



Issue 2
January 2003

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

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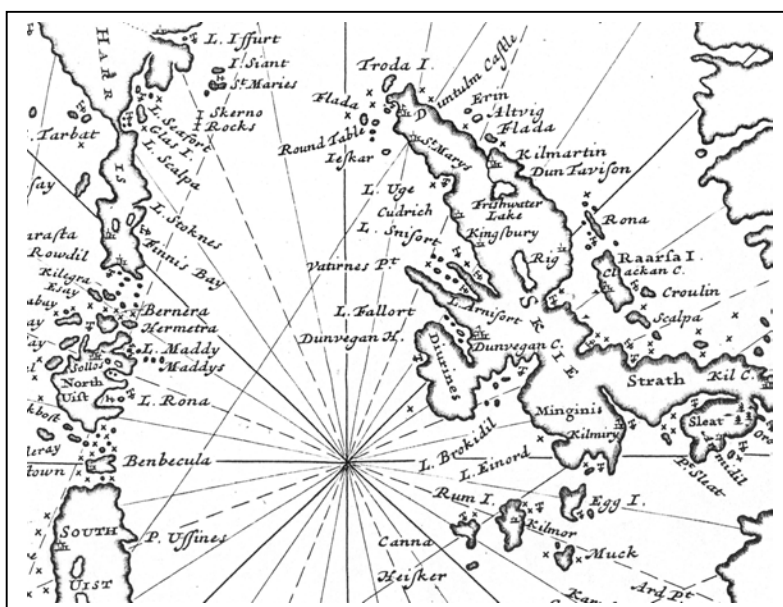
Celebrating 1703

The next seminar to be organised by the Scottish Maps Forum will be on **Saturday 4 October 2003** in Dundee University. The seminar celebrates two important publications which both appeared in 1703.

In that year John Adair, Scotland's principal late 17th century mapmaker, published his volume of sea charts *Description of the sea coast and islands of Scotland*, and Martin Martin issued *A description of the Western Islands of Scotland... With a new map of the whole, ... To which is added a brief description of the Isles of Orkney, and Schetland*.

Both were part of Sir Robert Sibbald's grand scheme, initiated in the 1680s, to gather together maps, illustrations and information about Scotland. This also included John Sleszer's well-known views.

The seminar programme is currently being planned to reflect these themes - more information will be available in the next issue of *Cairt*, but do pencil the date in your diary now.



Martin Martin. *A new map of the Western Isles of Scotland*. 1703.
(extract)

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Steering Committee of the Scottish Maps Forum is now in place, with the following members. The aim has been to involve many of the major Scottish map collections, as well as map users from different disciplines. The National Library of Scotland (NLS) is providing administrative and financial support for the first five years.

Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Historic Scotland
Ian Cunningham, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts, Maps and Music, NLS
Dr Pat Dennison, University of Edinburgh
Ian Fisher, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland
John McLintock, National Archives of Scotland, Dept of Maps and Plans
Prof Charles McKean, University of Dundee
John Moore, Glasgow University Library
Dr Murray Simpson, Director of Special Collections, NLS - chair
Dr Jeffrey Stone, University of Aberdeen
Diana Webster, NLS Map Library
Margaret Wilkes, Royal Scottish Geographical Society

EVENTS REPORTS

TIMOTHY PONT'S FIFE

The second Pont field trip took place on 15 June 2002. 20 people took part. Most travelled on the hired coach, although one or two took their own cars. Three places with Pont associations were visited: Culross, St Andrews, and Scotstarvit Tower.

The first stop was Culross, where the party arrived in pouring rain. After an excellent tea/coffee and refreshments, part of the group went round Culross Palace (National Trust for Scotland), and the others went directly on a tour of the town, with Edwina Proudfoot as its expert guide. Various interesting architectural features of this historic town were pointed out, culminating in a visit to the parish church, which comprises the choir of the former Abbey, and the ruins of the adjoining monastic buildings. By this time the rain had gone off, and thereafter the weather improved dramatically: the day ended in warmth and sunshine.

Perhaps the most impressive thing internally about Culross church is the monument to the industrialist and progenitor of the earls of Elgin and Kincardine, Sir George Bruce (died 1625), which had statues of his eight children lined up like skittles in front of it. Pont's immediate ancestors had had close connections with the Abbey, and the family property of Shiresmill had been alienated from it in 1540.

Most time was spent at St Andrews. The visit began with a short excursion outside the town, to the eastern vantage point from where John Slezer drew the townscape for his *Theatrum Scotiae* of 1693.

Remarkably little had changed regarding the skyline of the centre of the town since Slezer's time. To see the view, the party decanted from the bus, which took so long to reappear that it was thought it had gone back to Edinburgh prematurely.

Safely reintroduced, the bus and group returned to St Andrews, where, after lunch, and an optional sprint up St Rule's Tower, there was a detailed tour, in two groups, one led by Bruce Proudfoot, the other led by Edwina Proudfoot, of features in the town that Pont may well have known: for example, part of the current St Leonard's School, St Mary's Quad, and the building (St John's House) currently housing the University's Department of Medieval History.

The party had been issued with copies of details of John Geddy's c.1580 map of St Andrews, and there was a *coup de theatre* when St Salvator's Tower was reached at ten to four, the exact time shown on the four-hundred year old map.

After another excellent tea/coffee and scones, the bus was rejoined and the trip ended with a visit to Scotstarvit Tower, the seat of Sir John Scot, the primary mover and shaker in getting Pont's maps into print. This was a very intriguing building, with some unanswered questions about its construction and primary function.

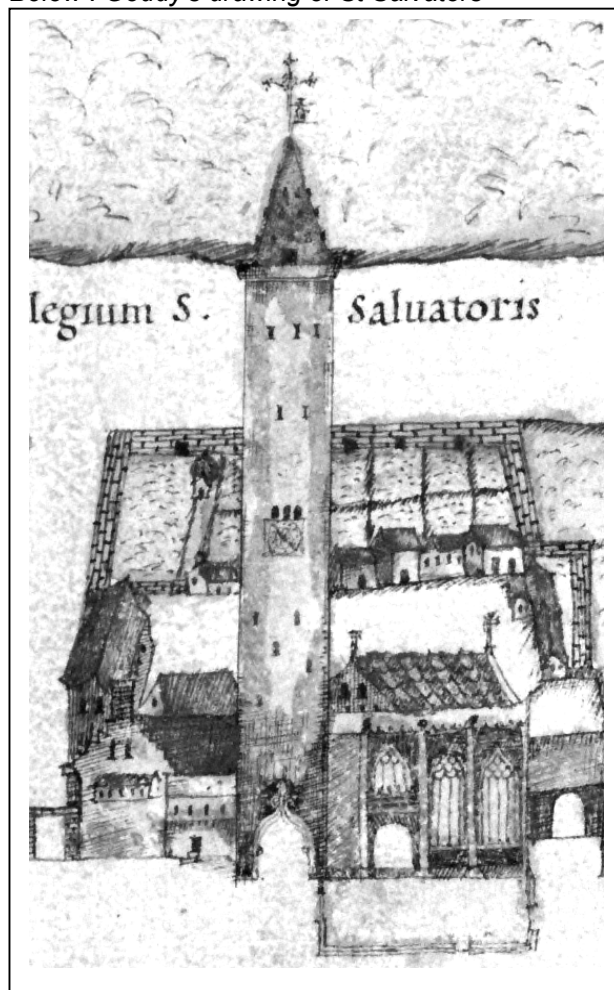
Thanks are due to Diana Webster for organising the trip, to Jenny Parkerson for administrative assistance including the excellent handouts, and to Edwina and Bruce Proudfoot for planning the detailed itineraries and acting as such knowledgeable guides.

Murray Simpson



Left : St Andrews - the participants view St Salvators at ten to four

Below : Geddy's drawing of St Salvators



Right :
In the
grounds
of
Culross
Abbey



20 MARCH 2003

Edwina Proudfoot will be presenting a paper on ***John Geddy's map of St Andrews (1580): a past and future framework*** as part of the Maps and Society series of lectures at the Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London.

SPATIAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SCOTLAND'S PAST

The National Library hosted a seminar *Spatial Frameworks for Scotland's Past* on 11 September 2002. The seminar brought together around thirty staff from institutions which are involved in using or providing (digital) geographical information. The impetus for the day came from the Great Britain Historical GIS Project, which now has funding to extend their historical boundary and gazetteer work into Scotland. The difficulties of inconsistent place name spelling and boundary changes were aired, but the day was particularly useful to find out what other organisations were doing and to avoid re-inventing the wheel.

MORE MARTIN MARTIN

The Scottish Maps Forum is not alone in wishing to commemorate 1703. The recently established Islands Book Trust is organising a conference:

300 YEARS OF ISLANDS HISTORY

to mark the tercentenary of Martin Martin's *Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*.

The conference will be held in Ness, Isle of Lewis, 11-13 September 2003.

Further details from : 01851 810681
www.theislandsbooktrust.com

EVENTS REPORTS

MAPS FOR LOCAL HISTORY SEMINAR

The joint seminar on *Maps for Local History* gathered a full house at Falkirk on 5 October 2002, with 120 participants from the Scottish Maps Forum and the Scottish Local History Forum. Indeed, such was the attraction of the topic that 20 people had to be turned away.

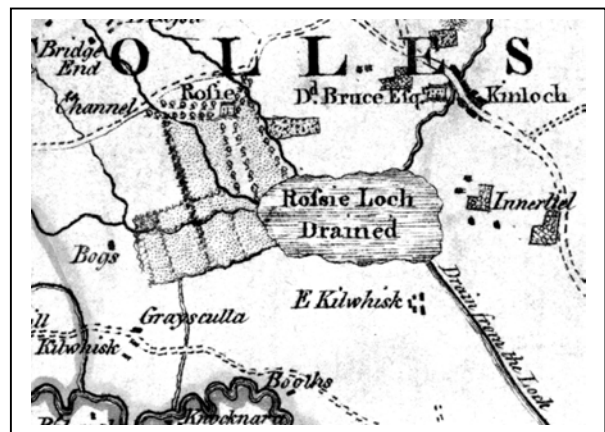
Jeff Stone started the proceedings with an admirable summary of the significance of the Pont and Blaeu maps for local historians. John Moore discussed the role of county maps and mapmakers and the role of the cartobiographer in recording such maps. Tristram Clark illustrated the significance of estate plans, and although concentrating on the excellent collections in the National Archives of Scotland, also drew attention to other sources. David Thompson's brief talk on the making of the Gartmore map, brought local history up-to-date, as he described the efforts of the community in Gartmore to celebrate their village and put it on a most attractive map.

The afternoon was given over to particular themes in maps, with a fascinating talk by Pat Dennison on the significance of town plans for urban history.

A lively display from Doreen Grove of Historic Scotland illustrated the role of military mapping. Simon Taylor overcame admirably a temporary crisis when the projector bulb blew, and he had to extemporise until his illustrations were restored.

He explained the importance of place-names to an understanding of local history, concentrating on the Howe of Fife, in particular the area around Rossie Loch, now drained except in exceptionally wet winters. His paper has just been published in the latest issue of the journal of the Scottish Local History Forum: 'Place-names and the hidden landscape', *Scottish Local History*, 56, Winter 2002, 12-14.

This joint meeting certainly raised the profile of both groups, and led to the largest ever turn out for the Scottish Local History Forum annual conference. These numbers, however, stretched the capacity of the venue to cope with catering, which was the only criticism of a stimulating and interesting day.



Detail from John Ainslie's map of Fife and Kinross, 1775, showing 'Rossie Loch drained'.

TALKS - 2003

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 16 January | Dunfermline Historical Society
Chris Fleet Timothy Pont – Earliest Maps of Late 16th century Fife & Beyond |
| 11 February | The Marie Stuart Society, Edinburgh
Chris Fleet Timothy Pont's maps as a snapshot of late 16th century Scotland |
| 3-6 March | Jeffrey Stone will be speaking in Shetland on Early Maps of Scotland
3 March Fetlar School 7.30
4 March Baltasound Junior High School, Unst, 7.30
5 March North Atlantic Fisheries College, Scalloway, , 7.30
6 March Out Skerries Hall, 7.30 |
| 25 March | Renfrewshire Family History Society, Greenock, 7.30
Diana Webster Planting your roots on the map. |
| 8-10 May | 3-day event , Edinburgh. The British Cartographic Society Map Curators' Group and Charles Close Society (history of Ordnance Survey maps) will be meeting at the National Library of Scotland and Edinburgh University Library.
8 May - Evening - reception and display of Bartholomew Collection in NLS.
9 May - Morning - seminar in NLS "Access, access, access" : papers on CANMAP, Ordnance Survey access initiatives, Geo-X-walk, map websites. - Afternoon - visits.
10 May - Charles Close Society meeting & sale in EUL.
<i>Further information from NLS Map Library (address on front page).</i> |

NEWS FROM THE MAP COLLECTIONS

A PLAN of all the Lands and Baronys of TROUP lying in the Parish of Gamrie and County of BANFF The Property of Alexander Gordon Esquire From an Accurate Survey and Plan by John Home 1767. 1060mm x 1490mm. Linear scale in Scotch Statute Chains.

A fine hand-drawn estate plan covering a part of Buchan, acquired in very poor condition within the Macdonald Collection, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Aberdeen, has recently been conserved and is now open to consultation through Special Libraries and Archives, Directorate of Information Systems & Services: Historic Collections, King's College, University of Aberdeen as MS 2626/18/1.

The plan is bounded by the Lands of Fishrie to the east, the Lands of Melross to the west and Fortrey to the south. The coverage extends south from Troup Head and Gamrie Bay to Cairnandrew, Pitgair, Minnonie and Logie. Individual farms and crofts are delineated and the incumbents named against the location of "houses and yards". Cartographic signs are keyed to represent "the Course of the Ridges & Arable land, Uncultivate Pasture Ground, Braes and steep rising Ground, Tress, Broom & Whins" and "Mosses and marshy Pasture with Borgues & Springs". The areas of Infield, Outfield and Pasture are tabulated for each holding within the "Lands of Troup, Lands of Lightnet, Lands of Pittgerr" and the "Lands of White-hill".

John Home was an Edinburgh surveyor, best known for his later Survey of Assynt compiled in 1774-5 (R.J. Adam, ed., *John Home's Survey of Assynt* Edinburgh: Scottish History Society, 1960. Scottish History Society Publications, vol. 52). Adam describes Home as "meticulous and tenacious...enthusiastic in a practical way...(a man who) had a task to do and did it thoroughly." His survey of Troup provides earlier evidence of attention to detail in measuring a landscape and recording its inhabitants at a time of change.

Conservation was carried out by Fiona J Butterfield, Accredited Conservator-Restorer, in Marischal College Museum Conservation Laboratory and funded from the Principal's Small Grant Fund. The plan was compiled using black ink and graphite line drawing with a monochrome wash and coloured ink lines to differentiate areas of the plan. Conservation treatment revealed something of the provenance of the document, which originally comprised four joined sheets of laid paper, subsequently cut into six pieces. The title cartouche was drawn on a patch of a different paper which under-laps the map, suggesting that the text of the title may not be original, that the statement had been altered in the past. There is evidence of copying from the map, in the form of pin holes along linear features. Where the four sheets had overlapped, hidden line work was revealed.

Jeffrey C Stone

WEB NEWS

- The SCAN (Scottish Archives Network) website offers very useful information about many aspects of Scotland, including places, in their Knowledge Base. You can browse through their gazetteer which lists islands, towns, parishes, etc. Dates of administration units, such as parishes and counties, are especially useful for family and local historians.
www.scan.org.uk

- SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network) has now added a map index to assist with retrieving William Roy's military survey of Scotland 1747-55 - although it is still something of a challenge to find the index! A search for "Roy Map" takes you to thumbnail images of all the Roy maps, select one of these and at the end of the text is the note: "A clickable index to the entire Roy May is available [here](#)". Or if you are a subscriber go to
www.scran.ac.uk/scottish/roymap

- The National Library of Scotland website has expanded to include maps from about 1750-1900. Now high resolution images of most of the major printed maps of Scotland from the 16th-19th centuries are available online, including maps of the whole of Scotland, county maps and town plans. These complement manuscript maps by Timothy Pont, Robert & James Gordon, John Adair, and the Board of Ordnance 18th century military maps and plans. The Library's new colour printer can print copies up to A0 size (£12.00 + VAT); A1 (£6.00); A2 (£3.00).
www.nls.uk/maps

- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has added a zoomable map interface, CANMAP, to their CANMORE website (Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries).
www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmoreintro.html

RECENT ACQUISITION

GAVIN, Hector (engraver)

A new and accurate map of Scotland divided into shires from the most authentick surveys. Scale 18 English statute miles to 1 inch [ca. 1:1,140,480]

[Kilmarnock]: James Meuros, [c.1780?].

1 map ; 43 x 40 cm. on sheet 77 x 57 cm.



The National Library of Scotland recently purchased the above map. Not recorded in *Early Maps of Scotland to 1850* (Royal Scottish Geographical Society, 1973), this undated map of Scotland raises some intriguing questions. Except for the decorative coats of arms, it is almost identical to, and has the same title as, a map engraved by William Palmer for William Guthrie's *A general history of Scotland*, published in 1767. This version of the map was engraved by Hector Gavin (1738-1814), an engraver based in Edinburgh.

The publisher, James Meuros (fl.1742-1820) is probably best known for his involvement in an important legal case relating to copyright. Meuros (Meurose, Mueros, or Melrose), a Kilmarnock bookseller, had a history of plagiarism and was implicated in importing pirated editions of several publications in the 1760s and 1770s. (See the *Scottish Book Trade Index* at www.nls.uk/catalogues/resources/sbti/index.html)

Booksellers who wished to publish a work usually acquired copyright (in the unpublished manuscript) from authors 'for ever'. However the statutes in force at the time limited the copyright period for *published* works to 14 years from the date of publication. Scots publishers were keen to exploit works which had passed the 14 year limit (as well as those still in copyright!), and re-publish them, but London booksellers believed they held copyright in perpetuity because of the agreement with authors, and challenged this.

Meuros was indicted in 1774 with John Wood and Alexander Donaldson, both Edinburgh booksellers, who had opened a shop in London selling these reprints. They won this important legal case which settled the question of perpetual copyright. An unpublished work retained perpetual copyright, but once published, copyright duration was according to the period defined in the appropriate Copyright Act or statutes (today the copyright period for published works is 70 years after the death of the author).

The decorative border with coats of arms of the Scottish nobility, suggests it was a presentation copy. Could it be related to this court case, which was settled by Scottish law lords in the House of Lords? The arms are carefully arranged by precedence, with Dukes and Marquises along the top, flanked by Earls.

Unfortunately this promising line of enquiry seems unlikely as James Cunningham, 14th Earl of Glencairn (1749-91), to whom the map is dedicated, inherited the title in 1775, so the map must be published after that date. Glencairn was an influential figure in society, both intellectual and political, serving as one of the representative Scottish peers in the House of Lords in 1780-4, and he was an important patron for Robert Burns in the 1780s. Did Glencairn support Meuros in the 1774 trial? Was this map published by Meuros in recognition of such support, or was there another significant event for which Meuros wished to thank Glencairn and the Scottish lords?

Continued on page 8

Left : Title cartouche from Hector Gavin's map published by Meuros, c.1780,

Below : Title cartouche from the map engraved by Palmer for Guthrie's *A General History of Scotland*, 1767



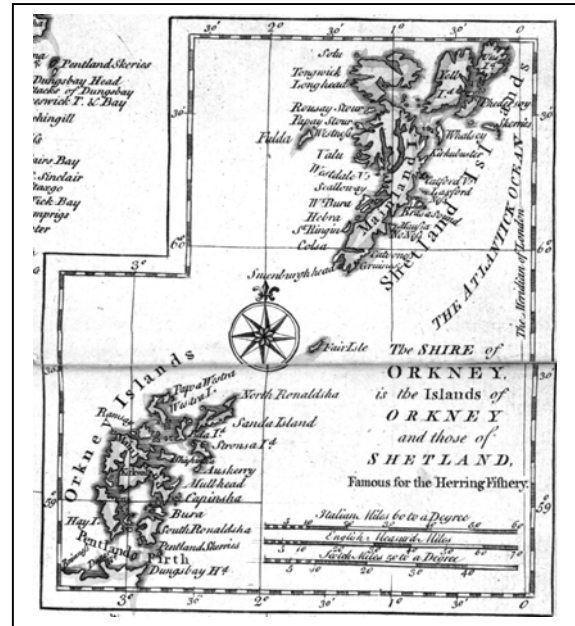
If the map were published before 1781, copying Palmer's 1767 map would be a copyright breach. There is a possibility that Palmer himself might have infringed copyright, as the maps bear a distinct resemblance to James Dorret's 1761 *An accurate map of Scotland drawn from all the particular surveys....* For example the inset map of Orkney and Shetland, the positioning of the compass roses, the scale bars, are similar, although Palmer's and Gavin's maps are slightly reduced and some placenames are excluded. Each might have been copied from Dorret's map independently, but the illustration in the title cartouches reveals their close relationship.

The final enigma is the manuscript signature in the title "Henry Yarburch 3rd (Prince of Wales) Dragoons". A possible candidate is Henry Yarburch (1748-1825) of Heslington, near York, who inherited the family seat in 1789. This would also confirm the map as a product of the late 1770s or 1780s, as Yarburch would most probably have resigned his commission on the death of his father.

What is the link between Meuros, Glencairn and Yarburch? Further research is needed.

Diana Webster

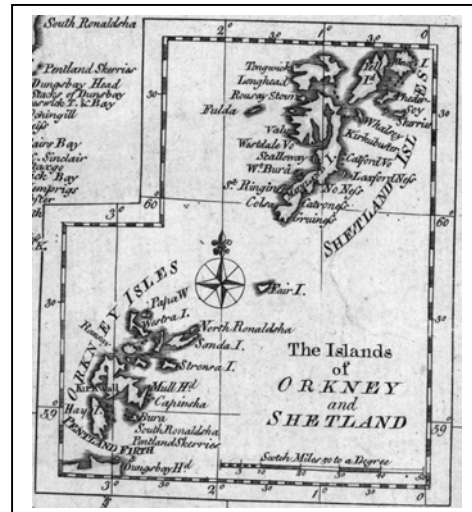
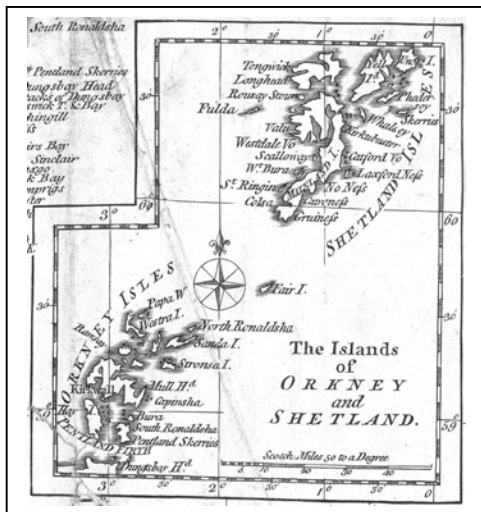
Meuros' and Dorret's maps are displayed on the NLS website at www.nls.uk/maps



Above : Dorret, 1761 - inset

Below left : Palmer, 1767 – inset

Below right : Gavin/Meuros, c.1780 - inset



RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON SCOTTISH MAPS

Roy Bridges. 'Robert Gordon of Straloch (1580-1661) and maps of Newmachar.' Chapter VI, pp 18-24, in: *People and places in Newmachar past and present*. Newmachar: Parish of New Machar Community Council, 2001. ISBN 0-9540701-0-0

Kenneth Kolson. 'With its "doors set wide to the city". ' Chapter 10, pp.165-176 in: *Big plans: the allure and folly of urban design*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8018-6679-0

An account of the development of St Andrews, drawing heavily on the John Geddy plan c.1580.

Alan R MacDonald. 'Mapmaker or minister? Timothy Pont's ecclesiastical context.' *Northern Scotland*, 22 (2002), 45-61.

Charles W.J. Withers. 'The social nature of map making in the Scottish Enlightenment, c.1682-1832.' *Imago Mundi*, 54 (2002), 46-66.