



CAIRT

Issue 4
January 2004

Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum

In this issue:

- ◆ Seminar Report 2003
- ◆ The Blaeu Atlas of Scotland: the Texts
- ◆ The Cloppenburg Crack Conundrum
- ◆ Web news, recent publications, future talks

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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ISSN 1477-4186

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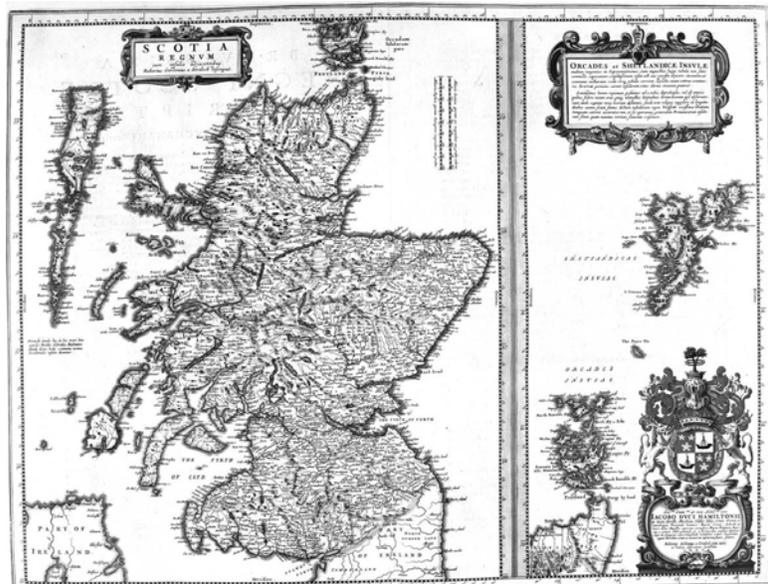
SCOTLAND'S FIRST ATLAS - 350 YEARS

In 1654 the Dutch mapmaking firm Blaeu published volume 5 of their 6-volume *Atlas Novus*, containing 47 maps of parts of Scotland (plus six of Ireland). In effect this was Scotland's first atlas.

The atlas represents over sixty years of endeavour. Most of the maps in the atlas are based on Timothy Pont's manuscripts compiled in the 1580s-90s, augmented by additional plates by Robert and James Gordon in the 1630s-40s. Engraving the atlas had taken over 25 years: surviving correspondence in the National Library of Scotland between Willem and Joan Blaeu and Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit, indicates that the first plate was being engraved in 1628.

The National Library is planning several events throughout the year to celebrate the publication of the atlas. The first is the launch of the Blaeu atlas website on 21 January 2004 (see p.3 of this newsletter).

In August the International Geographical Congress comes to Glasgow, and the *Mapping the Realm* travelling exhibition and other map sources will be on display. The atlas will be the theme of the next Scottish Maps Forum seminar to be held in late September 2004.



Robert Gordon. *Scotia regnum cum insulis adjacentibus*. [Amsterdam : Blaeu, 1654]

To the mapping convention, 'twas Whatley who spoke...

SEMINAR REPORT 2003

A brisk, sunny day in early October saw over 90 members of the Scottish Map Forum convene in the Tower Building of the University of Dundee to see *Scotland illustrated* through the mapping and picturing which took place in the nation between 1680 and 1720. A valuable legacy of maps, illustrations and texts has been left to us by a variety of gentlemen who followed the upsurge of interest in the country at that time and endeavoured to describe it, each according to his own best methods, cartographically, pictorially and textually. Among the main protagonists were John Adair, John Slezer (pronounced Sletzer rather than Sleezer according to Prof. McKean), Sir Robert Sibbald, and Martin Martin, all of whom figured largely in the papers delivered to the anticipative audience.

An introduction to Scotland at the time of William and Mary by Prof. Chris Whatley set a somewhat gloomy historical scene for our heroes' exploits, which were then ably described in remarkable depth given the length of time available, by John Moore (John Adair), Prof. Charles McKean (John Slezer) and Dr. Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhart (Adair and Martin Martin).

Each in turn brought a bit of history to life, showing us the political situations and stimuli at work in the Gaeltachd, Scotland and the wider British Isles which prompted the need for such description, and explained why that description was not always as accurate or truthful as may have been supposed.

David Bryden's dissertation on the state of engraving in Scotland during this period was enlightening, although there was the distraction of the mental image of the elephant on its final perambulation to the north of Dundee...! The day ended with a look at the state of geography in Scotland at the time of these industrious gentlemen, delivered by Prof. Charles Withers, followed by further discussions.

The response to the announcement of the seminar was gratifying, with no spare seats, or indeed lunches, to be had. The members of the Forum and others who attended came from a variety of backgrounds with differing interests, including geography, cartography, architecture, garden history and Scottish history; it is safe to say that there was something for everyone during the day.

Paula Williams



Title page from Blaeu's *Atlas Novus*, 1654

TALKS - 2004

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 26 | Pitlochry - Moulin and Pitlochry History Circle.
Christopher Fleet: <i>Timothy Pont - map maker.</i> |
| January 30 | Grantown - Grantown Museum and Heritage Centre
Jeff Stone: <i>Early maps of Scotland</i> |
| February 12 | Kilmarnock - East Ayrshire Family History Society.
Diana Webster: <i>Planting your roots on the map.</i> |
| March 10 | Stirling - Central Scotland Family History Society.
Diana Webster: <i>Planting your roots on the map.</i> |
| March 18 | London - 'Maps and Society' lectures at the Warburg Institute
Christopher Fleet: <i>Analysing image colour and content to infer map authorship: a case study of the Blaeu atlas of Scotland and its sources.</i> |

We welcome information on forthcoming talks and events relating to maps - please contact us at the address on the front cover.

THE BLAEU ATLAS OF SCOTLAND: THE TEXTS

350 years after the first atlas of Scotland was published, its entire Latin texts are available in English for the first time. Ian Cunningham, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts, Maps and Music in NLS, has spent part of his retirement translating the texts in the Scottish volume of Blaeu's atlas. He has also been able to identify the sources from which the texts derive, and this paper summarises his conclusions.

The texts and more information about the background to the production of the atlas will be on the National Library's new website devoted to the Blaeu atlas, to be launched on 21 January 2004.

Blaeu's Scottish atlas, volume V of the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (Atlas Novus)* of 1654 and volume VI of the *Atlas Maior* of 1662, contains a considerable amount of introductory material and also descriptions of each area covered by the individual maps. This is normal at a time when an atlas was also a chorographical as well as a cartographical publication.

For Blaeu's volume covering England the descriptions were taken from William Camden's *Britannia* (1586, revised edition 1607), and for Scotland Camden's texts formed the basis also. But Camden, as he admitted himself, had little knowledge of the country, and his work here is brief, superficial and derivative. New descriptions were required.

In his first extant letter to Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit, of 10 March 1642, Joan Blaeu detailed the required subjects: distances, commodities, crops, metals, fauna, etc., the nobility and genealogies. Scot, here as elsewhere, earning his description as progenitor of the Atlas, acquired descriptions from a variety of sources.

Extracts were taken from George Buchanan's *History* book 1, especially on the islands. An appeal was sent to all ministers to furnish descriptions of their parishes (a precursor of the Statistical Account); this however met with little success, as only William Forbes and John McClellan, ministers of Innerwick and Kirkcudbright respectively, are credited with texts.

Scot himself is not named as author of any description, but his great role is clear from other evidence. Blaeu's prefaces record that he corrected much in Camden's work and that he passed whole days in Amsterdam 'writing, dictating what made for illustrating the maps of his country, with such felicity of memory that, though lacking all papers and books, he dictated regional shapes, situations, boundaries, old and more recent lords, produce of the soil, cities, rivers and similar matters in great profusion. The many additions to Camden printed in square brackets can therefore be attributed to Scot without hesitation.

Likewise the insertion of topographical poems by Arthur Johnston: it was Scot who inspired and financed the *Delitiae Poetarum Scotorum* (1637), edited by Johnston, and who collected Johnston's



William Camden (1551-1623)

own poems (1642). It is also probable that he was the author of a series of anonymous descriptions, linked by internal cross-references, which include some of Johnson's poems and also have references to the state registers for genealogical matters. As Director of Chancery he was intimately familiar with these, and possessed a collection of notes from them.

An unnamed Orcadian, whom Blaeu had appointed 'to correct the errors of my printers, on request described the Orkneys and Shetlands'; these are probably the pair of descriptions headed 'Another...', supplementary to those by George Buchanan, Camden, and (probably) Scot.

But the two most important external writers were Robert Gordon of Straloch and David Buchanan. Little is known of the latter. Gordon in his dedicatory letter to Scotstarvit, 24 Jan. 1648 (published in the Atlas) refers to him as his 'truest friend' who is contemplating studies of a (presumably) chorographic nature.

A manuscript note of Gordon, Dec. 1649, shows that his essay on the history of the Scots was originally written at Buchanan's request. And in a letter to Gordon, 31 March 1650, he says that he has sent Scotstarvit descriptions of some of the southern regions of Scotland and hopes to write more. Buchanan's only work hitherto known to survive is a description of Midlothian and Edinburgh, of which the manuscript is in the National Library; it was published from that in the 19th century by the Bannatyne Club. A feature of it, severely criticised by Robert Gordon's son

James, are Hebrew etymologies of place-names. Now such etymologies appear in the Blaeu texts on Lothian (which concentrates on East Lothian and refers to a separate treatment of Edinburgh and Leith) and Lennox; and Stirling, though without etymologies, is linked by cross-reference to Lennox. There can be little doubt that these are what Buchanan sent to Scotstarvit, and that his Edinburgh was intended also for the Atlas, but for reasons unknown did not reach it.



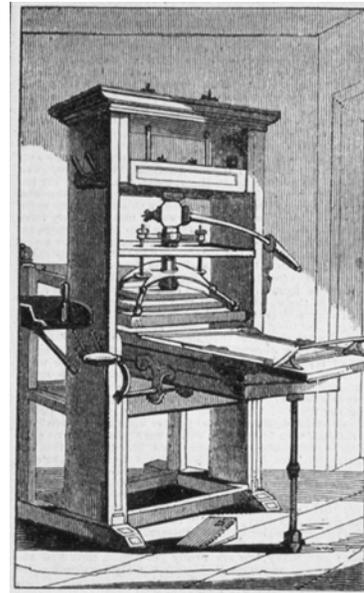
Robert Gordon of Straloch (1580-1661)

Robert Gordon was famously requested in October 1641 by Charles I to correct and complete Pont's maps. But as well as this, he was engaged to provide descriptions of as many areas as possible; these were sent to Blaeu (via Scot) in summer 1649. This comprised much introductory material, on the antiquity of the Scots, their language, the Ptolemaic map of Scotland, the location of Thule, and the Scottish constitution (all attributed to Gordon in the Atlas), and descriptions of Renfrew, Fife and Moray (likewise attributed).

Cross-references and the title of the accompanying map (as well as his manuscript, see below) show that Ross, Sutherland and Caithness, though anonymous, are by him. Moreover it was probably he who supplied the description of Sutherland by his kinsman Sir Robert Gordon, tutor of the Earl of Sutherland, of which the manuscript appears among his. These all appeared in the 1654 edition. Later, on 7 Mar. 1656, Gordon supplied his description of Aberdeen and Banff, which was the only new text included in the 1662 edition.

Gordon did not originally write all this for the Atlas. We have already seen that the introductory material had been composed at the instance of David Buchanan. But the compilation by Sir Robert Sibbald, 'Topographical Notices of Scotland', contains the manuscripts not only of these essays but of all the published descriptions except Renfrew and part of Fife. (It is these manuscripts which were copied for Walter Macfarlane and later published in his *Geographical Collections*.)

Comparison with the printed text of Blaeu confirms Gordon's own statement, that 'while I was writing them out, they were much enlarged, changed, interpolated'; but comparison shows that the majority of the changes are stylistic rather than substantial. The situation with regard to Aberdeen and Banff is more complicated: as well as the corrected draft manuscript, corresponding to those of the other works, there are what appear to be two earlier drafts, one much shorter. Two drafts of a note about his difficulties in completing it suggest that this was done separately from and later than the other works, thus confirming what one might gather from the chronology above.



Blaeu's Printing Press

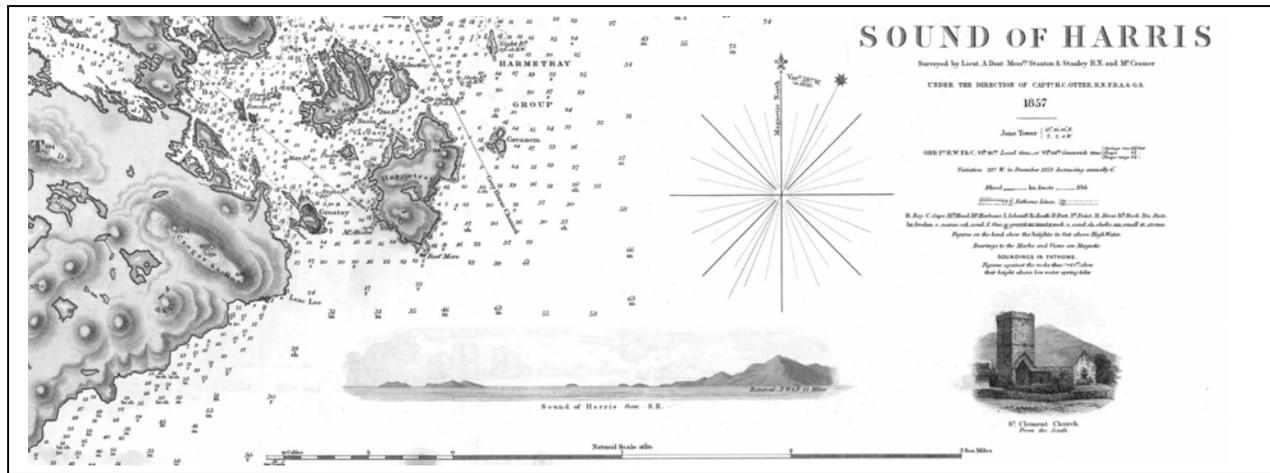
These then are, in rough outline, the materials which Joan Blaeu had for his chorography: what did he do with them?

Having arranged them in the order of the maps, he just had them printed one after the other. Mostly Camden, with Scot's additions, came first, then the other(s). There is no attempt to remove repetitions or resolve contradictions; that is there is no unifying editor in charge. Scot might have done this, but there is no strong evidence that he was in Amsterdam later than 1645. Proofs of the maps are known to have been sent to Scotland, but I doubt if that happened with the texts (some misprints could hardly have been overlooked by any Scot).

The only change to the 1662 edition was the addition of the Aberdeen and Banff text; as far as is known (this awaits confirmation) the various translations were also unrevised. The result is that the chorography is much less complete and coherent than it might have been, and this may be a factor in its relative neglect.

Ian Cunningham

In September 2003 an additional 500 maps were added to the NLS website. These include Scotland's first road atlas by George Taylor and Andrew Skinner in 1776, the earliest Admiralty charts of Scottish coasts from 1795-1904, and two editions of Ordnance Survey maps at the one-inch to the mile scale covering Scotland in the 1890s and 1920s. The new Ordnance Survey mapping also includes indexes to the larger scale county-series maps (1843-1943), and detailed maps showing parish and county boundaries before and after the 1894 local government changes. Scotland's landmark national atlas by J G Bartholomew, the *Survey Atlas of Scotland* (1912) is included in its entirety, along with the earliest geological, naturalist, and tourist maps in the 19th century.



Admiralty Chart 2642 - Sound of Harris. London : Hydrographic Office, published 1859 (detail)

Translations of the Blaeu atlas texts relating to Scotland will be added to a special website devoted to the Blaeu atlas, launched on 21 January 2004. These will join the maps which are already on the site, and are the first time the texts have been translated into English. Use of the texts is enhanced by keyword search facilities for the entire content and a comprehensive index of placenames has been compiled, both linking to individual atlas pages. The entire atlas can be searched using clickable maps of Scotland, as well as browsed page by page, with links between maps and texts, and high-resolution colour images can be zoomed of every opening. The texts are supplemented by commentaries on the publication background to the atlas, and the chorographical and geographical context of the atlas texts, as well as biographies of the leading figures associated with the work. (see p 3).

SCRAN are continuing to improve map access by extending their zooming facility to many maps already on their website. Recently a zooming facility has been added to William Roy's military survey of Scotland (1747-1755) which has improved legibility of placenames on these maps; this facility is available for subscribers only.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON SCOTTISH MAPS

Christopher Fleet. 'New Scottish town plans website launched', *History Scotland*, 3(4), July/August 2003, 5-6.

Christopher Fleet, 'Constructing a history of Scotland on the Web', *Geoinformatics*, 8(6) December 2003, 24-27.

William Laing. 'An 18th Century Dream', *Largs and District Historical Society, Winter Newsletter*,

December 2003, 6-8. [About John Watt's plans for canals in SW Scotland in the mid 18th century and his use of Dorret's large map of Scotland].

Steel, Alan. *Timothy Pont's Renfrewshire*. Paisley: University of Paisley Library, 2003. 72pp. ISBN 1903978149

Jeffrey C Stone. 'The depiction of routeways and bridges by Timothy Pont', *Northern Scotland*, 23 (2003), 77-84.

THE CLOPPENBURG CRACK CONUNDRUM

Sebastian Amyes explores the significance of a flaw in Johannes Cloppenburg's 1630 map of Scotland.



Figure 1 –Cloppenburg's map of Scotland from the 1632 Latin edition (private collection)

The publication of two major atlases at the end of the sixteenth century, respectively by Ortelius and Mercator, gave those other than scholars their first accurate and detailed view of the world in which they lived. Each European country was usually depicted on a separate page and Scotland was no exception. The Ortelius atlas has been cited as the most expensive book of the 16th century and both atlases were beyond the means of all but the very rich. The cost of the atlases encouraged smaller and miniature copies, some legal and some pirated, which could be afforded by a far wider section of the population.

The Atlas Minor

The Mercator atlas was published after Gerhard Mercator's death, first by Hondius and then by Jansson, and it spawned three reduced copies, which became known as the *Atlas Minor*.

The first was in 1607 with maps mainly engraved by Jodocus Hondius, reprinted many times until 1639. The Scotland map entitled *Scotia* measured 14.2 x 18.7 cm. The second copy appeared in 1628, with maps engraved by Pieter van den Keere and Abraham Goos, and editions of this atlas were printed until the middle of the 17th century. The Scotland map entitled *Schotia* measured 13.8 x 19.4 cm.

The third and final copy was first published in 1630. These plates were mainly engraved by Pieter van den Keere, in a slightly larger format. This copy, known as *Gerardi Mercatoris Atlas*, was published by Johannes Cloppenburg (or Jan Evertsz. Cloppenburg) in Amsterdam and it, and its subsequent states, are considered to be rarer than the first two reduced copies.

The editions of the Cloppenburg map

The increased size of the Cloppenburg editions and the indisputable skills of the engraver, van den Keere, make these the most detailed reduced maps of the Mercator Atlas.

The map of Scotland as a whole, entitled *Scotia Regnum*, is no exception. It measured 18.3 x 25.4 cm, almost twice the area of the maps in the other two reduced editions. *Scotia Regnum* appeared in the 1630 French edition, the 1632 Latin edition and the 1636 French edition.

This series then appears to have been suppressed and it is not clear whether it had been an authorised copy. It probably was, because it reappeared in a second state in 1673 in an atlas produced by Jansson van Waesberg, who was Jansson's son-in-law and heir. This state was reprinted in 1676.

Again the map disappeared only to re-emerge in a third state in the *Atlas Portatif* published by Henri du Sauzet in Amsterdam in 1734, just over 100 years after the plate was first engraved. A second du Sauzet edition was published in 1738 but the old Cloppenburg map was no longer used, presumably because it had become so damaged in previous printings. The 1738 edition contained a completely different engraved map of Scotland entitled *Le Royaume d'Escosse divisée en ses parties Meridionale et Septentrionale*. Although it was almost exactly the same size as the previous map, it is easily distinguishable from the original; Scotland was now portrayed in the outline adopted after the Robert Gordon map of 1654 and comes from a copper plate originally used by Sanson.

Identification of the editions by the plate cracks

The first state (1630 – 36) is distinguishable by the moiré engraving used to identify the sea. The 1632 Latin edition is, of course, easy to distinguish from the two French editions of the first state by the Latin text on verso.

The two French editions (1630 and 1636) are less easy to distinguish, unless the atlas title page is

available, as many surviving copies are single sheets. However the copper plate for the map of Scotland appears to have become damaged during the first printing. One possibility was to date the editions from the extent of a crack which appears in the left margin and increases in length during each printing, from the excessive pressures used in the intaglio printing process.

In the National Library of Scotland's French edition (a single sheet) this crack is seen as a short, narrow line, approximately 1.2 cm, extending into the image (see figure 3). By the 1632 Latin edition, this line has increased to 1.4 cm and is much thicker, which seemed to suggest that NLS's copy was earlier and thus was from the 1630 edition.

There is a 1636 French Cloppenburg volume in the Library of Congress with a copy of the Scotland map. Surprisingly there is no crack on the plate in this map. Koeman¹ indicates that the 1636 edition might not be a true reprinting as it is the same as the 1630 edition except for altered dates on the title page and dedication. The map of Scotland may now support this, for the absence of the crack suggests that the map in the 1636 edition was printed *before* the map in the 1630 edition. How could this arise?

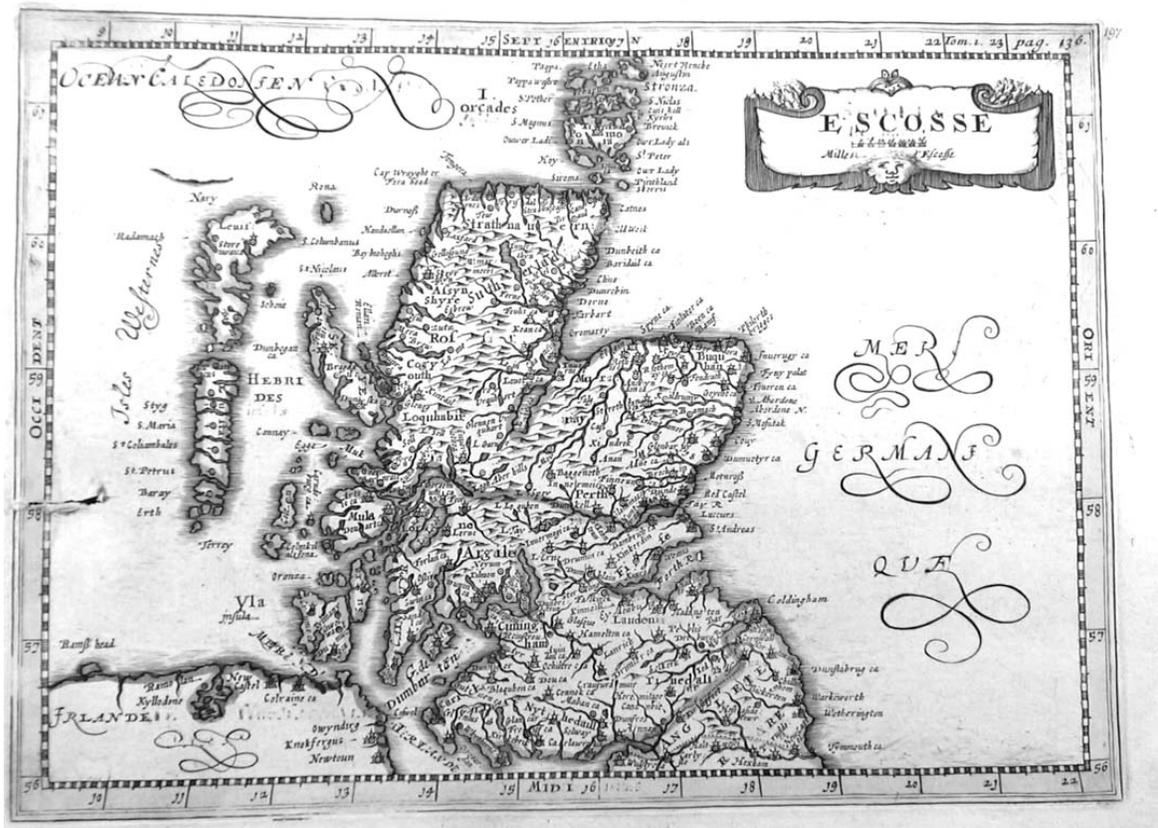


Figure 2. Henri du Sauzet's 1734 map of Scotland (Library of Congress)

Perhaps all the French copies were printed at the same time. Some were issued in the 1630 edition and others kept in store for later use; this was not unusual in 17th century map-production. Thus the earliest printings of the map, *before the crack had developed*, could be at the bottom of the pile, and were therefore issued later.

The second state (1673 and 1676) is distinguishable as the sea is now blank, though some residual moiré can be seen on the top left corner. With use, the soft copper plate would have worn and the engraver re-cut the map information, but did not re-engage the sea decoration: fashion had changed, and it would have been an unnecessary expense. The crack is present in the 1673 map and has now extended to 2.0 cm and is thicker than the crack in the 1632 map, which proves useful for its identification. A second, fragmented crack is now appearing in the plate above the Hebrides. Coupled with the first crack, this suggests that the copper plate of the Scotland map was basically weak.

The margin crack in the 1676 edition is wider although not noticeably longer.

The crack above the Hebrides is also thicker and continuous. As there is no text on the verso of either edition, so the extent of these cracks is probably the only method to distinguish them.

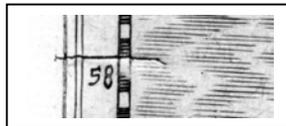
The third state (1734) is easily identified as the title has been altered to *Escosse*, but this was done rather poorly and can easily be seen to be the result of a re-engraving (Fig. 2). Similarly the name of the ocean has changed from *Deucealedonius Oceanus* to *Ocean Caledonien*, the word *Ocean* has been squeezed into the available space. *Isles Westernes* has been added to the left of the Hebrides and the *Mare Germanicum* has become *Mer Germanique*. The chronology of the map is confirmed by the crack on the left margin, which has become thicker and grown in length to 2.3cm, although some attempt seems to have been made to repair it. The second crack above the Hebrides is now much thicker. The main features to distinguish these maps are summarised in the following table.

Cracking the conundrum continues....

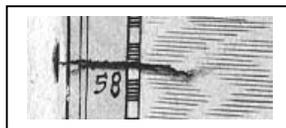
State	Year	Title	Sea Engraving	Margin Crack	Hebrides crack	Verso Text
1 st	1630	<i>Scotia Regnum</i>	Moiré	1.2 cm	None	French
	1632	<i>Scotia Regnum</i>	Moiré	1.4 cm	None	Latin
	1636	<i>Scotia Regnum</i>	Moiré	None	None	French
2 nd	1673	<i>Scotia Regnum</i>	None	2.0 cm	Hairline/broken	None
	1676	<i>Scotia Regnum</i>	None	2.1cm*	Thin/continuous	None
3 rd	1734	<i>Escosse</i>	None	2.3 cm	Thick/continuous	None



1636
Cloppenburg French text
(Koeman¹ Me 202)
Library of Congress



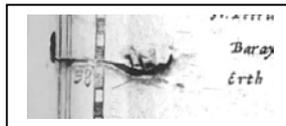
1630 or 1636
Cloppenburg French text
(Koeman Me 198)
National Library of Scotland



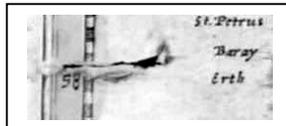
1632
Cloppenburg Latin text
(Koeman Me 200)
Private collection



1673
van Waesberg
(Koeman Me 205)
Private collection



1676
van Waesberg
(Koeman Me 206)
Bibliotheek Rotterdam



1734
du Sauzet
(Koeman Me 207)
Library of Congress

Figure 3 – Examples of the left margin plate crack in different editions of the Cloppenburg map of the Scotland

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 Geoff Armitage of the British Library, Annemieke Hoogeveen and Henny Hartog of the Bibliotheek Rotterdam, Netherlands and, in particular, Edward Redmond of the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in Washington DC, USA, whose help has been invaluable in both his descriptions and provision of images of some of the maps described here.

Bibliography

¹. *Atlantes Neerlandici*; compiled and edited by C. Koeman. Vol. II. Blussé-Mercator. Amsterdam: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, 1969. Pp. 529-548. The numbers allocated by Koeman are used to identify particular atlases or states of maps. *Koeman's Atlantes Neerlandici*. New ed., vol. IIIB; compiled by Peter van der Krogt. HES & De Graaf, 2003. Pp. 573-580.

The author

Sebastian Amyes is Professor of Medical Microbiology at Edinburgh University and has a keen interest in early maps of Scotland.