



CAIRT

Issue 25
July 2014

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

In this issue:

- **New online maps and resources**
- **The earliest printed atlas and map of Scotland?**
- **Geographical cubes**
- **New publication - *Concerning the Atlas of Scotland***
- **Scottish maps of love?**
- **Edinburgh Jews exhibition**

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. 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 3970
Fax: 0131 623 3971
E-mail: maps@nls.uk



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New website: British First World War Trench Maps (1915-1918)

We are pleased to make available all our holdings of trench maps of the Western Front, coinciding with the exhibition '**Behind the lines: Personal stories of the First World War**' in the NLS George IV Bridge building (27 June to 11 November 2014).

Trench maps are a primary source for studying the battlefields of the Western Front, and the location of military positions and defences. They also record the names that soldiers gave the trenches, as well as the names of nearby farms, villages, woods, and other landmarks, often mentioned in related written records. Accurate locations, and the distances and bearings between them were essential for the artillery, and trench maps also illustrate the innovative survey, compilation, and map printing technologies that advanced rapidly during the War. Comparing trench maps to each other over time, and to the present day, allows a detailed and fascinating graphic insight into the changing topography of the Western Front.

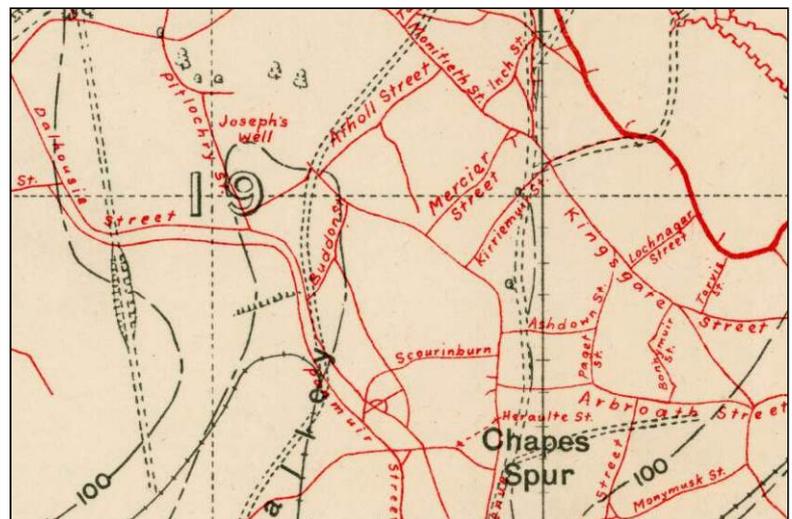
The maps can be accessed as individual sheets using a zoomable map index, as georeferenced overlays allowing comparison to modern Google or Bing map and satellite layers, and by map series and sheet lists.

Trench Maps Home Page:

<http://maps.nls.uk/ww1/trenches/index.html>

'Behind the Lines' Home Page:

<http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions#war>



The 51st Highland Division took over the La Boisselle area in 1915 and often replaced original French names of trenches with Scottish names.

New website: OS six-inch (1:10,560) County Series – England and Wales (1842-1952)

In March we were pleased to make available, through external funding, our largest ever map series digitisation project, numbering 37,390 sheets. The OS six-inch series is the most detailed topographic mapping that covers all of England and Wales from the 1840s to the 1950s. It was revised for the whole country twice between 1842-1893 and between 1891-1914, and then updated selectively but regularly for urban or rapidly changing areas from 1914 to the 1940s. The maps are immensely valuable for local and family history, allowing most features in the landscape to be shown. The more detailed 25 inch to the mile (or 1:2,500) maps allow specific features to be seen more clearly in urban areas, as well as greater detail for buildings and railways, but most topographic features on the 25 inch to the mile maps are in fact also shown on the six-inch to the mile maps.

The maps can be accessed as individual sheets using a zoomable map index, and by map series and sheet lists. We are working on creating a georeferenced layer of sheets from around 1900, and hope to have this online by August.

Right: A detail from OS 6" Devon CXXIII.SE, revised 1892-3, published 1896, showing part of Plymouth, and including the blank security deletions around the Western and Eastern King military batteries.



OS six-inch England and Wales home page:

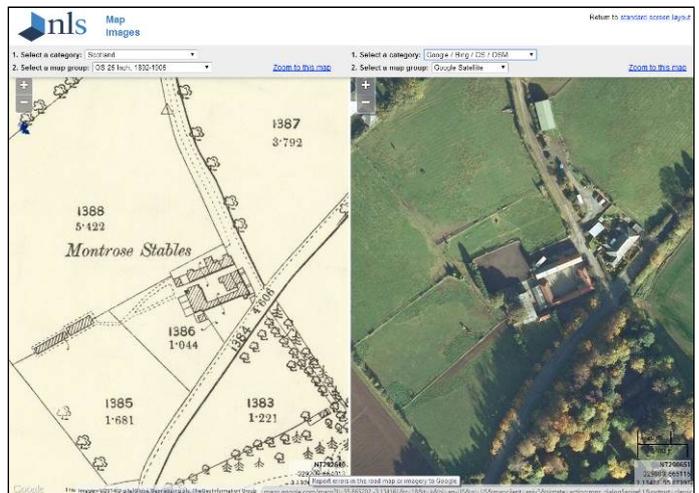
<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>

New OS 25 inch (1:2,500) Scotland georeferenced layer (1892-1905)

Our latest georeferencing work-in-progress, funded externally, is to create a seamless layer of OS 25 inch 2nd edition mapping for Scotland (over 10,000 sheets), and we hope to complete the layer within the next few months.

The growing 25 inch layer can be viewed in our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer, and directly through this link:

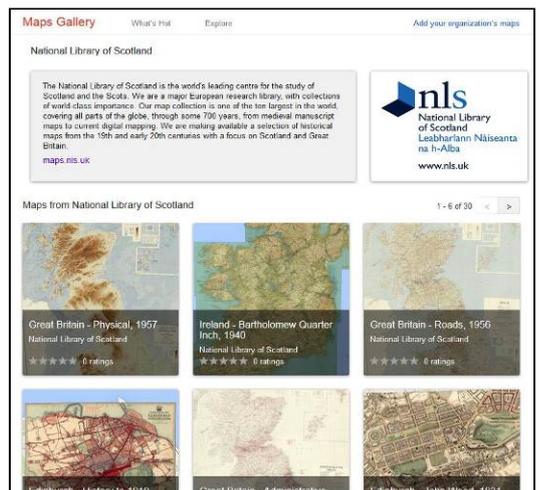
<http://maps.nls.uk/openlayers.cfm?m=1&id=168>



NLS maps in Google Maps Gallery

In February we made available a selection of 30 georeferenced maps and mosaics in Google Maps Gallery. Our initial selection focuses on maps of Scotland and Great Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries. Whilst these maps are also available on our [Map Images website](#), their availability through Google Maps Gallery allows much greater visibility and faster access. They can also be viewed as georeferenced overlays, explored inside Google Earth, and shared and embedded inside other websites and applications.

<https://maps.google.com/gallery/search?hl=en&q=national-library+of+scotland>



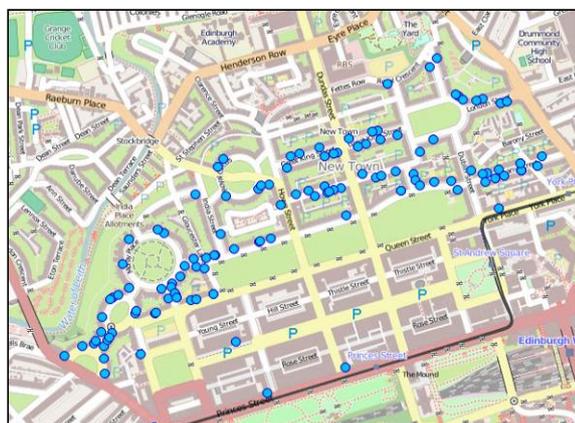
NLS historic map layer in *Digimap for Schools* service

Digimap for Schools is an online application developed by EDINA at the University of Edinburgh from 2010, which gives schools easy access via an annual subscription to a wide range of current Ordnance Survey mapping. From April, *Digimap for Schools* added a new historic map layer from NLS, extending its potential for use in schools across a wider spectrum of the national curriculum. The historic layer is viewable against a range of scales up to 1:10,000, and can be accessed via a slider bar that allows the contemporary map to be gradually faded away to reveal the historic map layer. The historic maps at one-inch to the mile (1:63,360) were originally published between 1885 and 1900 - as the Revised New Series in England and Wales, and the 2nd Edition in Scotland. Pupils and teachers using *Digimap for Schools* can also save and print maps at A4 and A3 size - either of modern maps, historic maps, or a combination of the two at different transparency settings as a merged image. A full set of annotation tools are also available for use on both the modern or historic map, providing many opportunities to highlight changes or other features.

<http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/>



Mapping Edinburgh's Social History (MESH) Update



The location of advocates from the 1861 Post Office Directory on an OpenStreetMap background map

MESH, in partnership with the NLS Map Library, continues to make good progress. The highest priority has been assigned to providing an accurate base map for Edinburgh. OpenStreetMap has been significantly enhanced by the MESH team by two means: (i) splitting long building blocks into individual properties to provide a contemporary footprint, and (ii) by consistently inserting house numbers for individual properties where the door to each is positioned. The result is a far more accurate mapping framework (than Google, Bing etc.) upon which the historical maps will be superimposed.

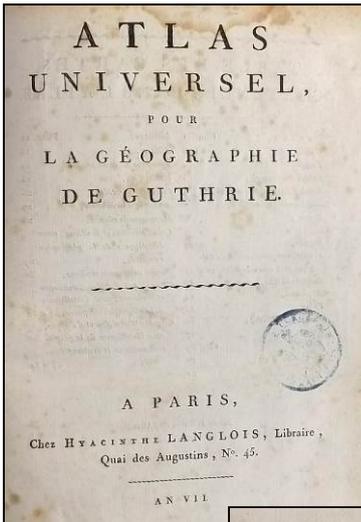
Completion of this initial stage is expected in about 3 months and in the meantime the MESH team is collecting historical data from which new maps will be developed.

Richard Rodger
MESH: <http://www.mesh.ed.ac.uk>

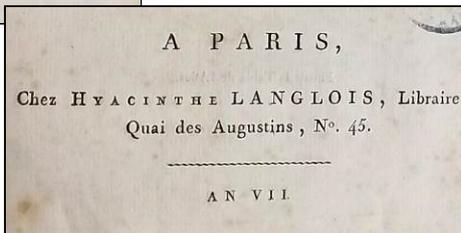
New NLS Map Images website - JPEG download option

In April we started a new service allowing JPEG downloads of all 86,000 of our online maps. These are priced at £8.50 (£10.20 including VAT), £2.00 cheaper than our standard 'TIFF image on disk' price of £10.50 (£12.60 including VAT). The JPEG is the same high resolution as the original TIFF, but as a JPEG has compressed colour, and is usually less than 10% of the size of the TIFF. These can be ordered on our *Map Images* website in the same way as ordering images and printouts - just choose the 'Digital Image (JPEG, electronic download)' option when ordering the map, and you will receive a download link via email.

Is this the earliest printed atlas and map of Scotland - or not?



Above and right:
Figure 1 Title page of Guthrie's first French edition (author's copy), with detail (right)



Having recently acquired a copy of the first French edition (published posthumously in Paris) of William Guthrie's¹ *New Geographical, Historical, and Commercial Grammar ...*² (multiple English editions were published in London both before and after his death), I was intrigued to find that the French title page was dated clearly (and only) "An VII" (Fig. 1). In addition, all the maps (which had all been re-engraved by Blondeau, on the whole) were present as called for, including that of Scotland (Fig. 2), which would surely imply that this was by far the earliest separate printed map of Scotland!

With the bit firmly between my teeth, I could find only two French editions of the atlas in COPAC - one of the second edition (Leeds University, catalogued with the quoted date "M. DCCC. - 8.", which they interpreted as 1800, with the added note that "some catalogues interpret this as 1808"), and one of the third edition (NLS Map Library, without shelfmark) firmly dated in the NLS detailed catalogue entry to 1802 (albeit WorldCat quotes "[An X [1802]" *[sic!]* for this copy, and "An X - 1802" for other copies of this edition).



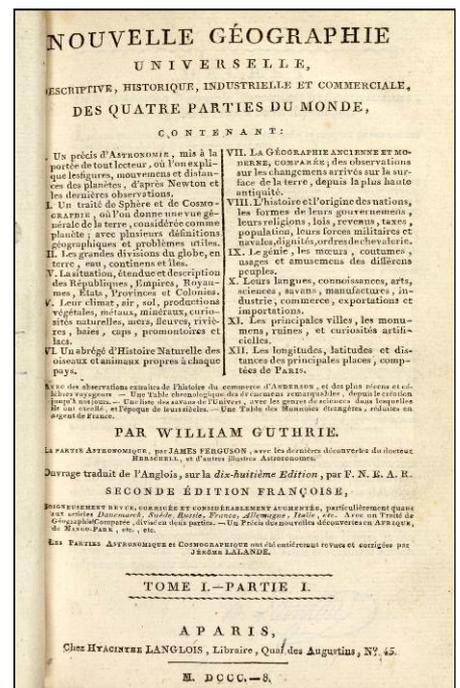
Above: Figure 2. Map of Scotland from Guthrie's first French edition (author's copy)

Searching WorldCat (without attempting to separate individual volumes from sets, with or without the atlas volume), it rapidly became clear that the first French edition was firmly dated 1798-99 (notably precisely by the French libraries), the second was dated both 1800 and 1808 (as forecast by Leeds), and the third firmly assigned by all to 1802!

Imagine my delight in then finding that the NLS has a copy of the six volumes of the second French edition of his Geography (lacking the seventh volume - the atlas) 3 - which had eluded my original search for atlases.

All six text volumes bear a French title page clearly dated exactly at the foot "M. DCCC. - 8.", exactly as is the atlas volume catalogued by Leeds (Fig. 3)!

Below: Figure 3. Title page of volume 1 of the NLS second edition of Guthrie's second French edition of 1800



Further research has shed more light on this extraordinary tale: the date "An VII" relates to the French Republican Calendar (alternatively named the French Revolutionary Calendar; for a detailed evaluation of the origins and evolution of which see the erudite and elegant description in Wikipedia⁴), and the second editions of both the Geography and the atlas (dated both MDCCC and 8) are both consistent with this: since their new calendar year by then ran from September to September, the first edition could be from 1798 or 1799, in the absence of any month in the date.

So this map of Scotland is the product not of the earliest printed atlas, but only that of the latest national dating system known to me!

Neil Davidson
neild99@hotmail.co.uk

References:

1. Who came from Brechin, and lived 1708-70, according to Tooley's "Dictionary of Mapmakers" (edited by French, J, 2001)
2. Shirley, R (2004) "Maps in the Atlases of the British Library", entries for the English editions T.GUTH-1a to 6a - no French edition found, albeit they have a microfiche copy of one
3. Special Collections, shelfmark AB.2.76.15
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republican_Calendar

Cubism in Victorian Geography (what a puzzle!)

Jig-saw puzzles of maps are common - even if equally commonly incomplete - and they have served both as games and educational tools since the first by Covens & Mortier in c.1750, and John Spilsbury in 1764.

However, I recently discovered a variant genre of which I had been unaware - an undated boxed set of 63 "Geographical Cubes" sold by G F Cruchley (1787-1880¹ or 1864-70² or 1833-77³, who had taken over from G & J Cary²) at 81 Fleet Street. Cruchley is known to have sold maps and globes from 1833-75¹ (or 1839-51² or 1833-77³!), with maps of the World, Europe, England (and Wales), Scotland, Ireland and France, provisionally dated c.1840 on the cartographical content of Australasia and Antarctica (Figs. 1-2).

COPAC lists only two similar holdings in the UK, one of which is in the NLS Map Library - a set of 30 2-inch cubes by W and AK Johnston from c.1870 (with maps of the World, Europe, England, Scotland, Ireland and France & Switzerland)⁴ (Figs. 3-4) - and the other in Cambridge University Library is a set of 42 ?1" cubes by George Philip & Son c.1890⁵. This latter set has maps of Europe and ?5 other European countries, with separate printed key maps for each - the British Library has a single-faced jigsaw map by the same publisher.

Two other sets which I have found so far were made in Paris by Auguste Logerot (c.1841-79, who is already known to have made jigsaw maps¹), one called *Études géographiques*, also of 30 cubes, which is on sale by an Australian dealer⁶, and whose maps include ones of Oceania and of Tonkin (the far north of Vietnam, which was by then under French control); and a different set of 20 cubes, also by Logerot, apparently entitled "Atlas", in the Bibliothèque nationale de France⁷ (which they date firmly on geographical grounds to 1871-76), with maps of the World, Europe, America, Africa, Oceania and France, both with six sheet maps as keys - there is also what seems to be a similar anonymous Parisian *Atlas géographique* with 20 cubes in the Library of Congress, dated c.1860⁸, each with 40mm cubes (as all three of these French sets seem to have); one other set of 30 cubes from Paris (which may be 45-50mm cubes), with maps of France and its divisions, drawn by Hansen, engraved by Erhard, A Gérin and E Delaune, and published by Hachette & Cie in c.1898, is currently advertised by a Belgian dealer⁹.

One lives, puzzles and learns!

Neil Davidson
neild99@hotmail.co.uk

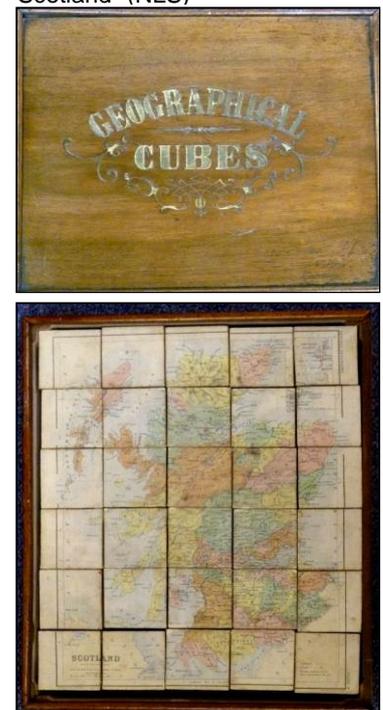
References

- 1 French, J (1999) "Tooley's Dictionary of Mapmakers", Map Collector Publications
- 2 Clifton, G (1995) "Directory of British Scientific Instrument Makers 1550-1851", Zwemmer
- 3 Smith, D (1989) *The Map Collector* 49, pp. 16-22
- 4 Shelfmark Maps.Cur.10
- 5 Shelfmark Maps.a.18.F.1
- 6 See <http://www.hordern.com/stock/B808-709.aspx>
- 7 Shelfmark GE A-1633
- 8 Shelfmark G1019.A8646 1860 Vault
- 9 See http://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=9185241756&clickid=1GTVXSy4%25253A3da14dQRhziAyWmUkTwCYRxxhRX%25253ASIO&cm_mmc=aff--ir--59419--77797&afn_sr=impact



Figure 1 (top) and Figure 2 (above). Cruchley's "Geographical Cubes" box, and "Scotland" (author's collection)

Figure 3 (below) and Figure 4 (bottom). W and A K Johnston's "Geographical Cubes" box, and "Scotland" (NLS)

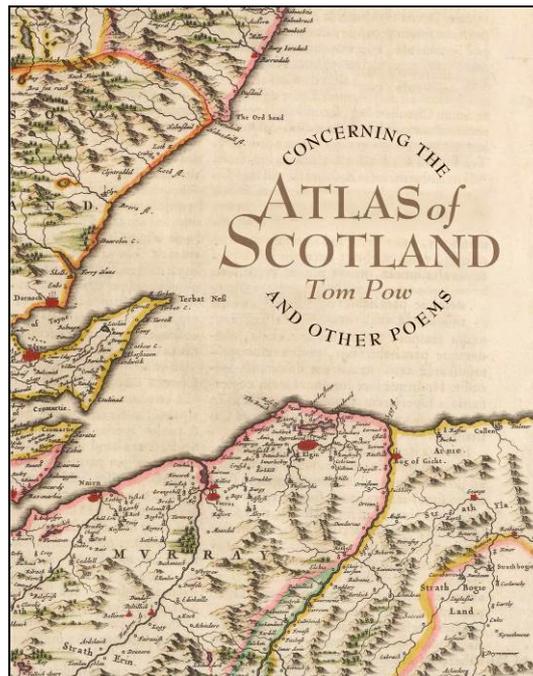


We are also very grateful to Neil for translating the original French text from Braun and Hogenberg's description of Edinburgh (1583) which is now on our website: <http://maps.nls.uk/towns/detail.cfm?id=1022>

New publication: *Concerning the Atlas of Scotland And Other Poems*

As reported in *Cairt* 23, we were very pleased to welcome Tom Pow for six months as a writer in residence at the NLS Map Library in 2013. He was so inspired by the collections that we hold and by the stories that they tell that he wrote a collection of poetry based on that experience. This will be published by Polygon in August 2014, with input too from NLS and illustrated with details from the collections. This beautiful and quite haunting collection will be welcomed by map lovers as well as poetry lovers.

Tom Pow was born in Edinburgh in 1950. Primarily an award-winning poet, he has also written young adult novels, picture books, radio plays and travel books. He has held various writing posts, including that of Scottish/Canadian Writing Fellow, based at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and Virtual Writer in Residence (Scotland's first) for the Scottish Library Association's Scottish Writers Project. Tom was the first ever Writer in Residence at the Edinburgh International Book Festival from 2001 to 2003. From 2000 to 2009, he was a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and Storytelling at the University of Glasgow in Dumfries, and is currently Honorary Senior Research Fellow there as well as a part-time lecturer on Lancaster University's distance learning Masters in Creative Writing. More information can be found at <http://www.tompow.co.uk>.



Tom Pow, *Concerning the Atlas of Scotland And Other Poems*. Birlinn £12.99. (published August 2014)

<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Concerning-the-Atlas-of-Scotland-And-Other-Poems.html>

Cairt Competition - two copies of Tom Pow's *Concerning the Atlas of Scotland And Other Poems* to be won.

We are very grateful to Birlinn for donating two copies of this book (see above) for our competition in this issue. To win a copy, please tell us the sheet number (eg. 36C.SW2) of the trench map from which the image shown on the front page of this newsletter is taken from.

Please send or e-mail your answers, marked *Cairt Competition*, to maps@nls.uk or to the address on the front cover by 30 Sept 2014. The winners will be picked randomly from the winning entries and informed by 15 Oct 2014.

Congratulations to Noel Fojut and Ann Wakeling for each winning a copy of *Exploring Britain's Lost Railways* from the last issue's competition.

Recent publications relating to Scottish cartography

Paul Bishop & Gavin Thomas, 'How OS depicted limekilns in Scotland's Central Belt', *Sheetlines* 98 (December 2013), pp.19-31. <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue98page19.pdf>

David L Walker, 'The initial triangulation of Scotland from 1809 to 1822', *Sheetlines* 98 (December 2013), pp.5-15. <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue98page5.pdf>

David L Walker, 'Balta Sound and the figure of the earth', *Sheetlines* 99 (April 2014), pp.5-17. <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue99page5.pdf>

Recent Acquisitions - two Scottish matrimonial maps

In May we were very pleased to acquire from Roderick Barron two small imaginary maps, drawn and printed in Scotland, depicting the pleasures and strains of matrimony. Roderick has kindly allowed us to quote from his detailed research notes on the maps below. The early 19th century witnessed a massive upsurge in the printing of these small matrimonial maps, associated as they were with the rising popularity of the romantic novel and the rapid growth in literacy and mass printing.



This map above (measuring just 9 x 12 cm) very likely holds the honour of being the very first map of matrimony drawn and printed in Scotland using the lithographic printing process. It is a rare and perhaps unique survival from the important firm of early Scottish lithographers, Robertson & Ballantine.

John Robertson and Walter Ballantine traded in partnership under the name Robertson & Ballantine between 1823 and 1826, and possibly as late as 1828 from two adjacent addresses at 18 and 20 Greenside Place, Edinburgh. John Robertson holds the distinction of almost certainly being the founder of the first lithographic printing business in Edinburgh (and indeed in the whole of Scotland). In 1821 Robertson printed 15 of the 30 fine *Views of Scenery in Perthshire* by David Octavius Hill (the earliest lithographic views printed in Scotland) and in the same year, printed a lithographed map based on a survey by Robert Stevenson showing the proposed route of the railway from the Midlothian coalfields to the Rivers Tweed and Leader.

This chart is unusual in its delineation of the Land of Matrimony as a T-Shaped promontory encircled by the Ocean of Love. Its principal settlements are Felicity Fort and the inland Temple of Hymen. Other features include the Cape of Good Hope, L'Amour River and lying directly offshore from Felicity Fort, the Scandal Shoal with its dangerous shifting sand. Upper left is the Land of Celibacy with its equally dangerous offshore hazard, the Rocks of Disappointment. To the South, coastal features include the promontory of Lovers Leap, the small Isle of Demur with its Cape Ceremony, the Dangerous Dianas covered in vapours, the isle of Sylla and adjacent Charibdis, Repulse Bay, Mount Caution with its nearby Lighthouse, the Gulf of Guinea and the Coast of Guinea with its principal settlement, Golden Harbour and the adjacent Temple of Fortune, the former denoted by an overflowing cornucopia. On the northeastern borders of the land of Matrimony, beyond the Lake of Indifference, are found the regions of Terra Deserta on the shores of the Frozen Sea and the bordering Land of Discord - a topographical allusion perhaps to the potential devastation resulting from a loveless life as a singleton... or equally a loveless marriage of mutual disharmony and unhappiness.

The Edinburgh map publisher John Thomson is well-known for his important large folio world atlas, *A New General Atlas*, published from 1817 onwards, and his subsequent *Atlas of Scotland* published in 1832. This unusual map of the Island of Matrimony measuring 20 x 17 cm (over the page), appears to be a rare separately published map of Thomson's own design, dating from c.1815. It varies from other contemporary models and templates insofar as it reverts to the earlier 18th century outline of the land of Matrimony as an Island, following the French satirist Eustache le Noble (1643-1711), but uses more classically-based mythical Greek references for the designation and division of the Island's different regions. Whilst the Island of Matrimony is surrounded on three sides by waters labelled with positive titles, such as Ocean of Love and Happiness, Ocean of Delights, and Ocean of Peace and Plenty, off its southern shores, adjacent to Stormy Head and Discord Bay, lies the Turbulent Ocean.

Continued on page 8

