmatic choice for a global prime meridian, though not unanimously or without acrimony.

Even after 1884, other prime meridians remained in use for decades. As *Zero Degrees* shows, geographies of the prime meridian are a testament to the power of maps, the challenges of accurate measurement on a

global scale, and the role of scientific authority in creating the modern world.

**Charles W.J. Withers, *Zero Degrees: Geographies of the Prime Meridian***  
**ISBN 9780674088818. 336 pages. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2017.**



**Left:** Sandford Fleming's proposal for the world's prime meridian to be sited in the Bering Strait, was an attempt to provide a neutral "cosmopolitan" baseline for the world—and a way of promoting his scheme for universal time. Sandford Fleming was a Scots-born Canadian railway engineer and, in 1884, a member of Britain's four-man delegation to the International Meridian Conference, held in Washington DC in 1884.

Source: Sandford Fleming, *Longitude and Time-Reckoning* (Copp, Clark & Co.: Toronto, 1879)

## Other Recent publications

**Paul Bishop**, Useful local history sources 4: Ordnance Survey Books of Reference, *Scottish Local History* 96 (Spring 2017), 39-43.

**David Firth**, *A New Map of the Chanony of the Cathedral Church of The Holy and Undivided Trinity, Elgin*. Unpublished research paper, available from the author via NLS.

**Douglas Lockhart**, Note 2: Robert Ray's Plan of Elgin, 1838, *Scottish Local History* 97 (Summer 2017), 27-28.

**Fiona Mulgrew**, *The Immortal Bear of the North: stone memories of Arthur*. Iudeu Publishing, 2016.

## New / Forthcoming Map Publications (contd.)

### The Clyde: mapping the river

Birlinn's next book in its series on different aspects of Scottish cartography will be a second work by John Moore, recently retired as Collections Manager and Map Librarian at Glasgow University Library, covering maps of various facets of the River Clyde and the settlements along its banks.

Unlike earlier discussions of the nation's urban cartography, this lavishly illustrated book considers a sequence of themes relating to what the author states is 'considered to have had a greater impact on the lives of more people than any other water body in the country'. These include the depiction of the Clyde from the earliest times, maps relating to the navigation and improvement of its navigation, the river's defence, the use of its waters for variety of purposes, river crossings, cartography associated with tourism and leisure and unique plans of significant towns and resorts associated with the river and the estuary.



While there have been many books on both the Firth and River of Clyde, there has been little written on its cartography and the author has ranged far and wide in selecting more than 100 maps, plans and other images, dating from Ptolemy's earliest delineation of the British Isles, to illustrate the chosen themes in the story of the river and its development. Closely associated with the human geography of Clydesdale, the book reflects on the changes in its use, particularly in the post-industrial era and poses questions about its future potential. Arranged by these selected themes, the illustrations are, again, accompanied by extended discussions of their background, significant features and context. Many images appear in print for the first time and the author has incorporated a considerable amount of new research into a topic which has, up to now, been rather disregarded in the history of Scotland's cartography.

**To be published October 2017 by Birlinn in association with Glasgow University Library and the National Library of Scotland. Hardback: £30.00.**

## Slezer Photography Competition



From July-October, the National Library of Scotland is holding a photography competition to commemorate the 300th anniversary of death of John Slezer, military draughtsman and adventurer.

Slezer's 'Theatrum Scotiae' was published in 1693 and features detailed engravings of towns, abbeys, countryside and castles. Some views are still recognisable; others have changed dramatically over the centuries, though familiar landmarks may remain.

We are inviting you to take photos that replicate – as much as possible – a scene depicted in the 'Theatrum Scotiae' (<http://digital.nls.uk/slezer/theatrum-scotiae.html>). Can you capture how these images would look today?

We know that you may not be able to reach the exact viewpoint that Slezer did — and that the perspectives in his engravings were not always entirely accurate. All we ask is that the scene is recognisable to some extent when compared with Slezer's view.

Visit our **Slezer's Scotland** website (<http://digital.nls.uk/slezer/>) to read about Slezer and view his engravings.

See <http://www.nls.uk/photo-competition> for more competition information and Terms and Conditions.

## New evidence for dating Pont maps – Pont 6 and the Battle of Glenlivet

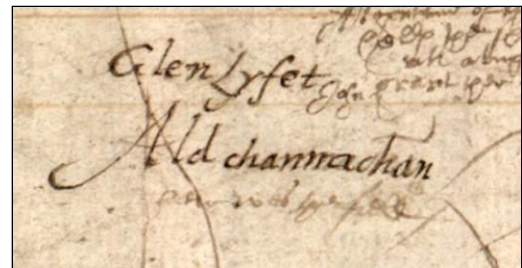
As is well known, the extant manuscript maps attributed to Timothy Pont (c.1565-c.1614) are undated except for one 'well finished draft' (Stone 2001:3), *Pont 34: Glasgow and Lanarkshire*, with its inscription '.../Sept et/ Octob:/ 1596 Descri/ pta'.

Further evidence towards dating Pont's fieldwork, comes indirectly from a reference of April 1596 by Dionise (Dennis) Campbell, Dean of Limerick, that he '... Is informed that one Pont, who has compassed the whole of Scotland, purposes to set forth a perfect description of that land. Has ordered a copy for Sir Robert [Cecil] upon the first edition ...' (Megaw 1969:72, citing *CSPI 1596-1597*, 40). Campbell as a contemporary witness appears to imply Pont's national survey is largely complete. That inference and *Pont 34*'s more advanced state of drafting have led to the tentative suggestion 'Pont's work on the ground was at least well advanced, if not concluded, by 1596' (Stone 2001:3).

Dobie's investigation of the proprietors recorded in Pont's text *Cuninghame Topographized* concluded 1604-08 as the period described (Stone 2001:6). However, the possibility of subsequent editing, or even updating at any point after the initial survey, slightly weakens the case for these dates, especially as an original in Pont's hand has not survived. So hitherto, 1596, the year inscribed on *Pont 34* and of the Dean of Limerick's reference, has been the most secure date available regarding Pont's pioneering fieldwork. But, perhaps a new pebble can be added to the growing cairn of Pont scholarship. *Pont 6* offers internal evidence it was drafted in or after October 1594.

*Pont 6: Strathspey; River Nethy*<sup>1</sup> has sixteen descriptive annotations in Pont's faint and barely legible secretary hand (Stone 1989:51). Their illegibility doubtless explains why the *terminus post quem* for this map has remained undetected until now. The annotation in question appears below the place-name *Ald channachan*,<sup>2</sup> transcribed by Stone as 'heir wes the...' (*ibid.*). Today this area's main water-course is *Allt a' Choileachain*, beside which the Ordnance Survey locates 'X / Battle of Alltacoileachan / 1594' (NJ249294). Looking again at *Pont 6*, it is evident Pont's annotation of *Ald channachan* reads 'heir was the *feld*'.<sup>3</sup>

*DOST* confirms that *feld*, apart from denoting *field* in sixteenth-century Scots, meant especially a field or place of battle. It seems conclusive Pont's *feld* refers to the *Battle of Alltacoileachan*, known alternatively as the *Battle of Strathavon / Glenlivet / Glenrinnnes*,<sup>4</sup> and *Balrinnnes*.<sup>5</sup>



Detail from *Pont 6*. (View the map online at: <http://maps.nls.uk/view/00002294#zoom=4&lat=2710&lon=2726&layers=BT>)

The battle itself was fought on 3 October 1594, between the rebel George Gordon, 6th Earl of Huntly (from 1599, 1st Marquess of Huntly) with Francis Hay, 9th Earl of Errol, and King James VI's lieutenant, Archibald Campbell, 7th Earl of Argyll (and relative of the Dean of Limerick, mentioned above). The Earl of Huntly's force of 2,000 well-equipped infantry, 1,500 cavalry and six canon launched a surprise attack and routed the Earl of Argyll's force of around 10,000 irregular infantry.<sup>6</sup>

If the above reasoning is accepted then we might conclude *Pont 6* was created after 3 October 1594 and perhaps before April 1596.

**Dàibhidh Grandd**

<sup>1</sup> *Pont 6* (front). *vid.* <http://maps.nls.uk/rec/263>

<sup>2</sup> *vid.* <http://maps.nls.uk/pont/view/?id=pont06r#zoom=5&lat=1493&lon=668&layers=BT>

<sup>3</sup> I am very grateful to my colleagues, Dr Eila Williamson and Dr Simon Taylor, for their advice and expert confirmation of the key sentence.

<sup>4</sup> '... the battle being sometimes called the battle of Glenrinnnes, Strathavon, or Altconlachan, as well as of Glenlivet.' (Anderson 1867:554)

<sup>5</sup> *vid.* <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/document/600000870>

<sup>6</sup> Details of the battlefield, its location, the protagonists and the historical context for the conflict can be found at the Historic Environment Scotland webpage: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/BTL33> Excellent guidance for visiting and walking in the area is provided by Glenlivet Estates at: <https://www.glenlivetestate.co.uk/things-to-see-do/activities/walking/>

## New evidence for dating Pont maps – Pont 6 and the Battle of Glenlivet (contd.)



The site of the Battle of Glenlivet (Photo © Michael Casey)

Anderson, W. (1867). *The Scottish Nation; or, The Surnames, Families, Literature, Honours, and Biographical History of the People of Scotland*. Vol.1 ABE-CUR. Edinburgh: Fullarton and Co, p.554.

CSPi 1596-1597 Calendar of State Papers Ireland, 1893. London, p.40.

DOST *A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*.  
<http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>

Megaw, B. (1969). 'The Date of Pont's survey and its background.' *Scottish Studies* 13, University of Edinburgh, pp.71-4.

Stone, J. (1989). *The Pont Manuscript Maps of Scotland: sixteenth century origins of a Blaeu atlas*. Tring: Map Collector Publications.

Stone, J. (2001). 'Timothy Pont: Three Centuries of Research, Speculation and Plagiarism.' In: I. Cunningham, ed., *The Nation Survey'd*. Phantassie: NLS and Tuckwell Press, pp.1-26.

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Dàibhidh Grand (University of Glasgow) is currently undertaking PhD research as part of the Leverhulme Trust funded project: *Recovering the Earliest English Language in Scotland: evidence from Place-names* (REELS).

### Matching Pont with Blaeu to build up a combined Pont gazetteer

Two databases on the NLS website cover essentially the same ground: the placenames on Pont's maps are listed at <http://maps.nls.uk/pont/placenames/a-d.html>; the placenames on Blaeu's engravings, ultimately derived from Pont's maps, are listed at: <http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/blaeu/gazetteer/browse/a-d.html>.

These databases let us see the placenames in the relevant map and engraving. Of course the same name often appears in both map and engraving, and indeed some Pont maps were copied very accurately by Blaeu, as in Glottiana (Clydesdale) and in Nithsdale, giving a high proportion of Pont names matched to Blaeu. In other cases, we may be able to match Pont to modern OS maps, and separately match Blaeu to OS, and where the OS name and grid reference in Pont and Blaeu are identical we can safely link the corresponding place-names.

But so far the number of matches over the whole of Scotland is only of order 4,000, which is less than 40% of the total Pont names. The aim here is to match Pont maps with Blaeu engravings, and, at the same time, compare both with modern OS maps. It is only by considering all three together we are able to make reliable connections.

**Bob Henery**

See Bob Henery's Pont-Blaeu name pairs at: <http://geo.nls.uk/maps/pont-blaeu/>

### New AHRC-funded PhD on the Stevenson maps and plans

We were pleased to receive funding for a collaborative PhD with Edinburgh University, researching the Stevenson maps and plans (ca. 1800-1900). The Stevenson collection numbers around 3,000 maps and plans, supported by an extensive written archive, focusing on infrastructure projects in Scotland and further afield – particularly railways, harbours, bridges, canals, and lighthouses in the 19th century. Work will begin this autumn, and we will report further on this research as it progresses.



*Elevation of Hutcheson Bridge, Glasgow by Robert Stevenson (completed 1832)*

## New acquisition - the Smith Map Collection

We have recently acquired a significant collection of Scottish maps from a private collector. The Smith Map Acquisition contains three hundred maps, mainly of Scotland, in parts and in its entirety, as well as in context. The collection includes some completely new items, as well as many variants of maps already in the Library collection. Variations in size, pagination or text on verso can imply new editions and reprints. These small details are important in the carto-bibliographic history of Scotland, and reveal the importance of this acquisition. It is also valuable in its entirety as an example of collection built in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The inclusion of multiple variants of each map reveals the compulsion of the collector. Exact identification of the maps, in terms of date and issue or variant will be part of the cataloguing and digitisation project which is planned for completion by March 2018.



## CAIRT COMPETITION

### Two copies of the *Scottish Maps Calendar 2018* to be won...

The *Scottish Maps Calendar* is another collaboration with Birlinn, following the success of the 2017 Scottish Maps Calendar, and features a selection of 12 new attractive Scottish maps (further details at: <https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scottish-Maps-Calendar-2018.html>).



We are keen to encourage people to have a go at our 'Find by Place - with Marker' search application (see details on page 3).

To win a copy of the *Scottish Maps Calendar 2018*, please let us know how many maps there are covering Ballater at all scales dating between 1800 and 1900. Send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition* to [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) or to the address on the front cover by 30 September 2017. The winners will be picked randomly from the correct entries and informed by 15 October 2017.

Congratulations to Kirsty Cameron and Colin Miller who each won a copy of *Scotland: Mapping the Islands* from last issue's competition, and thanks to all who took part. The island shown in our Stamen Terrain extract was Soay, south of Skye.

## New Maps Reading Room

The National Library of Scotland has been undertaking a major renovation programme at its Causewayside Building, which houses the Maps Reading Room. Now that the external renovation work is nearly finished (this will conclude in March 2018), the interior is being renewed.

In September 2017, the Maps Reading Room will relocate within the Causewayside Building to a position closer to the Salisbury Place entrance. It is expected that the Reading Room will close while the move takes place. Updates on progress and confirmation of the date of the move will be provided on the National Library of Scotland website (<http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/maps>) and will be e-mailed to the Cairt mailing list. We will also post updates on our Map Room Twitter account ([@natlibscotmaps](https://twitter.com/natlibscotmaps)).

From September 2017 the Library will introduce an appointment system for visiting the Maps Reading Room. This will allow us to offer access across four days a week, rather than the current three. If you are planning a visit to the Maps Reading Room from September 2017 onwards, please telephone 0131 623 4660 or e-mail [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) to book your visit.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new Reading Room later this year.

**Laragh Quinney & Craig Statham**  
Maps Reading Room Managers