



CAIRT

Issue 9
July 2006

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

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

- ♦ *To stimulate and 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 BLAEU ATLAS OF SCOTLAND – TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Royal Scottish Geographical Society has published the papers from the seminar '*Look at Scotland and enjoy a feast for the eyes!*' in a special issue of the *Scottish Geographical Journal*, v.121(3), 2005. This seminar, held in the National Library of Scotland (NLS) in September 2004, commemorated the 350th anniversary of the publication of volume 5 of the *Atlas Novus* by Blaeu in 1654, often called Scotland's first atlas.

Additional copies of this special issue have been printed, for sale to non-RSGS members. They can be bought from the Society by post (£10 + postage). Some copies are also available for sale to personal visitors at NLS Map Library. (Contents & address on page 4).

Even more exciting are Birlinn's plans to publish a facsimile volume, *The Blaeu Atlas of Scotland*, in association with NLS, later this year.

This will include scanned images of the maps, from one of NLS's copies of the atlas, as shown on NLS's website at www.nls.uk/maps (slightly reduced in size from the originals, to fit modern paper sizes).

Accompanying the maps will be the first English version of the text, translated by Ian Cunningham, with an introductory essay by Charles Withers and a foreword by Christopher Smout.

The volume will cost £100, but if you register your early interest with the publisher, you will be eligible for a discount price at £80. (Address on p.4)

Cartouche from *Nithia Vicecomitatus...* Blaeu, 1654.



MUSKETS & MAPPING SEMINAR

Over 100 participants travelled to Perth on 22 April to be captivated by a fascinating seminar on military engineers and maps from the Jacobite period, or more correctly as the historians pointed out, of the Hanoverian period.

The topics had a more international slant than usual at Scottish Maps Forum seminars, as Bruce Lenman gave an account of the background of the military surveyor, firstly in Renaissance Italy, then, as their skills and influence were in demand, they spread to Britain via France and the Low Countries.

Dilly Emslie and Chris Fleet, focused on the work of specific military engineers in Scotland. Dilly Emslie described the impact of the Union of Parliaments on how the engineers were organised, and Chris Fleet gave a resume of Lewis Petit's career and his Scottish maps and plans c. 1714-18. (See page 3).

Two highly illustrated papers brought us views of the landscape. Doreen Grove's lively presentation related the maps and plans to the

built environment, such as fortifications and roads. Taking a break from fieldwork at Sheriffmuir, Tony Pollard gave a riveting account of how he and his team of archaeologists have used battle plans to help with their excavations. In turn, the excavations may confirm, or deny, the evidence on the map. This was a new field (literally!) for many of the audience, and his excellent illustrations and explanation of the events of his three sample battles were a highlight.

The final speaker, brought the international connections full circle. Yolande Hodson's account and illustrations of the Royal Collections clarified the dispersal of some of the King's topographic collections to the British Library, and gave examples of military engineers work in European battles in the later 18th century.

It is hoped the seminar will stimulate interest in an under-researched area: Charles Withers, chairing the afternoon session, was able to make an announcement on the recent award of a research studentship. (See below)

RESEARCH PROJECT ON BOARD OF ORDNANCE MAPS

The Arts and Humanities Research Council Landscape and Environment Programme has awarded funds for a PhD Collaborative Research Studentship, to the University of Edinburgh Institute of Geography and the National Library of Scotland, to research:

'Constructing the Military Landscape: the Board of Ordnance Maps and Plans of Scotland, c.1707-c.1815'

As part of the collaboration, NLS will also provide financial support of £1150 per year, which has been contributed from the Ruth Ratcliff Fund.

The PhD will examine an internationally significant body of material on the militarised landscapes of Scotland, the Board of Ordnance maps and plans between c.1707 and c.1815. Although attention has been paid to Scotland before c.1707, and some 18th century military landscape plans from the Board of Ordnance have been digitised as part of another NLS-Edinburgh University collaborative project, *Charting the Nation*, little attention has been paid to the maps and plans of the Board of Ordnance relating to eighteenth-century Scotland – sources which depict the construction, representation and contestation of military landscapes as spaces and documents of power, authority and access. The collections include plans, profiles and views of a diverse range of subjects such as fortifications, towns, battles, roads, clans and their associated archival records.

The project will focus on the Board of Ordnance and Wade collections in NLS, the King George III Topographical Collection in the British Library, the

War Office plans and records, The National Archives (Kew), and The King's Military Collection, Royal Library, Windsor.

Carolyn Anderson, the successful candidate, has a degree in geography, followed by experience working with the Ministry of Defence Military Survey and, more recently, in cartographic publishing. Her studentship, which is full-time and funded for 3 years, begins in September 2006, and she will be jointly supervised by Professor Charles Withers (University of Edinburgh) and Chris Fleet (National Library of Scotland).

Discovering North Britain: Early Maps of Scotland - an illustrated talk by Peter Barber

Thursday 21 Sept. 2006, 7pm, in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge.

Though many English scholars since the twelfth century had argued that Scotland was no more than a northern extension of England, the geographical realities of most of the northern kingdom remained unknown until after 1500. From the 1540s the imperatives of defence, an idealised form of patriotism and protestant solidarity led to an intensified English involvement in Scottish affairs and need to learn more about their northern neighbour. Peter Barber, Head of Map Collections at the British Library, outlines some of the maps in their collection that illustrate the earliest stages of this English discovery of Scotland.

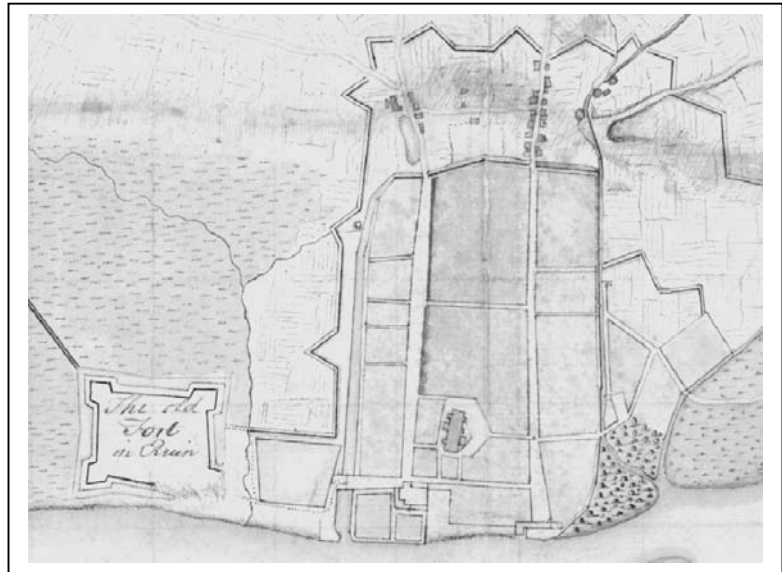
Contact events@nls.uk or 0131-623 3845 if you wish to attend – advance booking is essential.

PETIT'S PLAN OF PERTH, 1716 - BACKGROUND AND CONTENT

Chris Fleet considers a military plan following his talk at the Muskets & Mapping seminar

Historically, war has been a fundamental impetus to cartography, and we see this particularly in Scotland in the 18th century. What is often less appreciated, is the extent to which military plans can only be properly interpreted with a knowledge of their specific purpose, as well as the background of their creators, who were often military engineers. The earliest surviving plan of Perth from 1716 by Lewis Petit is an excellent illustration of this.

In 1716 Brigadier Lewis Petit (ca. 1665-1720) was a distinguished engineer in the Board of Ordnance. After 1685, the Board's expertise had been enhanced with an influx of French Huguenots such as Petit, following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.



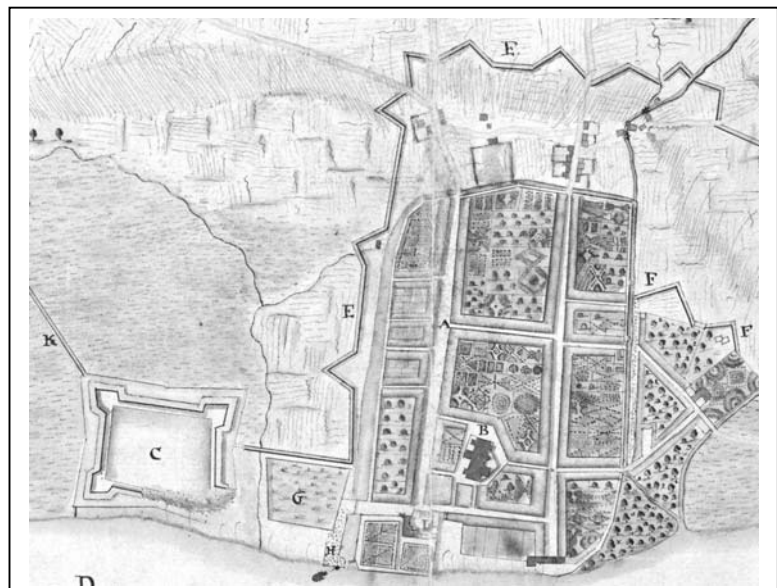
Detail from Petit's *A Plan of Perth with the Retrenchment made about it by the Pretender's Engineers 1715/6*
MS.1647.Z.3/1d

At this time the French were widely respected across Europe for their knowledge of military science and fortification, and this showed itself not least in the Wars of the Spanish Succession from 1700 to 1713. Few periods of military history were as dominated by siege warfare, and from 1702 to 1707, Lewis Petit was involved in besieging and sometimes defending the Spanish towns of Cadiz, Vigo, Gibraltar, Barcelona, Almanza, and Tortosa. He was widely praised by British and Allied army commanders, and was specially chosen for the successful capture of Minorca, where he was placed in command of defences. It was only a change of military administration in 1711, keen to discredit the old regime, that led to allegations of Petit's corruption and misuse of funds, forcing his dismissal and return to Britain. However the Board of Ordnance were quick to seize on Petit's expertise to cope with their new threats in Scotland, and following a two-month reconnaissance visit in 1714, Petit was placed in command of the Duke of Argyll's artillery train in November 1715.

In the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, Perth had been captured by Jacobite forces in mid-September, but they were driven away by Argyll's forces by 31 January 1716. Petit's *A Plan of Perth with the Retrenchment made about it by the Pretender's Engineers 1715/6* (MS.1647.Z.3/1d) shows the situation immediately after this time. (The date discrepancy suggests that it is before 25 March 1716 when England officially moved to the New Year).

There are three close copies of this plan with a similar title in NLS and the British Library, some attributed to Captain William Horneck who accompanied Petit - as these have a key and a more careful depiction of buildings they are best interpreted together.

Detail from Horneck's *An exact plan of the town and adjacent parts of Perth as it was fortified and possessed by the Rebels in Scotland. 1716.*
MS.1647.Z.3.2a



The plans focus completely on the essential topographic features of military interest in the town and its environs. The main shape and extent of the town with its main streets are clearly shown, surrounded by the walls and V-shaped revetments or redans made by Jacobite forces. The old Cromwellian citadel built in 1652 on the South Inch is described as "in ruin", missing its north-east bastion, but the canal from the Craigie Burn that filled its moat with water is clearly visible, "cut by the Rebels". Similarly, the Kings Lade or Town Lade from the River Almond that supplied the fosse around the city walls appears as an important feature, bridged only opposite the ports or gateways. The old quay at the end of Canal Street is named, along with the Greyfriars Cemetary as the "Churchyard", and Balhousie Castle "Bassin - The House of Lord Duplin", but otherwise the plan has no names of streets or people.

The colouring reflects emerging military standards, with red for masonry and buildings,

blue for water, different shades of green to distinguish the marshy North and South Inch from surrounding arable land and trees, and shaded slopes to indicate higher ground. The chief interest of the East bank of the Tay with Bridged is its "High ground commanding all the other side". It is also drafted at a scale of 200 feet to one inch (1:2,400), a standard 18th century "fortification scale" for surveys of a town. Such colouring and style would have a long-term influence on British cartography, particularly through the Ordnance Survey.

Petit's plan is therefore valuable for many reasons. When placed within a longer chronology of plans of Perth, between the rather incomplete plan by Timothy Pont in the late 16th century, and the detailed cadastral survey by Henry Buist in 1765, the historical development of the burgh can be better understood. **Chris Fleet**

Military plans of Perth can be viewed online at: <http://www.nls.uk/digitalibrary/map/military/>

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAPS OF SCOTLAND

The following papers appear in a special issue of the *Scottish Geographical Journal*, 121(3), 2005, guest editors Margaret Wilkes and Chris Fleet:

Chris Fleet. 'The Blaeu Atlas of Scotland: background and introduction.' 237-242.

Alastair J. Mann. 'Mapping North Sea print networks during the gestation of the First Atlas of Scotland.' 243-260.

Peter van der Krogt. 'The place of the 'Atlas of Scotland' in the atlas production of Willem Jansz. and Joan Blaeu.' 261-268.

Ian C. Cunningham. 'Blaeu's *Atlas Novus* vol.V: The texts and the authors.' 269-287.

Jeffrey C. Stone. 'The cartographic signs and content of Blaeu's maps of Scotland.' 289-297.

Charles W. J. Withers. 'Working with old maps: Charting the reception and legacy of Blaeu's 1654 *Atlas Novus*.' 297-310.

Esther Mijers. 'The Scottish-Dutch context to the Blaeu Atlas: an overview.' 311-320.

Other publications:

John R. Gold and Margaret M. Gold.

'Representing Culloden: social memory, battlefield heritage and landscapes of regret', pp108-131 in *Mapping Tourism* (eds Stephen P Hanna & Vincent J Del Casino). Minneapolis & London: University of Minnesota Press, 2003.

A. Paterson & W. M. Russell Paterson.

'The Thirty Nine Steps: thoughts and suggestions on Richard Hannay's travels through southern Scotland.' Reprinted in *Sheetlines* 67, Aug 2003, 32-36. Originally published in *The John Buchan Journal*, 7, Winter 1987. [The authors follow Richard Hannay's route from New Galloway to Beattock using old Ordnance Survey maps.]

Steve Ritchie. 'As it was.' *Hydro International*, May 2006, 10-11. [Alexander Lindsay's rutter and chart.]

Diana Webster. 'The Glory of the Garden: Drumlanrig 1739.' *Discover NLS*, 1, Spring 2006, 10-11. [NLS's recent acquisition of John Rocque's estate plan.]

In 2002 the Scottish Maps Forum received a most generous donation of £500 in memory of R S Brebner and J.S. Thoms.. The SMF Steering Committee decided to use these funds to support the inclusion of 11 colour plates in the Blaeu Atlas special issue. We trust the anonymous donor will be happy with this decision, and the record of this donation on p 236 of the special issue of the Scottish Geographical Journal.

(Cont from p.1) PUBLISHERS' INFORMATION

- **Scottish Geographical Journal** 121(3) special issue is available for £10.00 plus post & packing (UK £1.00; Europe £2.00; Other £3.50) from :

Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Graham Hills Building, 40 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1QE.

Tel: 0141 552 3330 Fax: 0141 552 3331 rsgs@strath.ac.uk.

- **Blaeu Atlas of Scotland** For more information contact: **Birlinn, West Newington House, 10 Newington Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1QS**
Tel: 0131 668 4371 Fax: 0131 668 4466 info@birlinn.co.uk

**WHEN IS A BLAEU MAP NOT A BLAEU?
When it is a Lea.**

Spot the differences as **Sebastian Amyes** clarifies the confusion ...

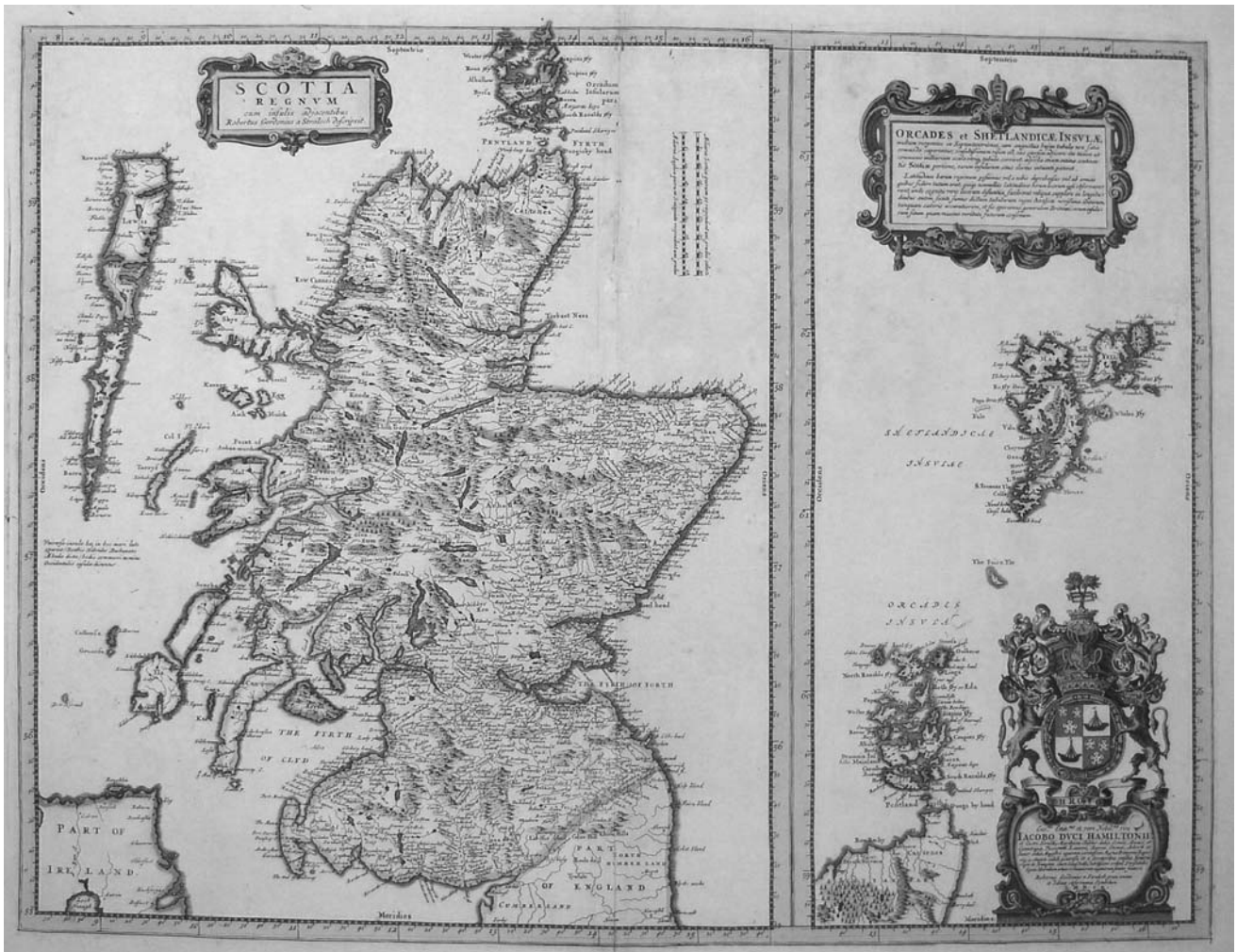


Figure 1. Lea map of Scotland – 1st state (Private Collection)

One of the iconic 17th century maps of Scotland is *Scotia Regnum cum insulis adjacentibus Robertus Gordonius a Straloch descripsit*.

Robert Gordon's *Scotia Regnum* was the map of contemporary Scotland in Volume V of Joan Blaeu's *Theatrum Atlas Terrarum, sive Atlas Novus*, the first printed atlas of Scotland. Blaeu's map was a departure from the traditional shape of Scotland, which had originally been published by Mercator in his map of the British Isles in 1564 and had formed the foundation of most published maps of Scotland in the intervening 90 years.

The map was included in Blaeu atlases from 1654 until 1667 and, in the absence of the complete atlas, the single maps could be dated by the language of the text on the verso, page numbers and the page signature (usually "F").

Every now and again, there are reports of single Blaeu maps of Scotland that have no text on the verso and no page signature. It is debatable whether these reports are actually of Blaeu maps but rather they may refer to apparently identical copies that Philip Lea of London produced for inclusion in some compilations of the second edition of his county atlas "The Shires of England and Wales described by Christopher Saxton..." published around 1693. The Lea map is equal in size to the Blaeu, the cartouches are close matches and for the most part, the text on the maps is indistinguishable. It has been suggested that the Lea map is a reprint from the Blaeu plate. The fire that damaged the Blaeu printing works in 1672 destroyed most of the plates, but some did survive and were sold. So did Philip Lea buy this plate and then reprint it to include this map in his atlases?

The Lea map is not a reprint from the original Blaeu plate as there are some notable differences. One significant variation is the distance between the cartouches and the borders. In the Blaeu map, the top of the cartouche in the main map is in contact with the border whereas, in the Lea copy, there is a 2mm gap (*Figure 2*). Likewise, the distance between the top of cartouche above the map of the Orkneys and Shetlands and the border in the Blaeu map is 6mm shorter than it is in the Lea map. It may also be noticed that above the *Scotia Regnum* cartouche in the Lea map, there is a small circle. This printing blemish is present in all Lea maps but never in a Blaeu map (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2. Comparison of the “SCOTIA REGNUM” cartouche in the Blaeu and Lea maps



Cartouche - Blaeu map 1662 (NLS)



Cartouche – Lea map (NLS)

The most obvious difference between the maps is the extension of the Orkneys into the border of the Lea map, whereas they are contained in the Blaeu map (*Figure 3*). It really is not clear why the engraver did this, for it does not add any more information as there is a detailed representation of the same area in the adjacent map of Orkney and Shetland. A less obvious difference is in the border between the main map and that of Orkney and Shetland; this comprises four lines in the Blaeu and only three in the Lea map, identified by the white arrows (*Figure 3*). Only meticulous inspection reveals that some of the place names are also quite different, with some omitted in the Lea map.

Figure 3. Comparison of the Orkneys in the Blaeu and Lea maps



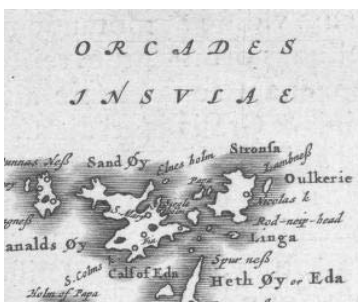
Blaeu map 1662 (NLS)



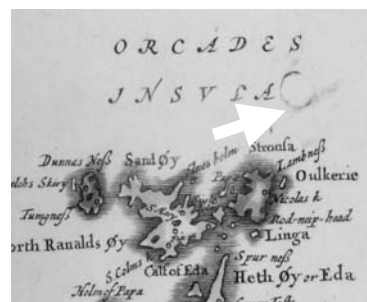
Lea map (NLS)

In 1971 A. D. Baxter¹, while describing the map in a copy of the complete atlas that he had in his possession, noted that a major difference between the Blaeu and Lea maps was the insertion of larger distinctive English text identifying some key features including “The Hebrides Abudae als Western Islands”, “Edinburgh Forth”, “British Sea” and “Glenluz Bay”. An example of this can be seen for the Orkney Islands in *Figure 4* comparing the *Blaeu map 1662* and *Lea map 2nd state*.

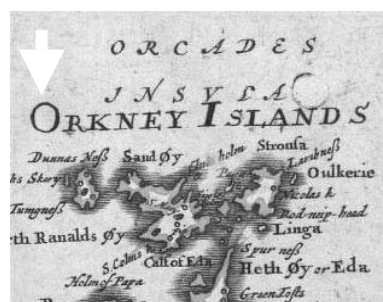
Figure 4. Comparison of the Orkney text in the Blaeu and Lea maps



Blaeu map 1662(NLS)



Lea map 1st state (Private Coll.)



Lea map 2nd state (NLS)

Baxter also identified that his copy had dotted lines to indicate the county boundaries. This addition can be seen, identified by the white arrows, in the *Lea map 2nd state* (Figure 5). Identical features are seen in the two known Library copies, one in the National Library of Scotland (EMS.s.753) and the other in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Gough Maps Scotland 65). Baxter's article formed the basis for the entry for the Lea map in *The Early Maps of Scotland*²

Figure 5. Comparison of the area around the Forth Valley in the Blaeu and Lea maps



Blaeu map 1662 (NLS)



Lea map 1st state (Private collection)

Another copy of the Lea map has recently emerged from a private collection. This map has many of the characteristic features of the other Lea maps including the distance of the cartouches from the margin along with the circular printer's blemish (Figure 2) and the extension of the Orkney islands into the upper border (Figure 3), indicating that it derives from the same plate.

However it lacks some of the printed details of the previously identified Lea maps, so can be considered to be a 1st state. Like the Blaeu map, it lacks the additional text identified by Baxter in the characteristic Lea type (Figure 4 - *Lea map 1st state*) and it does not have dotted lines for the county boundaries (Figure 5 - *Lea map 1st state*). The inclusion of the county boundaries in previously identified Lea maps has been accompanied by the addition of county names; for instance in the *Lea map 2nd state* (Figure 5), Linlithgo identifies that county. Linlithgo is absent in both the *Blaeu map 1662* and *Lea map 1st state*.

The 1st state of the Lea map is, therefore, an even closer copy of the original Blaeu map than the previously identified examples. According to Ashley Baynton-Williams, this copy derives from a composite world atlas containing maps from many different cartographers. In this type of atlas, it could be argued that the identification of the Scottish counties might have been irrelevant. The date of the atlas is unknown but most probably it was published before 1693, the presumed date of the 2nd state; however, it might date from around or after 1683, the approximate date that Philip Lea started publishing atlases³, if indeed Lea was responsible for its compilation.



Lea map 2nd state (NLS)

As the 2nd state was for inclusion in a county atlas, it is perhaps not surprising that the county boundaries were now added to the map of Scotland. The additional text added in Lea's typeface, some duplicating the Latin text in the original map, is in English and was presumably to identify these features for the home market. Skelton⁴ noted in 1979 that this map of Scotland was advertised in Lea's *Term Catalogue* of June 1699 for the county atlas, although Skelton knew of no surviving atlas in which it appeared. Indeed, Baxter appears to have possessed the only copy of the Lea county atlas that included this map of Scotland.¹

The question still remains as to whether all maps of *Scotia Regnum*, lacking text on verso, are not Blaeu maps but rather are from the Lea atlases. The maps are so similar that Lea maps could easily have been mistaken for the Blaeu, particularly if they have not been examined carefully.

The number of known maps confirmed as Lea may be as few as four (One of the 1st state and three of the 2nd) though the actual number is surely higher.

There are no records of the Blaeu map lacking verso text in the Blaeu atlases examined by Koeman⁵ and van der Krogt⁶. However that does not necessarily mean that they do not exist; for example, there are Blaeu maps without text in the Sibbald collection in NLS (Adv.MS.15.1.1a.), which have been assumed to be proofs sent by Blaeu to the Gordons, later passed to Sibbald.

All maps depicting the iconic *Scotia Regnum* and lacking the verso text characteristic of a Blaeu atlas would certainly merit much closer examination. If new copies of either state of the Lea map do emerge, or any additional state for that matter, the National Library of Scotland would be interested in hearing about it.

Sebastian Amyes

Acknowledgements: *I am very grateful to the staff at the National Library of Scotland for their crucial help in the preparation of this article. I would also like to thank Ashley Baynton-Williams, Ian Smith and Paul Clark for their candid comments about the origins of the Lea map and its relationship with the Blaeu map.*

Bibliography

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3. *Shops of London Map-Publishers*. *Mapforum*, 1(1) 1999. www.mapforum.com/01/magazine.htm
4. *County Atlases of the British Isles 1579-1850* by R.A. Skelton, London, 1970. Item 112 pp 111-112.
5. *Atlantes Neerlandici*, compiled and edited by C. Koeman. Vol. I. Van der Aa - Blaeu. Amsterdam, 1967. pp. 189-268.
6. *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*. New ed., vol. II; compiled by Peter van der Krogt. 't Goy-Houten, HES & De Graaf, 2000. pp.266-294.

WEB NEWS

A history of Orkney maps by John K. Chesters <http://www.ronaldsay.plus.com/orkneymaps/>

This well-designed website presents the results of detailed research on 40 major maps of Orkney between 1550 and 1890. As explained much more fully on the site, Dr Chesters has examined these maps, primarily through quantifying the displacement of 35 specific locations on these historical maps compared to their modern positions. The corrected results, once integrated with place name evidence, and the known history of the maps and their creators, provide revealing insights into the provenance of the maps themselves.

The website demonstrates how the chronological development of Orkney maps is far from being a linear process of steady improvements in accuracy, but a much more interesting story of certain surveys, such as those by Timothy Pont, Greenville Collins, or Murdoch Mackenzie, having a greater influence on later maps than others.

In addition, the degree to which certain shapes and outlines were copied, sometimes over two centuries later, is rigorously assessed and described.

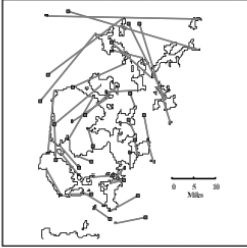
Although best viewed with a higher bandwidth connection to the Internet, the site allows multiple navigational paths through a range of background and mathematical information, with good thumbnail graphics of the map outlines themselves and their associated error or displacement diagrams, with multiple overlays to compare the historical map to modern outlines. The results are explained and pulled together in a table, a flow chart of map provenance, and a supporting summary.

Chris Fleet


H. Hondius - 1636

Orcadeum et Schetlandiae accuratissima descriptio

Scale 1 : 383,000
Error 6057



The yellow map indicates the modern shape of Orkney
Click on the map to enlarge it



Go to text

Go to corrected

Go to next map

Go back

Go to index