

# CAIRT

Issue 12  
Feb 2008

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

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## Planning the Scottish Townscape?

The next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar is based on the theme of Scottish town plans. The highly illustrated talks will review the history and development of the Scottish town, particularly using map sources.

Speakers include Pat Dennison who introduces the programme by considering the Scottish burgh, while Edwina Proudfoot interprets the intriguing and beautiful plan of St Andrews by John Geddy about 1580 – or is it? Charles McKean concentrates on the Scottish burgh's public buildings. Coming into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Malcolm Bangor-Jones reveals some of his recent research on "George Grant Mackay: Victorian surveyor and speculator" using feuing plans of Oban and elsewhere, while Paul Laxton looks at public health issues. Finally we shall hear about some recent and future projects focussing on the history of the Scottish town.

The date is Tuesday 22 April 2008, and the venue is the National Library of Scotland, Causewayside Building Edinburgh. Early booking is recommended as previous seminars have been oversubscribed. Booking forms and more information are available from the Map Library, National Library of Scotland (address on left) and NLS website [www.nls.uk/collections/maps](http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps)



Mathias Merian. *Edenburck in Schottl.* [Frankfurt : Meisner, 1631]



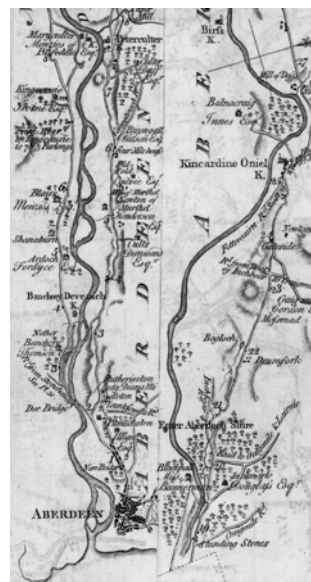
## MAP TALK

**Early Route-ways and Roads in Scotland**  
**Tuesday 25 March 7pm**  
**National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge**

This illustrated talk will draw upon early maps and related texts to chart the development and growth of roads in Scotland. Deputy Map Curator Chris Fleet will examine the various economic, social and military purposes for which roads were built and how maps illustrate these purposes, revealing much about the maps and their makers along the way.

To book your free place(s), please phone 0131 623 4675 or e-mail: [events@nls.uk](mailto:events@nls.uk)

Plate 1 (left) and Plate 54 (right) from G. Taylor and A. Skinner's *Survey and maps of the roads of North Britain or Scotland*, 1776



## EXHIBITION

**Words Out Of Place**  
**1 February – 2 March 2008**  
**National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge**

In *Cairt* 11 it was reported that Catriona Taylor was to be Artist-in-Residence at the National Library of Scotland from Spring 2007, and the results of her work are on display in this exhibition. She often takes a response to place as her starting point. Not just her own response but the response of others, particularly writers and cartographers. Extracts of text and traces of maps appear in much of her work. She is also interested in the themes of absence and transience and has been repeatedly drawn to the stories of emigrants. In engaging with aspects of the Library's collections she has brought all of these concerns into a kaleidoscopic narrative.

"Taking the reach of the Library to embrace both Scots and Gaelic she has focused on two core texts, *Heart of Midlothian* by Sir Walter Scott and the Raasay poems (*Hallaig* and *Woods of Raasay*) by Sorley MacLean along with a collection of letters home from emigrants to the New World. The theme of the exhibition is 'words out of place' - that is words inspired by place (or loss of place) and a series of visual treatments that literally present these words out of their normal bound context onto new surfaces: slates, stone, or scaled up on hand made paper and on the surface of a large paper boat. Not only do the markings of the handwritten texts have their own highlighted aesthetic, their presentation in a newly configured physical narrative is intended to underscore the evocative power of description (in Scott) and the poignancy of separation (in MacLean and the emigrants' letters)."

## MILITARY MAPPING STUDENTSHIP

*update from Carolyn Anderson*

An objective in my historical study of the militarised landscapes of eighteenth-century Scotland is to develop a finding list for Board of Ordnance maps and plans, and associated military mapping. At the beginning of November 2007 the list comprised c.850 maps and plans but, with recent additions, now exceeds 920. Many of the additional maps have been identified from my time spent at the British Library as the Helen Wallis Fellow, which allows me privileged access to the King George III Topographical Collection together with Additional Manuscripts maps and documents relating to the Jacobite Risings and military activities in Scotland at this time.

Part of my research this year, outwith the National Library of Scotland, has been in The National Archives at Kew, looking at manuscript evidence of Board of Ordnance activity in Scotland, in particular at unpublished textual records, such as Board minutes, correspondence, orders, reports, estimates, warrants, bills, and personnel lists. The surviving archives are incomplete, but used in conjunction with each other and with given maps or plans, the activities of the Board can be identified for this period. To complete my research into the main collections held in the four principal repositories, in early 2008 I am hoping to visit the Royal Library (Print Room) at Windsor Castle to view the Cumberland Collection, 41 items of which relate to Scotland.

**STOP PRESS!** We are very pleased to report that Carolyn has just been awarded a JB Harley Research Fellowship, that will fund a detailed exploration of relevant Board of Ordnance archives in The National Archives during the Summer of 2008.

## NEW WEBSITES

Chris Fleet reports on three recent additions to the National Library of Scotland map images website.

### 1. William Roy - *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain*, 1793

This splendid volume is a classic work on the military conquest of Scotland by the Romans. With its 51 attractive and detailed plates, complemented by 205 pages of supporting text, it recorded many Roman remains identified for the first time, and 'as a storehouse of trustworthy topographical information regarding Roman sites, it can never be entirely superseded' (MacDonald, 1917, 161). Indeed the early direct observations of Roy are still valuable today, especially for sites where industrial, agricultural, or urban change has occurred since.

The book is also a lasting monument to a man whose enthusiasm as an antiquary was matched by his distinction as a man of science, and success as a military engineer and soldier. Although William Roy (1726-1790) is better known today for his work on the Military Survey of Scotland (1747-1755), and as the founder of what became the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, he had a long-term scholarly and personal interest in Roman antiquities. Whilst leading teams of engineers during the Military Survey, he was able to map several Roman sites in southern Scotland, and in 1755 he compiled a detailed survey and map of the Antonine Wall at a scale of 1:36,000.

Following his active service in Germany during the Seven Years War (1756-63), his interest in Scottish antiquities was rekindled by the discovery of the Agricola marching camp at Cleghorn in 1764. By the early 1770s, Roy was able to bring his material on antiquities together, and in 1773 he published his Map of Roman Scotland, showing all the sites known to him. However, this was the only map from the *Military Antiquities...* published in Roy's lifetime. It was not until after his death in July 1790, that the Society of Antiquaries (to which Roy was elected a fellow in 1776) were bequeathed a manuscript copy of the *Military Antiquities...*, with the rights to publish it if they so wished. The volume was published in 1793, with the maps engraved by James Basire. We are most grateful to Birlinn for funding the scanning of this volume; a facsimile publication of Roy's *Military Antiquities* is planned for 2009.

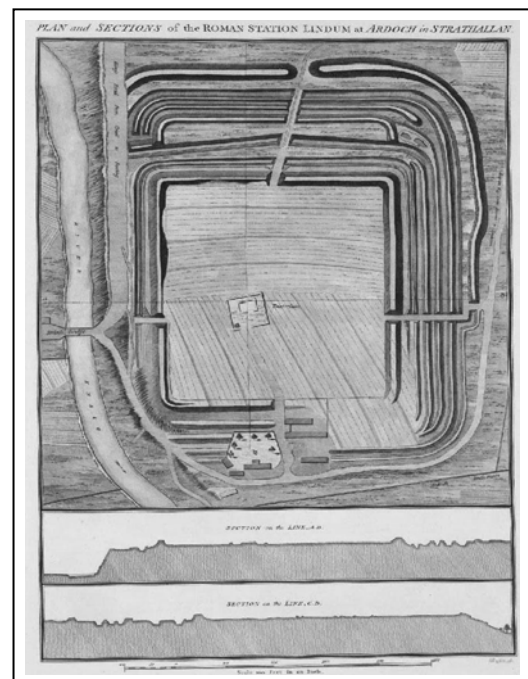
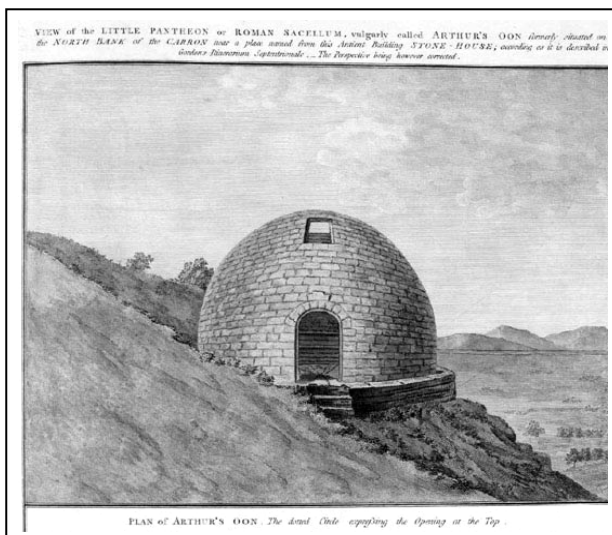
View at:

[www.nls.uk/maps/early/roy-military-antiquities](http://www.nls.uk/maps/early/roy-military-antiquities)

#### Bibliography

Macdonald, George, 'General William Roy and his *Military Antiquities of the Romans in North Britain*', *Archaeologia*, LXVIII (1917), 161-228.

O'Donoghue, Yolande, *William Roy 1726-1790: Pioneer of the Ordnance Survey*. (London: British Library, 1977)

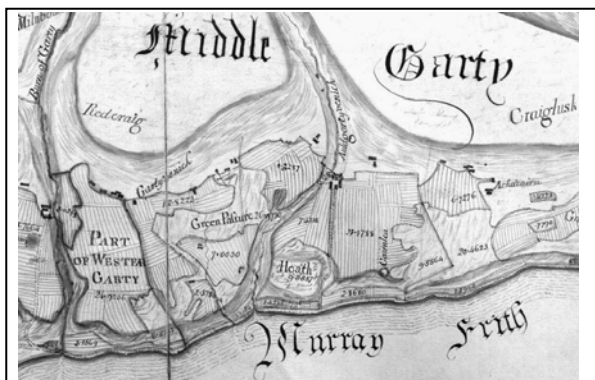


Illustrations from Roy's *Military Antiquities* -  
**Above left:** map showing route of the Antonine Wall  
**Above:** plan of the Roman fort at Ardoch  
**Left:** view of Arthur's O'on, on the bank of the River Carron

## 2. John Kirk - Survey of farms in Golspie and Loth parishes, Sutherland, ca. 1772

These two attractive and detailed volumes of manuscript estate plans, are NLS's earliest detailed maps of these two east coast parishes in Sutherland. They cover the arable coastal strip from Golspie in the south, through Brora, to what became the fishing village of Helmsdale in the north. For the Sutherland Estate owners, this included some of their richest arable land, as well as the home farm and policies around Dunrobin Castle. The plans were largely drafted by the Edinburgh-based land surveyor, John Kirk, in 1771-3, but they also include a plan by John Home, who completed Kirk's work before surveying Assynt in 1774. Kirk's plans clearly demarcate and quantify the arable ground, pasture and plantings of trees, as a basis for improving agricultural productivity. NLS is most grateful to Clyne Heritage Society for funding the scanning of these two volumes, and for permission from the Sutherland Estate.

View at: [www.nls.uk/maps/early/golspie-loth](http://www.nls.uk/maps/early/golspie-loth)



**Above:** John Kirk's plan of Middle Garty from the Book of Plans of the Parish of Loth

**Right:** detail of cartouche from John Home's Plan of Part of the parish of Golspie

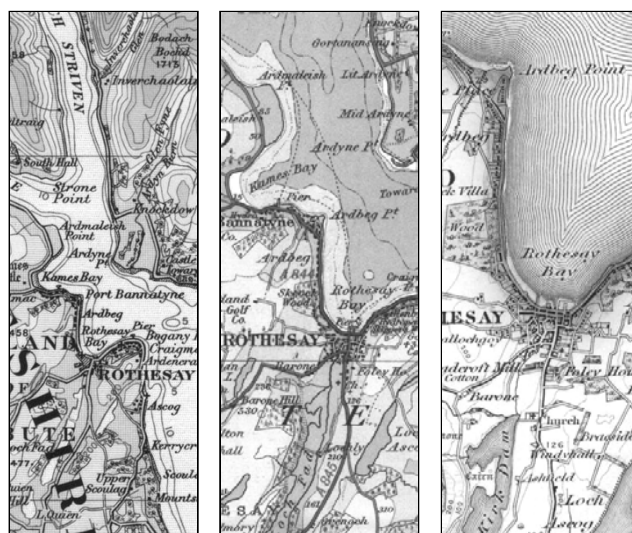


## 3. More regional maps of Scotland, 1856-1935

Over 400 regional maps of Scotland have also gone online which will particularly benefit anyone doing family or local history research. Among these latest additions are Ordnance Survey and Bartholomew mapping intended for walking, cycling and touring. Together they provide an excellent overview of the Scottish landscape for the period.

The first three editions of **Ordnance Survey one-inch to the mile** maps cover the years from 1856 to 1912. We also have added **Bartholomew half-inch to the mile** maps (1926-1935), and **Ordnance Survey quarter-inch to the mile maps** (1921-1923). Maps are zoomable, to show detail, and some of these map series have also been joined to make seamless maps covering all of Scotland.

View at: <http://www.nls.uk/maps>



**Above:** details from (left-right) OS quarter-inch map (sheet 4), Bartholomew half-inch map (sheet 7) and OS one-inch map (sheet 29).

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAPS

**Chris Fleet.** 'King of the Castles', *Discover NLS*, 5, Summer 2007, 10-12.

**Chris Fleet.** 'Lewis Petit and his plans of Scottish fortifications and towns', 1714-16', *Cartographic Journal*, 44, December 2007, 329-341.

**Chris Fleet.** 'The Roy military survey of Scotland (1747-1755)', *Scottish Local History*, 71, Winter 2007, 37-41.

**Chris Fleet.** 'The National Library of Scotland on the web', *IMCoS Journal*, 111, Winter 2007, 13-15.

**Rosemary Gibson.** *The Scottish Countryside: its changing face, 1700-2000*. Edinburgh: John Donald, 2007.

**William Roy.** *The Great Map: the Military Survey of Scotland 1747-1755*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2007.

**Jeffrey Stone.** 'The kingdom of Scotland: cartography in an age of confidence', chapter 56, pp. 1684-1692 in *The history of cartography*. Vol.3. *Cartography in the European Renaissance*, part 2. Chicago & London: Chicago University Press, 2007.

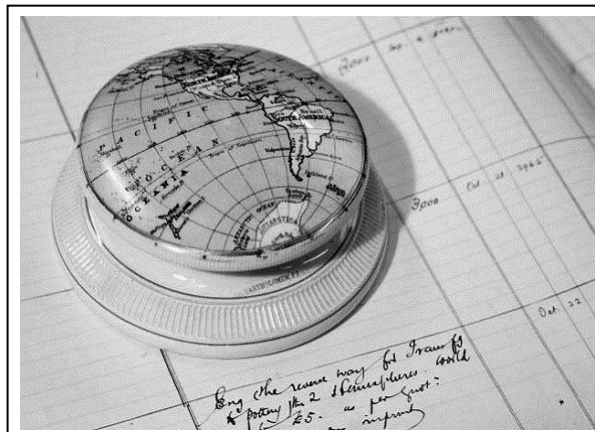
**Diana Webster.** 'Maps', pp. 312-321 in *The Edinburgh history of the book in Scotland*. Vol. 3. *Ambition and industry 1800-1880*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007.

## FROM THE BARTHOLOMEW ARCHIVE

Strictly speaking this unusual map artefact is not **from** the Bartholomew Archive, but has recently been added **to** the National Library's collection because the map was drawn by John G. Bartholomew, FRGS, and engraved by the Bartholomew firm, whose considerable archive is held in the Library. The potter's mark on the base indicates that it was made by James Macintyre & Co. of Burslem in Staffordshire, with the registration "Rd.Nr.141265" corresponding to an 1889 date.

The date is confirmed by order records in the Bartholomew Archive stating: *"firm order received Aug 28 1889. Engr. the reverse way for transf. to pottery the 2 hemispheres World for £5 as per quote. Delivered Oct. 22"*. Normally an engraver prepared a reverse (mirror) image for printing, but as this map would first be printed onto a transfer, then the transfer applied to the ceramic (reversing it once more), on this occasion the engraver has been instructed to prepare the plate with the map as it would appear finally.

The order record also reveals that this was one of a pair – a paperweight of the eastern hemisphere remains to be discovered!



John G. Bartholomew, 1860-1920  
Western hemisphere ceramic map paperweight. 1889; shown with the order record from the Bartholomew Archive.

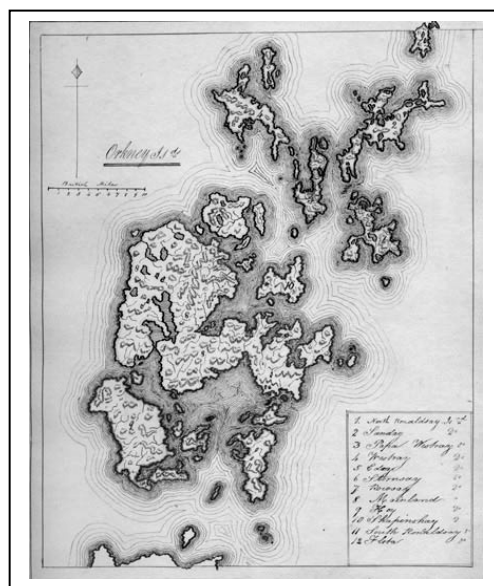
## MODERN NORTHERN IRELAND MAPPING

Following a collaborative agreement between the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland and the UK Copyright Libraries, comprehensive annual snapshots of their mapping have been supplied from 2004 to 2007. This is the most detailed mapping surveyed by OSNI, allowing maximum detail of the urban and rural landscape to be accessed in a simple application. Different years can also be compared simultaneously. The digital mapping complements the extensive collections of Ordnance Survey paper mapping of Ireland in NLS, dating back to the 1820s, and can be viewed in the Map Library.

## ABERCORN SCHOOL ATLAS SHORTLISTED

The British Library have recently organised a competition to digitise 'treasures' from public libraries and to make them available on the web. West Lothian Libraries' proposal was shortlisted in the final 24 (although ultimately unsuccessful), and consists of an attractive set of 26 hand drawn maps made by children attending the Parish School of Abercorn in 1848-49. These beautifully detailed and delicate maps include some Scottish county maps, maps of Europe, of various European countries, and of each continent. The majority are physical, not political. There is also a list of the world's longest rivers and highest mountains, the volcanoes complete with little puffs of fire erupting from them! The 26 maps each measure approximately 20cm x 22cm and have been bound into a book.

The precision and detail of them is even more astonishing when you consider that the eleven children who drew them were so young - between ten and fourteen years of age. They were ordinary children who would leave school young and go to work as farm labourers, estate workers or domestic servants on the huge estate of the Earls of Hopetoun. The parish schoolmaster who got the children to draw these maps was Christopher Dawson, a remarkable teacher, naturalist, poet and collector. The maps are kept in the West Lothian Local History Library in Blackburn, and can be seen during normal opening hours

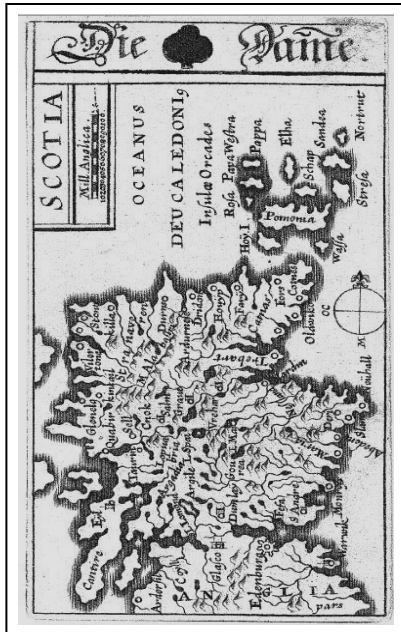


Orkney Islands

For further information contact Sybil Cavanagh on 01506 776331, or email [sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk)

## NEW ACQUISITIONS: MAP PLAYING CARDS

Map playing cards are an unusual form of map ephemera. The National Library of Scotland has recently purchased two printed items, while the National Archives of Scotland has acquired a most attractive and colourful trio of hand-drawn cards. Although examples are known from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, map playing cards were particularly fashionable in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, corresponding to the period when these cards were produced.

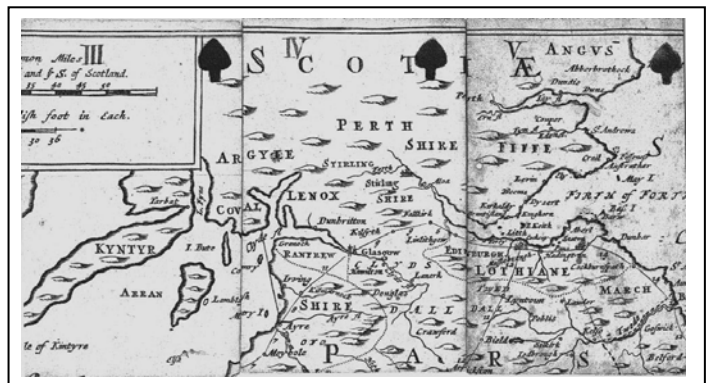


Above: Hoffman, Johann. *Scotia*.  
Scale [ca.1:9,500,000].  
[Nuremberg : Johann Hoffman, 1678].

This small map of Scotland is in fact a playing card - the Queen ('Die Dame') of Clubs. This is from a set of playing cards "Europaeisch-Geographische Spiel-Charte" published by Johann Hoffman in Nuremberg. The date, 1678, derives from the text volume produced to accompany the set. Each card depicts a country of Europe, the marbled card backing is probably original. The map is likely to have been drawn by J.H. Seyfrid and engraved by Wilhelm Pfann, whose names appear on the "World" card from the same set. Although the map text is in Latin, the playing card text is in German.

The cards have been described in an article by Peter van der Krogt in *MapForum* Spring 2006, pp 56-60: "Europaeisch-geographische Spiel-Charte by Franz Nigrinus and Johann Seyfried, 1678". Facsimiles of the whole set of cards were published in vol. 2, pl.106-109, of *Playing cards of various ages and countries selected from the collection of Lady Charlotte Schreiber*. London, 1892-1895.

The second item is an exciting acquisition of an extremely rare collection of map playing cards. This is harder to identify as the set is incomplete, and the title card is lacking, but Rodney Shirley has described the map and cards in *Printed maps of the British Isles, 1650-1750*. (Tring & London, 1988), pp 18-19. The original map was drawn by John Adair, the Scottish mapmaker, and published in Edinburgh in 1689; only one copy of the whole map is known, held in the British Library: *A New Mapp of ye Kingdom of England, with the adjacent coasts of France & Flanders...*



Above right: Three of the 37 cards from John Adair's 1689 map, dissected into playing cards, 1709.

The engraver, James Moxon (d.1708), had been brought to Scotland to prepare maps for Sir Robert Sibbald's ambitious atlas project, but soon returned to London. It is assumed that he took the engraved plates for this map with him, as this second state was published in London in 1709 by John Lenthall, with an altered title: *A new map of England, part of Scotland and adjacent parts of France*, and the coat of arms changed to Queen Anne's. Lenthall specialised in selling playing cards and other games, and his advertisement, also published in the facsimile of the Schreiber collection (vol. 1, pl. 76A) indicates that he sold several cards and games engraved by Moxon.

Adair's map was dissected into 48 playing cards, marked with suits by a coloured stamp, and numbered by hand. To make up the numbers, four additional cards were added (the aces) of which this purchase includes the aces of spades and diamonds, which list the counties of England and Wales. This incomplete 'harlequin' set includes 37 playing cards from the total of 52, and according to the dealer was acquired from at least three separate sources, although close comparison suggests more packs may be represented.

Cards were sold uncoloured, coloured, and gilded; one of these is hand coloured and is known to have been in the collection of Sylvia Mann, a noted playing card collector, who has written about her search for other cards in this elusive and rare set.

Finally, John McLintock has provided information about three map playing cards, from the papers of the Maule family, Earls of Dalhousie (GD45), which were purchased by the National Archives of Scotland in 2007, although the collection has been held on deposit since 1969.

These manuscript cards (RHP32516/1-3) have highly coloured illustrations of playing card suits on one side, with a map on the other. A pencil annotation on RHP3561/1 may give a clue to their origin, as they were found in a 'Pocket book belonging to James McKay, consisting of back pages and a pocket containing some small personal documents...1705', together with papers dated 1693 and later.

The three map cards consist of plans of the lands between Paphrie Burn ('Pafie fl.') and the West Water, in Angus, north west of Brechin, the Maule family heartland. Two of the maps are similar sketches, almost duplicates, showing the 'South Side of Brunt Hill' and the area east of 'Pitnamoole Hill' (Putney Maol) in Angus at a 'Scale 1000 Footes in the Inch', including a list of acreages. The third plan is less detailed, at a smaller scale, from 'Pafie fl.' northwards to 'Waterhead'.

**Diana Webster**

#### Other sources:

Mann, Sylvia & Kingsley, David. 'Playing cards'. (*Map Collectors Circle*, 87, 1972, 20-21).  
Wayland, Virginia. 'Lenthall pack no. XII: exciting new find concerning the "British cards" advertised in Lenthall's broadside'. (*The playing card*, 10(3), Feb. 1982, 95-101).



**Above:** RHP 35216/1 - the Knave of Hearts, backed by a Plan of the lands between the Paphrie (Pafre) Burn and the West Water (above right)



**Left:** RHP35216/2 (backed by the 8 of clubs) - Sketch of the area to the north of Putney Maol

Reproduced by permission of the National Archives of Scotland

## NOTES & QUERIES

### The most commodious ornament: 17<sup>th</sup> century wall maps

It is well established that maps were a popular form of interior decoration in gentlemen's houses in continental Europe and England in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Vermeer's paintings often portray a wall map in the background, and Pedley and Tyacke quote contemporary sources, such as Robert Walton in 1655 describing maps as 'the most commodious ornament for everyman's house'. It would not be surprising to find that Scottish followers of fashion also used maps as wall decoration, and two 17<sup>th</sup> century examples, both from north-east Scotland, have recently emerged.

Staff at NLS Map Library were asked last summer to identify a large wall map which had been found some years ago 'stuffed up a chimney' in a house in north-east Scotland. A builder working on the house had been told to clear it out, and instead of putting the map in a skip, gave it to a friend who

has now contacted the Library. Unfortunately he does not know which house it came from. The map is in a shocking condition, having been attacked by vermin or insects over the years, and only about half or one third of the paper remains, although the linen backing is more intact.

After carefully opening it out (paper falls off like confetti) it was possible to see enough of it to identify the map as a rare Dutch wall map: 'Nova totius terrarum orbis tabula', 'Auct. G. Valck' [Auct.= auctore ie. author] 'Leonardus Schenck excudit' [ie. engraved] Cum privilegio... Amsterdam'. 'Printed and sold by Gerard Valck op an ye Dam at ye Sign of ye Wathfull [sic] Dogg'.

Only one copy of this enlarged state of the map, which has borders of town views at each side, is recorded in Rodney Shirley's *The Mapping of the World* (item 544), held in the Maritiem Museum,

Rotterdam. The British Library has a slightly smaller earlier state without the town views. According to Shirley (it is impossible to flatten the map to measure it) the enlarged map is 1660 x 2270 mm. On the Maritiem Museum map the imprint of London publisher George Willdey is pasted on top of Valck's imprint, but this does not appear to be the case with the Scottish copy, which suggests this may be an intermediate state between the two previously recorded copies, and may have come directly from the Netherlands, not via London. However it has not been possible to examine the map thoroughly.

This huge wall map, which required eight copper plates, was specially published for the British market by Gerard Valck and Leonard Schenck, who often collaborated. It bears portraits of William and Mary, and thus dates the map to between 1689, when they came to the throne, and 1694, when Mary died. Perhaps the map was hidden during a Jacobite rising, for example when the Jacobites marched to Aberdeen in 1745. Or more prosaically, perhaps it was used to block a draughty chimney!

On mentioning this find to Dennis Gallagher, he recalled an inventory for Spynie Palace in July 1640 which includes a reference to a possible wall map, which he has kindly supplied: '*Item the universall card with a gritt many mapps and talliduces hanging about the chalmer.*' [card, or

cart, or cairt = map; tallieduce = a copper plate engraving or print; chalmer = chamber].

A subsequent inventory of articles sent to Dundee from Spynie in April 1642 includes '*The great universall map bind with small cords*'. A '*universall*' map usually refers to a world map, and a '*great*' map indicates that it is large and is likely to have been a wall map, perhaps rolled up and tied with the '*small cords*'.

With the pre-eminence of Dutch mapmakers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, particularly for wall map production, it is significant that both these references relate to the north-east, given the proximity of the Low Countries and the importance of Dutch trade in the area. This also suggests a potential source for study - it would be interesting to know of other references to maps in early inventories or wills.

**Diana Webster**

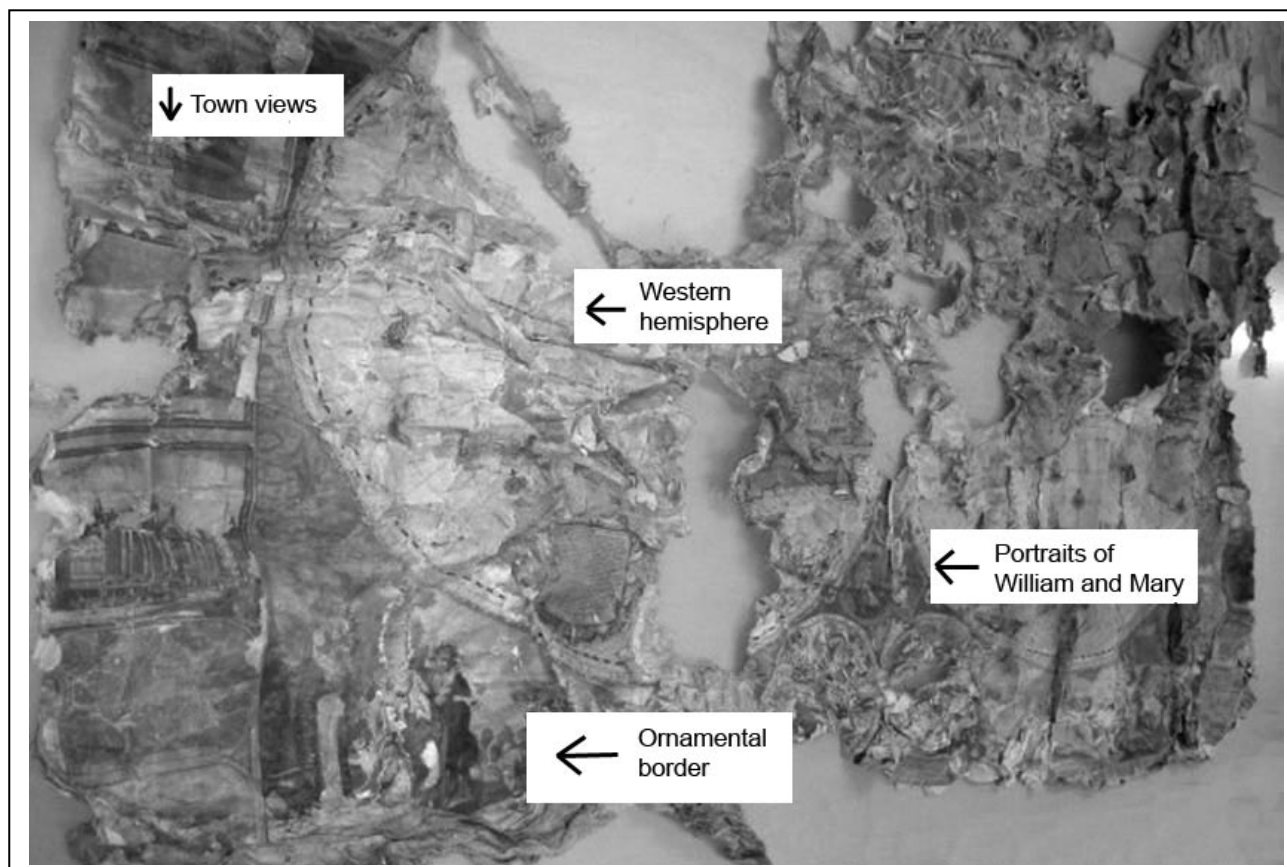
### Sources

Gallagher, D. 'Appendix 1: The furnishing of Spynie Palace in the 17th century' in J Lewis, & D Pryngle: *Spynie Palace and the Bishops of Moray*, Society of Antiquaries monograph 21. Edinburgh, 2002, pp 188 & 190.

Pedley, Mary S. *The commerce of cartography*. Chicago & London, 2005, p.6.

Tyacke, Sarah. 'Map sellers and the London Map trade c.1650-1710', p 66 in *My head is a map*. London, 1973.

Shirley, Rodney. *The mapping of the World: early printed world maps 1472-1700*. Riverside, CT, 2001, pp 544 -5.



*The whole map, showing two hemispheres, strip of town views, and ornamental borders. (Private owner)*