



CAIRT

Issue 6
January 2005

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 & 17th century Scots for map.

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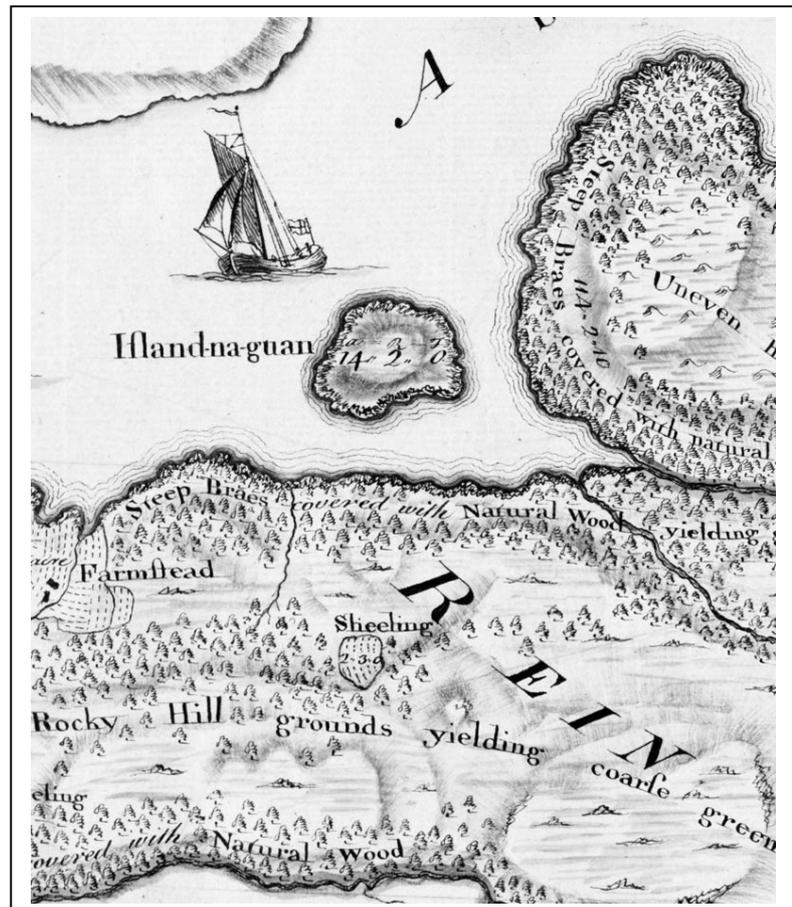


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JOHN HOME'S SURVEY OF ASSYNT, 1774

The latest addition to the National Library of Scotland's website (www.nls.uk/maps), launched in December 2004, is John Home's *Survey of Assynt*. This was the earliest detailed comprehensive mapping of this extensive parish. For the Sutherland Estate owners, it was the most expensive survey of the 18th century, resulting in a beautifully executed volume of 16 plans of farms, with detailed accompanying descriptions. These descriptions contain a wide variety of information, such as agricultural practices and potential, the main resources of the region, accurate measurements of land under crops or used for the pasturing of livestock, and attractive and informative vignettes of the inhabitants, their clothes, houses, and lives.

More on page 3



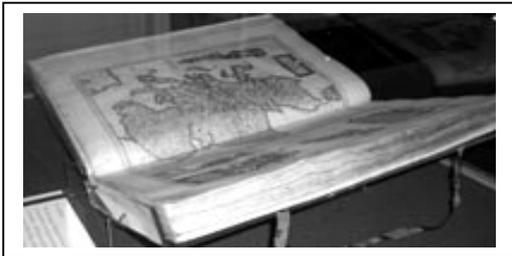
John Home's Survey of Assynt, Plan No.7 – The Farms of Unapool and Reintraid [Rientraid] (detail).

EVENTS

Exhibition: *Scotland's First Atlas : the Nation Portrayed by Joan Blaeu*

Concluding a year of events commemorating the 350th anniversary of Blaeu's *Atlas Novus* (vol. V), this small exhibition celebrates the Scottish volume of Blaeu's world atlas, along with the original manuscript maps (including a map of Stirling and central Scotland by Timothy Pont) and descriptions behind its publication.

Hand-drawn maps and draft descriptions can be compared with their final printed form, and the impact of the Atlas on the shape of Scotland is shown. A slide-show illustrates the turbulent and interesting history behind the Atlas, and its varied and detailed contents.



Venue: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge.

Dates: 13 Nov. 2004 - 31 Jan. 2005.

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 1000-1700;
Sunday 1400-1700

SEMINAR REPORT

The seminar, *Look at Scotland*, was held in the National Library of Scotland Causewayside Building on 22 September, and attracted around 85 participants. Concentrating on the publication of the Scottish volume of Blaeu's *Atlas Novus* in 1654, the seminar had an international flavour with two Dutch speakers, Dr Peter van der Krogt and Dr Esther Mijers, together with Dr Alistair Mann, placing the atlas production in its European context.

The content of the atlas was covered by Ian Cunningham, speaking about the text translation and the sources he has identified, and Dr Jeffrey Stone discussed the maps and symbols, particularly bridges. Professor Charles Withers

concluded the seminar with an assessment of the legacy of the atlas.

Many thanks to the participants who submitted questionnaires about the day, which revealed a high level of interest in the papers. The only major criticism related to difficulties with the sound system.

The seminar was organised by the National Library of Scotland for the Scottish Maps Forum, in collaboration with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and RSGS have agreed to publish the papers in the *Scottish Geographical Journal* in Autumn 2005. Margaret Wilkes and Chris Fleet are guest editors for this special issue.

FUTURE SEMINAR & LECTURES

The next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar is planned to take place in April 2006, with a theme relating to 18th century military mapping. As universities have moved to semesters, September and October have become less available for seminar dates, and it is hoped the calendar will be less congested in April.

However, while you are waiting for the seminar, the National Library of Scotland has agreed to include one or two talks a year with a map-related theme in its evening lecture programme.

The first of these will be held on **Tuesday 26 April at 7pm in NLS at George IV Bridge, when Dr Patricia Dennison will talk about the fascinating discoveries she made when researching the history of the Parliament site at Holyrood, using maps and other evidence.**

Further details and booking information will be circulated to members on the Scottish Maps Forum mailing list nearer the time, but do note the date in your diary.

See also the list of map-related talks on page 4.

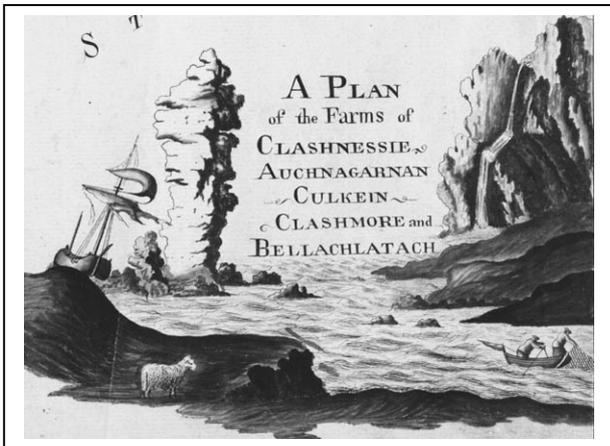
JOHN HOME'S SURVEY OF ASSYNT, 1774

Continued from page 1

Assynt - history and context

By 1774, the parish of Assynt had only recently been incorporated into the expanding possessions of the Earldom of Sutherland. Historically it was a Clan Macleod homeland, and Macleods were still the largest single name-group in the 1770s, but from 1695 it had been taken over by Mackenzie lairds. It was sequestered in 1739, and purchased at a public sale by Lady Strathnaver in 1757.

After Lady Strathnaver died in 1766, closely followed by her grandson (Earl William, the nominal owner) in 1767, the estate passed to 1-year old Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland. During her minority the Sutherland Tutors dealt with business affairs, and Captain James Sutherland acted as general commissioner, in particular organising new surveys of the estates. In 1771 the Edinburgh surveyor James Kirk was appointed to survey the East coast parishes, and although he made a start in Assynt in 1773, he fell ill and died later that year.



Cartouche from Plan no.1 from John Home's Survey of Assynt

A magnificent and austere beautiful landscape, then as now, Assynt was a relatively remote and inhospitable country, with thin, poor soils, and few economic resources. Its only real exports were black cattle (delivered to drovers), herring and salmon. Population increase throughout the 18th century had placed steadily greater pressures on the land; the estimated population of the parish in 1774 was 1718 people, which had risen to 2395 people by 1801. John Home's Survey confirms a general pattern of densely populated coastal farms, growing some crops for subsistence but pushing against the limits of their resources, with more sparsely populated inland farms devoted to raising cattle.

The early 1770s were also very difficult years, with recurring famines, and Thomas Pennant, travelling through Assynt in 1772, reported starvation conditions. Emigration was a real and constant factor, and although it was checked for a decade by the American War of Independence from the mid-1770s, it sharply increased thereafter. Yet at this time the Sutherland Tutors opposed emigration, and were sharply critical of the tacksmen who collected their rents, yet often promoted emigration. John Home's Survey of Assynt allowed a crucial check to the power of these tacksmen, reorganising the parish into a larger number of jointly owned farms. The 1775 rents increased only slightly, but, being based on a fairer, more precisely determined distribution of land and its potential, were allocated differently and, reportedly, were well-received by the tenants.

John Home (1733/4-1809) and his survey

At the time of his Survey of Assynt, John Home was aged about forty and, like many surveyors, he had led a fairly itinerant life working for many different landowners. In the 1760s he was resident in Banff, Aberdeen and Montrose, moving to Edinburgh in 1772-84, back north to Stonehaven until 1787, and Pluscarden until 1792, before finally returning to Edinburgh. In many ways, he exemplified the broader role his profession had in the reorganisation of the landscape at this time, introducing new agricultural methods, reclaiming marsh and moorland, dividing common or common land amongst private owners, straightening roads, building bridges, planning new villages and promoting new rural manufacturing.

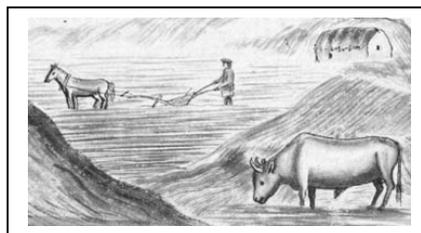
He surveyed Assynt between June-September 1774, assisted by "four lads from Dunrobin", and two apprentices, William Crawford and John Anderson, who later became surveyors and mapmakers themselves. He worked on foot, recruiting local men to lead the measuring chain and point out the marches or boundaries between farms. We should not be surprised that his accounts reveal the necessity for spirits "*for the use of self and assistants who led the chain to enable them to endure the fatigue of wading through lochs and mosses from morning early till late at night*". Amongst suspicious people, who spoke a different language, the spirits were sometimes also necessary to bribe "*tenants for showing their marches as they could not be prevailed with to do so without it*".

Home spent the winter of 1774 back in Edinburgh drawing up his plans, finally presenting them to the Sutherland Tutors in March 1775, along with his bill for £324.9.2. The high cost shocked the Tutors, which after all amounted to over half the total annual rental from the whole of Assynt. Initially, they only paid part of the bill, and curtailed all other surveying activities, but within a year they had paid most of the sum to Home's satisfaction.

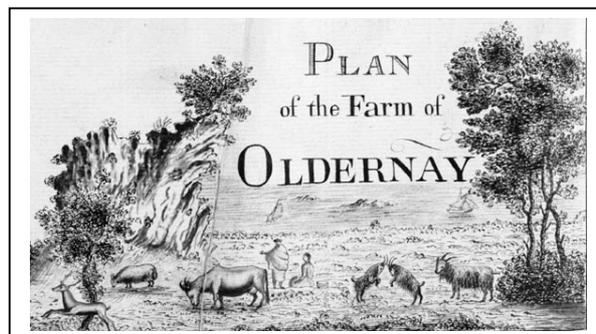


Plan no. 16 – Plan of the Farm of Ledbeg (detail)

All the 16 plans were drafted at a scale of 20 Scots chains (of 24 ells or 74 feet each) to one inch, a ratio of roughly 1:18,000. The few earlier surveys of Assynt (by Timothy Pont in the late 16th century, and William Roy's Military Survey of the mid-18th century) were far less detailed. Assynt was not comprehensively mapped again at such a detailed scale until the Ordnance Survey coverage in 1868-73 at the 6 inch to the mile or 1:10,560 scale.



Detail from cartouche of Plan no. 11 (left) and cartouche from Plan no. 1 (below)



The Survey forms part of the Sutherland Estates archive, which is deposited in NLS, and we are very grateful to the Countess of Sutherland for giving permission to publish it.

Chris Fleet

A much more detailed description and transcription of John Home's Survey of Assynt, along with related manuscripts, from which this account is taken, can be found in:

R.J. Adam (ed.) *John Home's Survey of Assynt*, (Scottish History Society, 3rd series, vol. LII). Edinburgh, 1960.

TALKS 2005

19 January – Falkirk – Falkirk Local History Society
Chris Fleet: *Symbols, pictures and survey: early map making in Falkirk and beyond.*

26 January – Edinburgh – Cramond Historical Association
Diana Webster: *Putting Scotland on the map.*

5 February – Edinburgh – Saltire Society
Chris Fleet: *The Blaeu Atlas of Scotland.*

16 February – Montrose – Montrose Museum
Dr Jeffrey Stone: *Early Scottish Maps and Mapmakers.*

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

Mapping the Realm: Timothy Pont's portrait of Renaissance Scotland is on display at Montrose Museum until 26 Feb. 2005.

1 March – Blackburn – West Lothian Family History Society
Paula Williams: *Maps for Family History.*

8 March – Strontian – The Sunart Centre
Dr Jeffrey Stone: *Early Scottish Maps and Mapmakers.*

8 March – Largs – Largs and North Ayrshire Family History Society
Chris Fleet: *Maps for Family History.*

16 March – Tomintoul – Richmond Memorial Hall
Dr Jeffrey Stone: *Early Scottish Maps and Mapmakers.*

21 March – Inverie – Village Hall
Dr Jeffrey Stone: *Early Scottish Maps and Mapmakers.*

24 March – Pitlochry – North Perthshire Family History Group
Diana Webster: *Planting your roots on the map.*

20 April – Edinburgh University RICHES Seminar
Chris Fleet: *Extending access to historical maps of Scotland: a review of online archival sources and their value.*

22 April – Edinburgh – National Library of Scotland
Dr Pat Dennison on researching the Holyrood site using maps and other evidence.

OTHER WEB NEWS

INDEXES to the ORDNANCE SURVEY NATIONAL GRID PAPER MAPS OF SCOTLAND, 1944-1991, 1:2,500 & 1:1,250 scales

As part of ongoing plans to improve remote access to National Library of Scotland collections and their records, this new application uses zoomable modern mapping to search and display over 45,000 records for Ordnance Survey large-scale (1:2500 and 1:1250) post-war paper maps.

The records are presented through a dynamic geographical interface which enables users to find out what detailed maps were published for Scotland between 1944 and 1991, with their dates, editions and scales. This information is widely requested for different historical purposes, but is of particular value for site consultants, archaeologists, and lawyers. We hope to expand the records in this application and develop it in the future. Please note this site does not display map images. Find the records at:

<http://geo.nls.uk/indexes>

ONLINE MAP CATALOGUES MAKE FOR EASIER ACCESS

In February 2004, Glasgow University Library completed a retrospective conversion of its Map Collection catalogue, which is now freely available online through the University Library catalogue at www.lib.gla.ac.uk

These add to the growing list of catalogues of map collections being automated. More significantly, it followed the introduction of a map search interface to **COPAC, the national Online Public Access Catalogue**, which provides unified and free access to the online catalogues of more than two dozen of the largest university and research libraries in the UK and Ireland. COPAC includes the British Library Map Library catalogue, as well as cartographic materials held by the other contributing libraries, including the National Library of Scotland, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities

The map search allows you to restrict your search to cartographic items such as maps, nautical charts, atlases, some plans and topographical drawings. It also includes new search options, in the form of a place name search and both exact and fuzzy map scale searching. In all, there are some 30 million records on COPAC, so it is a valuable tool for anyone looking for a location for a particular book, map or other item. It can be accessed from its own web-site at: <http://copac.ac.uk>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON SCOTTISH MAPS

CUNNINGHAM, Ian; FLEET, Christopher; WITHERS, Charles C.J. 'Putting Scotland on view: Joan Blaeu's 1654 *Atlas Novus*'. (*Folio: National Library of Scotland*, 9, Autumn 2004, 2-5).

BARCLAY, Sheena. 'Publishing the world: perspectives on the *Times Atlas*.' (*Scottish Geographical Journal*, 120(1-2), 2004, 19-31).

RIXSON, Denis. 'Maps and charts', chapter 7 (pp186-215) of *The Hebridean traveller*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2004. ISBN 1-84158-294-8

SIMPSON, Roddy. 'Mapping History'. (*The Scots Magazine*, N.S.161(6), Dec. 2004, 594-597).

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

JAMES COLLIE'S PLANS OF DUNDEE 1851

Iain Flett, City Archivist for Dundee, reports on an ongoing digitisation project to scan James Collie's plans of Dundee:

'The Burgh of Dundee, before the Ordnance Survey started their large scale surveys, contracted a private surveyor, James Collie, to draw up plans of the town showing contours and principal drains.

'They are not on a north/south grid, as OS plans are, but on a skew, possibly to fit as much as possible into the minimum number of sheets. The sheets have been heavily used by engineers and architects, with the result that they are worn, have annotations, and, unfortunately in the case of the town centre, a large ink stain.'

The site uses 'Zoomify' technology to enable zooming into the images. The plans are being added gradually to the site at:

<http://www.dundee.city.gov.uk/collie/>

THIRD EDITION OF 'THE HISTORICAL CARTOGRAPHY OF SCOTLAND'

John Moore reports:

Discussions are underway with the National Library of Scotland to produce a third edition of this bibliography and guide to the literature of Scottish maps and mapping as an online source. It is intended to extend coverage in the first instance to 1900 but with an eventual aim of covering the period up to 1950.

I would be very grateful for notice of any relevant publications on Scottish cartography published since the second edition (1991).

Please send any information to j.n.moore@lib.gla.ac.uk or by post to John Moore, Glasgow University Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE.

A haill universall see kart : evidence of a late 16th century sea chart

The first sentence of Tom Devine's recent book *Scotland's Empire*¹ was electrifying!

'One of the first references to America in Scottish records appeared in 1597, when one Robert Lindsay, a ship's pilot, presented the council of Aberdeen with a 'haill universall see kart [chart] of Europe, Affrica and Asia, and new found landes of America.'

No mention of this chart has appeared in any map or chart bibliographies. Following the paper trail of references led to the published extracts of Aberdeen Council Minutes for 25 January 1597². A transcription of the entry reads:

*'The said day, the Provost, baillies and council ordained the dean of guild to pay Robert Lindsay, pilot, the sum of forty merks, for a fee for the sea chart presented this day by him to the provost, baillies and council, containing many good profitable verities [truths=facts], instructions and devices necessary for such as tread [travel] on sea, to any foreign countries, viz.: the whole universal sea chart of Europe, Africa, and Asia, and new found lands of America, with the town's [coat of] arms thereon affixed, which the provost, baillies and council received presently from the said Robert, and ordained the same to remain in the hands and custody of Mr Thomas [Mollisoun] common clerk, while they appoint a common place to affix the same, which sum of forty merks shall be allowed to the dean of guild in his accounts.'*³

Sadly, Aberdeen City Archives now have no trace of the chart.

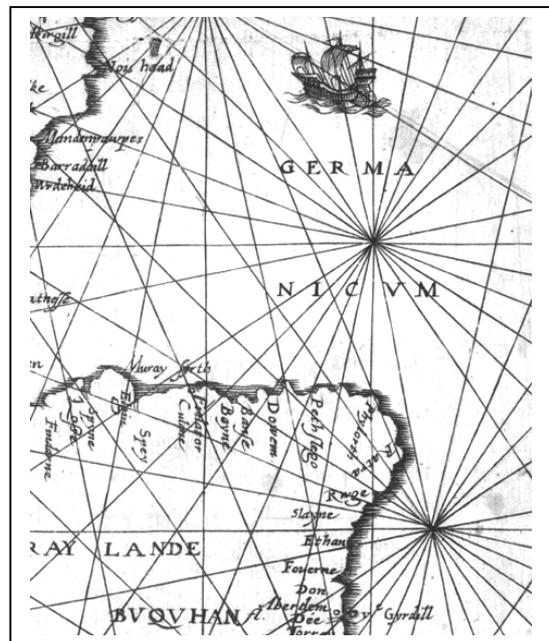
¹ T.M. Devine. *Scotland's Empire 1600-1815* (London: Penguin, 2004), p.1

² *Extracts from the council register of the burgh of Aberdeen, 1570-1625*, vol.II. Aberdeen: Spalding Club, 1848. (*Spalding Club*, vol.19). pp. 158-159.

³ The full text of the entry reads: *'The said day, the prouest, baillies, and counsell ordanit the dean of gyld to pay Robert Lyndsey, pylot, the sowme of fourtie merkis, for ane gratitude for the sey kart presentit this day be him to the prouest, bailleis, and counsel, conteneing money guid profitable vreiteis, instructione and devyses necessar for sic as treddis on sey, to ony forane countries, viz.: the haill universall see kart of Europ, Affrica, and Asaia, and new found landes of America, with the townes armes theiron affixit, quhilk the prouest, bailleis, and counsel ressaut presentlie fra the said Robert, and ordanit the same to remane in the handis and custodie of Mr Thomas [Mollisoun], common clerk, quhill they appoint ane common place to affix the samen, quhilk sowme of fourtie merkis salbe allowit to the deane of gild in his comptis.'*

Who was Robert Lindsay?

Alexander Lindsay's well-known chart of Scotland was prepared around 1540 for the voyage of James V to quell the Lords of the Isles, and published in 1583⁴. Can it be coincidence that Robert and Alexander are both pilots, bear the same surname, and are the only known chart makers in 16th century Scotland? Family tradition was a strong factor in the choice of profession, especially where 'secrets' or a specialist skill or craft were involved. Pilots depended upon their unique knowledge of the sea and coasts for their livelihood, usually recorded in 'rutters'⁵ or sailing directions, and these were often passed from father to son.



Extract from Alexander Lindsay's chart of Scotland. Nicolay described Lindsay's chart as 'rough' so this published chart (1583) is much more finished than the original draught c. 1540.

Could Robert Lindsay be Alexander's son, perhaps born about the 1540s, and thus an experienced pilot aged in his fifties at the time he prepared the Aberdeen chart. Or could he be a grandson or nephew? Unfortunately Lindsay is quite a common east coast name, and we can only speculate. There was some inconclusive research on Alexander Lindsay at the time *Early Maps of Scotland* was published in 1973. With more genealogical tools available today, some further research might be possible.

⁴ Nicolay, Nicolas de. *Vraye & exacte description hydrographique des costes maritimes d'Escosse & des Isles Orchades Hebrides...* Paris, 1583.

⁵ From the French 'routière', a descriptive list of places en route, or an itinerary.

Why was the chart prepared?

Did Aberdeen already have trade outside Europe? Or was the chart made to inform the councillors in preparation for an entry into overseas trade worldwide? Fynes Moryson's comments from his journey in 1598 would suggest the latter (but it must be noted that he travelled north only as far as Fife).⁶

'The navy or shipping of Scotland, was of small strength in the memory of our age, neither were their mariners of great experience, but to make them more diligent merchants, their Kings had formerly laid small or no impositions on them'. He goes on to state that Scottish shipping had benefited from neutral status during the wars between England and Spain.

'And surely since the Scots are very daring, I cannot see why their Mariners should not be bold and courageous, howsoever they have not hitherto made any long voyages⁷, rather for want of riches, then for slothfulness or want of courage. ... the cheefe trafficke of the Scots is in foure places, namely at Camphire⁸ in Zetland [=Zealand], whether they carry salt, the skins of weathers⁹, otters, badgers and martens, and bring back from thence corne. And at Burdeaux in France, whether they carry cloathes, and the same skinnes, and bring from thence wines, prunes, walnuts and chessenuts. Thirdly, within the Balticke Sea, whither they carry the said clothes and skinnes, and bring thence flaxe, hempe, iron, pitch and tarre. And lastly, in England, whether they carry linnen clothes, yarne and salt, and bring thence wheate, oates, beannes and like things.' Moryson paints a picture of an undeveloped economy, with mostly raw materials exported: skins, coal, and salt; pickled, dried, smoked and salted fish. The only manufactures are whisky, linen and woollens, and this cloth is coarse, not of high quality, *'which be narrow and shrinkle in the wetting'*.

What was going on in the wider world? Drake circumnavigated the globe in 1577-1580. In the 1570s-80s there was considerable effort to find a northwest passage and fishing boats travelled to Greenland and the seas off Canada. In the 1580s-90s the English struggled to establish colonies in Newfoundland and Virginia, but the first successful colony at Jamestown, Virginia, was not until 1607.¹⁰ Thus this chart and the

⁶ Brown, P. Hume (ed). *Early travellers in Scotland*. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1891, pp 86-7.

⁷ My emphasis.

⁸ Campveere or Veere was the Scots staple port in Europe from 1506-1847, ie. the Scots had privileges to export through this port.

⁹ Weather = widders, castrated rams

¹⁰ Whitfield, Peter. *New found lands: maps in the history of exploration*. (London: British Library, 1998).

possible ambitions of Aberdeen precede an established British North American colony by ten years.

Was trade with the Far East or the Central American colonies the aim? But the chart predates by some twenty years the establishment of a short-lived Scottish East Indies company in 1618.

Perhaps this chart symbolised the Age of Discovery for the burgesses of Aberdeen, a window on the wider world.

What might the chart have looked like?

The chart was intended for display in a public place; the councillors were to *'appoynt ane commoun place to affix the [chart]*'. It must therefore have been sufficiently imposing, and of an appropriate size. Was the chart on vellum (animal skin) or paper? A manuscript sea-going chart in the 16th century would probably have been on vellum, as this resisted salt-water, unlike paper. Yet this chart was for display on dry land, so it could have been on paper. However mariners were noted for being traditionalists, and a chart on vellum is thus more likely; this would also have survived unglazed hanging in a public place more successfully. The jury must remain out.

We know the chart displayed the Aberdeen coat of arms, *'with the town's armes theiron affixit'*. This echoes Aberdeen Town Council's commission to James Gordon in 1661 for a town plan of Aberdeen.

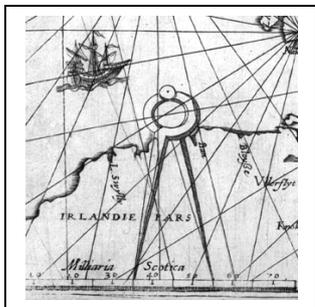
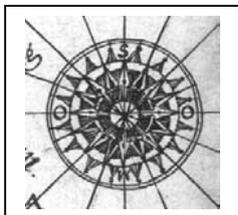


Coat of arms from James Gordon's 1661 plan of Aberdeen.

What information did the chart contain? The record states that it covered *'Europe, Africa, Asia, and the new found lands of America'*. Thus it was a chart of the world. Its description as a *'whole universal sea chart'* also confirms this. As such it is the first recorded map of the world made in Scotland

What sources might Lindsay have had? The first source could be his own experience. Yet as a pilot, his knowledge would have been more local or coastal, rather than sea-going. Could he have formerly sailed as master or crew of a sea-going vessel? Does his name appear in any port

records? The chart contained *'many good profitable verities [facts?], instructions, and devices necessary for such as travel on sea to any foreign countries'*. This implies first-hand knowledge, or at least contact with those who had direct experience of such voyages. The chart must have been annotated with text, accounts of places, and sailing directions or *'instructions'*. *'Devices'* could be navigational aids such as compass roses and rhumb lines.



A compass rose, with rhumb lines (left), and scale (right) from Alexander Lindsay's chart of Scotland, 1583.

Could Lindsay have acquired a sea chart to copy, from trading voyages to Europe? The Portuguese were particularly prominent in preparing portolan charts of the world in the late 16th century, but these were not readily available as information about new discoveries was kept secret.

What published sources were available? Rodney Shirley identifies over fifty printed maps of the world published in the period 1580-1596.¹¹ There were certainly new developments in printed mapping of the world, particularly by innovative publishers in the Low Countries, such as Ortelius and Mercator, who issued a variety of maps in different formats, including the first atlases and large wall maps. Mercator is famous for his creation of the Mercator projection, designed specifically for navigation. Given the proximity of the Netherlands to Scotland and regular trade, it is most likely that Lindsay gathered his information in Rotterdam, Amsterdam or Antwerp. But would a seafarer have made much use of land maps drawn for atlases? Was there any cross fertilisation between geographical knowledge portrayed on land maps, and the navigational knowledge needed for sea charts?

The chart was *'presented this day'*. *'Presented'* could mean *'given'*, or it could mean *'displayed'* to the council. At least these statements confirm that the chart already existed, and was not a planned project. Had Lindsay previously been commissioned by the council to make the chart, or had he speculatively prepared it in the hope of finding a purchaser? The form of words is ambiguous. The chart was *'received presently'*.

¹¹ Shirley, Rodney W. *The mapping of the world: early printed world maps 1472-1700*. 4th ed. Rverside, CT: Early World Press, 2001.

The *Concise Scots Dictionary* states that *'presently'* acquired a different meaning in the late 16th century. If its earlier meaning *'now'* applies, it would give more strength to the argument that the council had previously commissioned the chart, as it was handed over on that day; if the later (present-day) meaning of *'soon'* is meant, does this imply that it would be delivered later? If a speculative venture, then Lindsay would have delayed adding a coat of arms or dedication until he had found a buyer and this might explain *'presently'*. Further inspection of the council minutes may reveal if the council had initiated the transaction.

With only the council record to draw on, we have no other evidence of this chart. Yet the discovery of this record changes our view of 16th century map and chart making in Scotland and the name of Robert Lindsay now needs to be added to the short list of 16th century Scots map and chart makers.

Diana Webster

If anyone wishes to follow up the genealogical leads on the Lindsays, shipping and customs records of east coast towns, or explore the original Aberdeen Council minutes further, please feel free! We would be pleased to receive any information, even if it is negative. Do let us know if you decide to take up the challenge so that duplication of effort can be avoided. Map Library contact details are on the front cover

STOP PRESS!

Christmas comes early... News has just arrived about the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £167,000, relating to *'their archive of 150,000 items documenting Scottish travel, expeditions, geographical research and maps of international importance. This fascinating archive, which is housed at the University of Strathclyde's campus, includes some manuscripts, early maps, glass slides, and photographs from early 20th century Antarctic expeditions...*

'The two main elements of the project are to protect and conserve the items, many of which are deteriorating, and to make them available to a worldwide audience. Items will be repaired and conserved before being housed in new modern storage cabinets. They will all be catalogued and 100 specially selected images scanned for the RSGS website. An associated educational programme will be developed, targeting different age groups...'

More information can be found on the Heritage Lottery Fund website:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/LatestNews/Scottish+collections.htm>