



Inventory

Acc.10497

The Wade Collection

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BACKGROUND

The Wade Collection of manuscript maps and plans was purchased by the National Library of Scotland in 1992 from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Until 1990, it was housed at the Society's then Edinburgh Headquarters, when, at the request of the Society's Council, the National Library took the collection on deposit. Its purchase for the nation soon followed. Its general condition is good, apart from some light surface soiling. The collection consists of 19 manuscript maps and plans mounted on 14 sheets of paper, and takes its title from Field-Marshal George Wade (1673-1748), Commander-in-Chief in Scotland during the period 1724-1740, with whom the maps are associated.

PROVENANCE

The collection entered the Royal Scottish Geographical Society around 1923 from a private source. A note entitled 'Wade's Roads. What the newly found maps tell us', (a reprint from The Scotsman, 1923, upon the Society's new acquisition) was compiled by Harry R Gall Inglis and a copy entered the Advocates' Library in March 1923 (now in NLS at 5.359). Gall Inglis described the maps and plans at that time as being in a volume together with 'quite a number of engraved plans'. The volume had the bookplate of W C Mylne [probably William Chadwell Mylne (1781-1863) one of the eminent Edinburgh dynasty of master masons and engineers].

Sometime after 1923 (probably during the 1930's), the manuscript maps and plans relating to the period of Wade were separated from the rest, mounted on uniform sheets of good quality paper, and placed in a cardboard portfolio together with a typed list of contents drawn up by H R Gall Inglis. Comparison of the order and numbering of the maps and plans as organised by RSGS (purple wax crayon numbers) with the description of the order in the volume given by H R Gall Inglis in 1923 shows some changes. Manuscript notes in ink, indicating the scale of each map and plan have also been added. They are in the hand of Caleb George Cash, a member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and well-kent in Edinburgh circles as an Edinburgh Academy teacher and, as co-author with Sir Arthur Mitchell of A contribution to the bibliography of Scottish topography, Edinburgh: 1917. (Scottish History Society, Second Series, volumes 14 and 15).

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTENT OF THE MAPS AND PLANS

The 19 maps and plans relate almost entirely to the planning and building of forts, barracks and roads in the Highlands of Scotland. Only five are dated. The dates range between 1724-25 and 17365, and those undated would seem to derive from the same period. They divide into maps of Scotland and the projected military roads, and plans of the intended forts and barracks at Fort William, Fort Augustus

and Inverness. There are also two plans of the Earl of Gowrie's House at Perth. One of the maps, showing the country around the Moray and Cromarty Firths, is a fine piece of detailed mapmaking and, together with a map of the intended road from Ruthven Barracks to Invercauld, illustrates the art of military draughtsmanship at its best.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Wade Collection has close associations with the Scottish plans of the Board of Ordnance (MS.1645-1651), gifted to the National Library of Scotland in 1934 by the then War Office. The maps and plans in both share the same military mapmaking traditions and style, and complement each other in terms of information content. While the Wade Collection maps and plans date between 1724 and ca. 1736, the Board of Ordnance plans cover a period from ca. 1710 to 1813. There is no exact duplication between the two collections, but there are maps and plans in both by the same surveyors or draughtsmen and depicting the same sites.

The Wade Collection and the plans of the Board of Ordnance also relate to the Military Survey of Scotland (1747-1755, and popularly known as Roy's Survey), produced to aid in the pacification of the Highlands following the '45 uprising.

CONCLUSIONS

Close inspection has shown that the Wade Collection is authentic. Although it was known to scholars, it is only now readily available for study after years in virtual obscurity. All requests for further information or viewing of the collections mentioned above should be referred to the Map Library.

See also 'SUMMARY LIST OF 18TH CENTURY MANUSCRIPT MAPS AND PLANS OF MILITARY ORIGIN RELATING TO SCOTLAND, HELD IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND MAP LIBRARY' – FILED IN paper form in: 'LIST OF MSS MAPS HELD IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND' – available on request at Map Library.

Draft List of Wade Collection

All maps and plans are manuscript.

[Map of Scotland showing the Forts at Inverness, Fort Augustus, Fort William and Moidart and on which is pencilled the proposed military roads also the names and numbers of men that could be raised by the various clans].

Scale about 10 miles to 1". (29¼ x 23½) (mounted on sheet, marked 58(a)).

A Plan of the Country where the New Intended Road is to be made from the Barrack at Ruthven in Badenoch to Invercall in Brea Marr, Extracted from my Surveys made for the Duke of Gordon and such Information as could be had from Major Caulfield about the same, 1735 by Joseph Avery.

Scale 1" to 1 mile. (20 x 28¾) (mounted on sheet, marked 58 (b)).

A Map of Part of the Highlands, not done by actual Survey, but laid down on the common computed distances of places ... (21½ x 18). (mounted on sheet, marked 58 (c)).

[Plan of the Murray Firth and Cromarty Firth, with parts of the Shires of Inverness, Sutherland, Ross, Nairn and Elgin. Showing roads, churches and principal seats].

Scale 1.55 miles to 1". (22 7/8 x 35¾). (mounted on sheet, marked 58 (d)).

[Map showing the intended military roads joining up Stirling with Fort Augustus, etc]. Scale about 9 miles to 1". (13¼ x 19¼). (mounted on sheet, with 58 (f); itself marked 58 (e)).

A Plan of Killiwhymen [Fort Augustus] Humbly Presented To The Honourable Major General Wade Commanding His Majesty's Forces In North Britain. By His Most Humble and Most Obedient Servant, Ro: Debize. Scale 600 feet to 1". (18 x 16½). (mounted on sheet, marked 58 (f)). Evidence of earlier numbering (No.13) and (23).

Plan of the Barracks of Killiwhymen and of the Ground about it Humbly presented to the Honourable Major General Wade By His Most Obedient Most Faithfull and Most Humble Servant, Roger Debize, February the 10th 1724/5. (27 7/8 x 19). Scale 100 feet to 1". (mounted on sheet marked 58 (g)).

A Plan of the intended Fortress with the Situation of Killiwhymen. J Romer.

A Plan of Killiwhymen where Fort Augustus is situated /1729. Scale 200 feet to 1". (14 x 17³/₄ each). (These two plans are mounted on one sheet marked 58 (h), They also have earlier numbering (21 and 22) and (No.10).

[Plan of] District of Fort William. Scale 1" – 600 feet. (10¹/₄ x 14). (mounted on sheet with 58 (i); marked 58 (j)). Evidence of earlier number vig (No.5) and (15).

A Plan of part of the Town of Inverness with a Project for Barracks on Castle Hill Secured with lines of Defence. J Romer 1728. Scale about 80 feet to 1". (18 1/8 x 14). (mounted on sheet with 58 (I); marked 58 (j)). Evidence of earlier numbering (No.11) and (19).

[Plan of Fort]. Scale 10 feet to 1". (15 x 18³/₄).

[Plans and elevation of the Earl of Gowrie's House, Perth]. 2 plans on one sheet. Scale of Plan, 10 feet to 1". (11 x 16 each). (sheet marked 58 (l)).

[Sketch and description of the proposed Roads from Callander and Loch Tay to Fort William and Appin including details of mileage and of Inns]. (21 x 29¹/₂). (sheet marked 58 (m)).

[Plan of Fort and Barracks – Killiwhiman?] 2 plans on one sheet. Scale 20 feet to 1". (15 x 21). (sheet marked 58 (n)). Evidence of earlier numbering (25 and 26).

[Plan showing fortifications of Fort William and Town of Maryborough]. Scale 100 feet to 1". (13 x 19). (marked 58 (o)). Evidence of earlier numbering (No.12) and (17).

A Plan of Fort William in the Shire of Inverness, with the District as is described by the Occult lines marked with yellow & bounded by the River Navis. Scale 8.8" to 1 mile. (12 x 14³/₄). 1736. (marked 58 (p)). Evidence of earlier numbering (No.12) and (18?).