



# CAIRT

Issue 8  
Jan 2006

*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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## MUSKETS & MAPPING

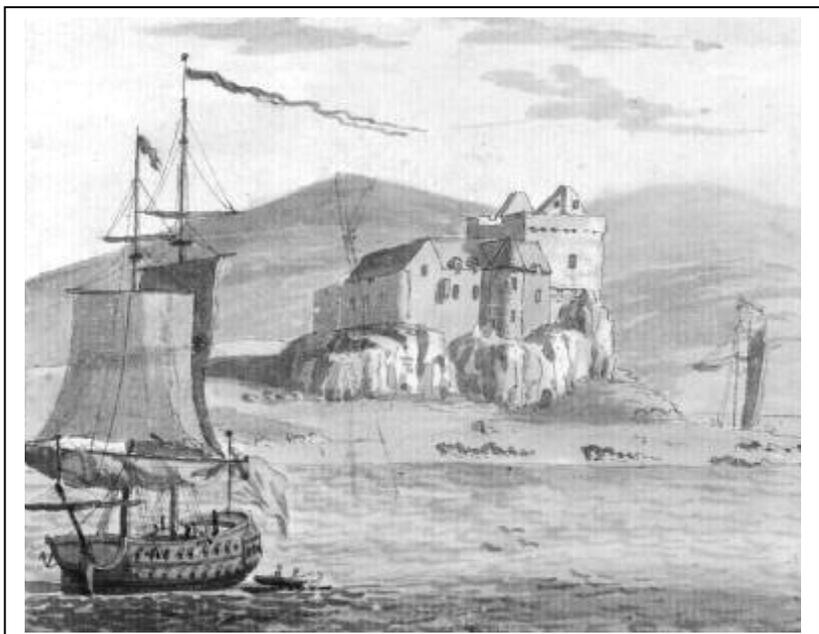
The next Scottish Maps Forum Seminar, to be held on Saturday 22 April 2006, is on the theme of military maps and plans in 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland.

Previous SMF seminars focused on the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Now the interest moves into the next century, when the government sponsored military engineering and mapping to counter the Jacobite threat.

Many maps and plans of Scotland survive from this period in various collections in the UK, particularly, but not exclusively, covering parts of the Highlands. It is therefore appropriate that this event is held in the attractive lecture facilities offered in the AK Bell Library in Perth, the gateway to the Highlands.

The maps and plans are part of a much broader picture. In particular, the work of military engineers is key, as they both created and used maps in their work. The first speaker, Professor Bruce Lenman, formerly of St Andrews University, will set the scene, introducing the role of the military engineer in early modern Europe.

*Contd. on page 2*



**Paul Sandby. East view of Castle Duirt (Duart). 1748**  
MS.1648 Z.03/28e

## MUSKETS & MAPPING, cont from p.1.

Dilly Emslie has recently been researching the Board of Ordnance in Scotland, and will discuss relations between military engineers and the Board in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century, around the time of the Union of the Parliaments.

Chris Fleet, of the National Library of Scotland, focuses on the plans and career of one engineer, Lewis Petit, and his work in 1714-16.

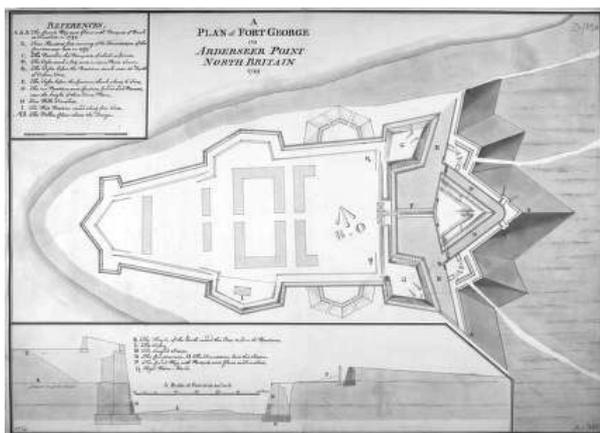
Possibly the most conspicuous visible legacy of this period are the buildings and roads constructed by the military engineers. Doreen Grove, of Historic Scotland, joint author of *Fortress Scotland and the Jacobites*, will look at the built environment, illustrated by maps of the period, in a paper provocatively titled *In defence of which nation?*

Battle plans were drawn up by both sides after a campaign, to record events and to learn from the strategies and tactics deployed – and from the mistakes. Tony Pollard, one of the ‘two men in a trench’, (from the historical TV series on battles) and an archaeologist at Glasgow University, explores the use of battle plans from the Jacobite period to research battle sites today.



John Bastide sketched this military draughtsman on his 1720 view of Glenelg

Enlarged from  
MS.1647 Z.03/07a



William Skinner. A plan of Fort George on Ardersier Point, North Britain, 1749.  
MS.1646 Z.02/39b

Finally, Yolande Hodson, map historian, formerly of the British Library, will reveal some of the military map sources on Scotland in the Royal Collection, where she serves as a consultant. As an authority on William Roy and his Military Survey of 1747-55, she will also give an outline of this major work, which mapped much of mainland Scotland for the first time.

Previous seminars were quickly oversubscribed, so do book early.

**The MUSKETS AND MAPPING seminar costs £15 and booking forms and further information are available from the Map Library, National Library of Scotland (contact details on page 1).**

## MAP TALKS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

There is an African theme to the two map talks offered in the National Library's evening lecture series in the first half of 2006.

On **17 January 2006** Charles Withers commemorates the bi-centenary of Mungo Park's death with his talk *Mungo Park and the mapping of the Niger*. Selkirk-born explorer Mungo Park rose to fame in the late 1790s by solving the first part of the 2000-year old Niger question – which way did the river run? He died attempting to solve the second part – where did the Niger end? This illustrated talk will review Park's achievements and explore the significance of his work.

On **14 June** James McCarthy will give an illustrated talk based on his recent book *Journey into Africa: the Life and Death of Keith Johnston, Scottish Cartographer and Explorer (1844-79)* (Whittles, 2004). W & A K Johnston, based in Edinburgh, was an eminent cartographic firm of Victorian times. The young Keith Johnston wished a more active role in filling the empty spaces on the map than as a desk-based cartographer working for his father. After exploring parts of South America, he went to Africa, where he met his untimely death in a remote village in what is now Tanzania. Having worked in East Africa in the 1960s, James McCarthy was well placed to transcribe and interpret Johnston's diary, and his talk brings the story up to date as he describes his attempt in 2004 to find Johnston's grave.

Contact [events@nls.uk](mailto:events@nls.uk) or 0131-623 3845 if you wish to attend – advance booking is essential. Talks are at 7pm in George IV Bridge.

## Locus of Crime Plans in the National Archives of Scotland

*John McLintock, Head of Maps and Plans at the National Archives of Scotland, reveals a fascinating and little known type of map*

From around the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it became increasingly common for surveyors and architects to be commissioned to produce plans of crime scenes as evidence for the prosecution in both pre-trial investigations (or precognitions) and High Court trials. Plans of lands and buildings had been produced for evidential purposes in property disputes before the civil courts since at least the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

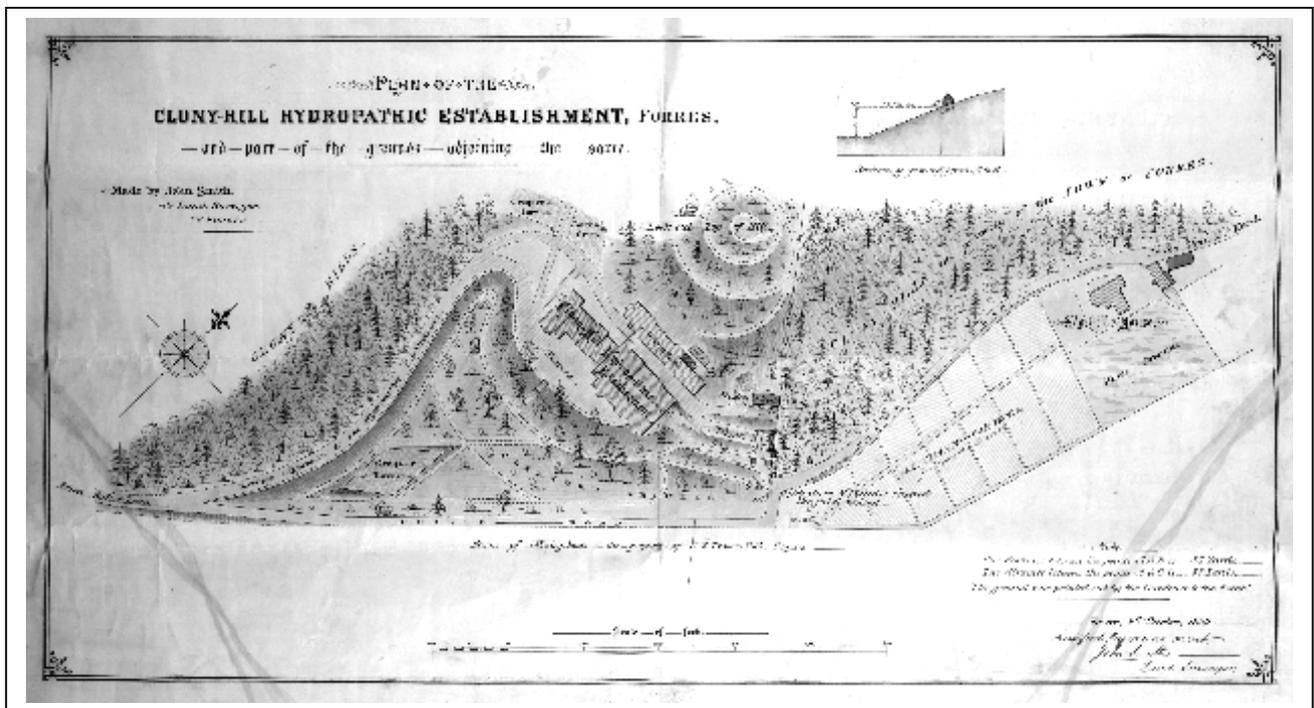
The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) currently has around 1500 original (ie not marked OS sheets) locus of crime plans dating from 1813 to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and covering the length and breadth of Scotland. These plans were transmitted to the NAS along with precognitions (ie pre-trial investigations) and High Court trial papers.

While it has been the practice since the 1960s to remove plans which are bundled-up with other papers and place them in a separate series for preservation reasons, large numbers of plans have only recently turned up in 19<sup>th</sup> century High Court processes owing to the High Court of Justiciary Criminal (Solemn) Trials Database Project.

The High Court is the supreme criminal court in Scotland and has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of murder rape and treason; it also hears cases where the gravity of the crime merits more severe prison sentences. This project used information in a number of High Court and Crown Office record groups to create databases of accused persons and victims in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, while at the same time recording information about record sources and other related material such as plans, photographs and objects.

Plans were produced for a range of cases, such as assault, rape, murder, the discharging of firearms, wilful fire-raising, and culpable neglect of duty. Many are highly-finished drawings by professional surveyors, architects and engineers, but there are also less formal sketches by local police officers, schoolmasters and others. There are also a number of marked OS plans, which increase in number in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Just over one fifth (or 360) can be classified as architectural drawings, with the vast majority of the remainder being cartographic in nature.

These plans often contain a wealth of information beyond the crime itself, which can tell us much



*Plan of the Cluny-Hill Hydropathic Establishment, Forres, and part of the grounds adjoining same.*

By John Smith, land surveyor, Forres. 1869.

8 1/4 inches = 500 feet. 410 x 735 mm. Coloured. Linen backing. Silk binding.

RHP140721 (from JC26/1870/43)

*Reproduced by permission of the National Archives of Scotland.*

about the landscape, townscape, domestic and business premises, and people's working and private lives. Natural, man-made and urban features - such as settlements, fields and farm buildings, ruins, plantations, parks, streets, houses, businesses and licensed premises- are routinely noted.

Occasionally, occupants of premises are named. However, the type of information available is to some extent determined by the nature of the crime. In rape and murder cases plans usually show the route(s) of victim and accused, the actual location of the crime and the position of the body, weapon, clothing and any blood stains. Where a charge of wilful fireraising is involved, plans often show the location and layout of premises – domestic, business or industrial- noting the position of furniture, machinery and stock.

'Culpable neglect of duty' was a charge frequently used against railway employees following a rail accident. Not surprisingly, plans in these cases will show lines, signals, bridges and station platforms.

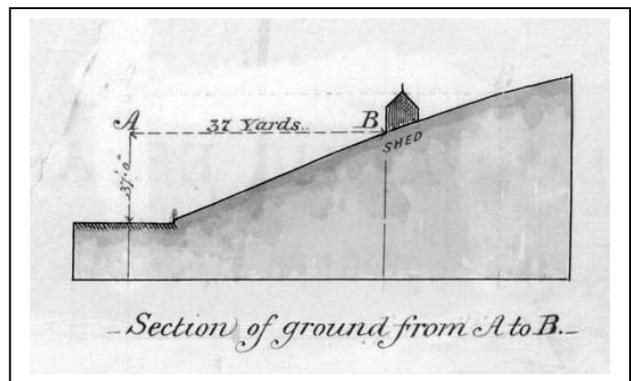
These illustrations show the locus of crime plan from the trial of George Norman, aged 45 years, former merchant, for the culpable homicide of James Calder, residing at Edgehill House, manager of the Cluny Hill Hydropathic Establishment, Forres, Moray. Norman was charged with recklessly discharging a firearm near the wooden shed or workshop (at 'B') in the

direction of the Elgin and Forres road, fatally wounding Calder (at 'A').

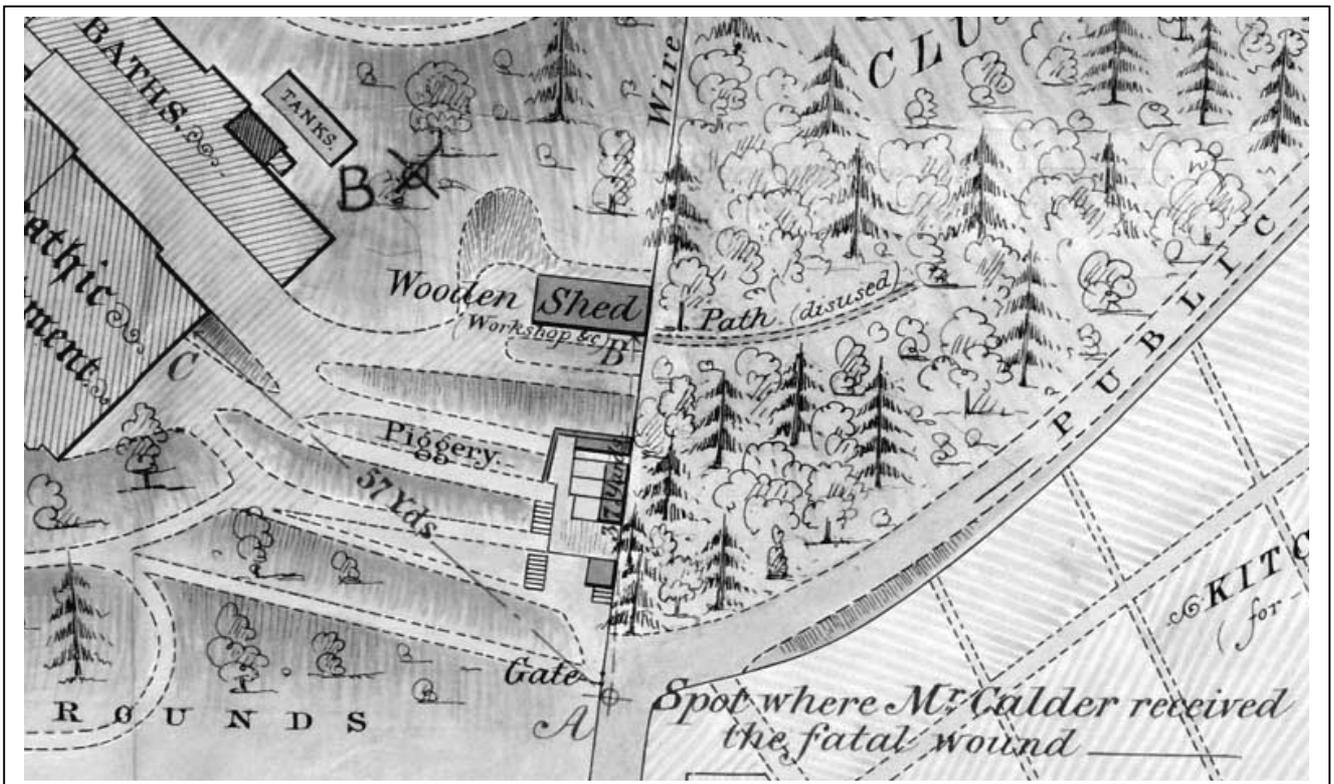
Norman claimed that he had been trying to shoot a cat which had been causing a nuisance in the vicinity of the establishment where he was a resident.

He was found guilty of culpable homicide at the High Court, Inverness on 26 April 1870, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment in Elgin prison. In addition to showing the hydropathic institution, wooden shed and public road mentioned in the indictment, the plan also notes other features such as Edgehill House, the pleasure gardens, croquet lawns, bowling green, piggery and woods.

See p. 5 Searching for Locus of Crime Plans



Details from RHP140721 (from JC26/1870/43)  
Reproduced by permission of the National Archives of Scotland



Cont from p. 4

## SEARCHING FOR LOCUS OF CRIME PLANS

The National Archives of Scotland plan collection can be searched on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk). Currently more functions are available if you search on the OPACs in NAS reading rooms, than on the website OPAC.

Click on 'Catalogues and indexes' on the tool bar and then select the OPAC. In order to find locus of crime plans you will then have to conduct the following search(es):

1. In 'Sort Fields' check the option 'Text as Numbers' and click 'OK'.

2. In 'Search' enter one of the following in 'Any Text':

JC26 for High Court of Justiciary plans  
(from 1813-)

AD14 for Crown Office precognition plans  
(1801-1900)

AD15 for Crown Office precognition plans  
(1901 onwards)

If you are interested in a particular area you can enter a placename as well, although only the old civil parish and county names are recognised. For the moment this function is only available in NAS search rooms and is restricted to catalogue entries for maps and plans (RHP).

Having keyed in your search term(s), click on the 'Search' button at the bottom of the screen. Further assistance is available from the 'Help' option.

## WEBSITE NEWS

### An interactive 14th century map of Great Britain

A zoomable and interactive version of the 14th century Gough map of Great Britain has recently gone online, the results of a collaborative project between the Bodleian Library in Oxford and Queens University in Belfast. The Gough map (named after Richard Gough, who donated the map to the Bodleian Library in 1809) is uniquely important, in being not only the oldest surviving map showing routes in Great Britain, but also in its accurate detail, naming some 100 places in Scotland. It is thought that the map may have been prepared for royal purposes, and several of the names mentioned reflect Edward I's itineraries to Scotland in 1296-1304.

The map is drawn on two skins of vellum, in pen, ink and coloured washes, and measures some 45 x 22 inches (115 x 56 cm). Although a number of facsimiles of the map have been published over the years, this electronic version not only allows the map to be explored in great detail but also allows overlays of its information content to be displayed. Various layers, including roads, places, regions, islands, mountains, rivers, lochs, and estuaries can be displayed on top of the base map, and made active to allow specific features in these layers to be queried and located.

More information on the Gough map can be found at: [www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/goughmap.htm](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/guides/maps/goughmap.htm)

The interactive maps are at:  
[www.qub.ac.uk/urban\\_mapping/gough\\_map/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/urban_mapping/gough_map/)

## TALKS

### 6 January – Lanark

Lanark and District Archaeological Society  
Chris Fleet: *The archaeological value of Timothy Pont's mapping of Lanarkshire*

### 17 January – Aberdeen

Saltire Society  
Jeffrey Stone: *Early Maps of Scotland*

### 17 January – Edinburgh

National Library of Scotland  
Charles Withers: *Mungo Park and the mapping of the Niger*

### 13 March – Dunblane

Dunblane Local History Society and Dunblane Civic Society  
Jeffrey Stone: *Early Maps of Scotland with particular reference to Timothy Pont*

### 15 March – Dundee

Tay Valley Family History Society.  
Diana Webster: *Planting your Roots on the map*

### 30 March – Kirkcudbright

Dumfries & Galloway Extra-Mural Group  
(Glasgow University Crichton Campus)  
Diana Webster: *Putting Scotland on the map*

### 12 April – Lasswade

Lothians Family History Society  
Chris Fleet: *Exploring your family history through early maps of Midlothian and beyond*

### 22 April – Perth

Scottish Maps Forum Seminar  
*Muskets and mapping (see pp.1-2)*

### 25 May – Perth

Friends of Perth & Kinross Council Archives  
Chris Fleet: *Map-making, landscape and society in Perthshire: two centuries of change, 1583-1804*

### 14 June – Edinburgh

National Library of Scotland  
James McCarthy: *Keith Johnston, Scottish cartographer and explorer (1844-79)*

## TRANSCRIBING SIBBALD'S SCOTTISH ATLAS

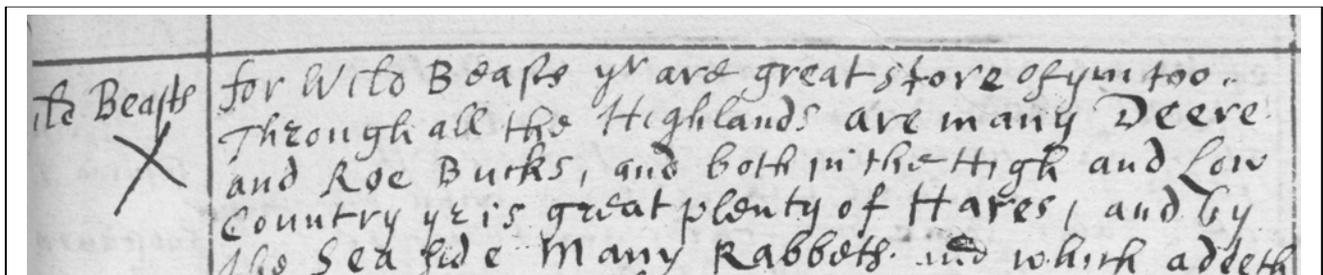
In recent years, the National Library of Scotland has greatly benefited from the generosity of volunteers, who have researched, transcribed, or translated various topographical texts, many of which are now on our website. We are therefore pleased to report that a new project to transcribe Sir Robert Sibbald's 'Scottish Atlas' of ca. 1684 has recently begun by Mrs Pat Burnett of Auchterarder.

Sir Robert Sibbald (1641-1722) was a Scottish physician, botanist and geographer, who from 1682, particularly through his patron, the Earl of Perth, was appointed Physician to the King and Geographer Royal. Commissioned to "publish the naturall history of ye Country, and the geographical description of the kingdome", Sibbald circulated a detailed set of questions in 1682, and received more detailed responses from a very wide network of correspondents. His subject content was broader than previous chorographical writings, in describing not only the character and topography of regions, their peoples and antiquities, but also subjects such as natural history, medicine, botany, zoology and economic resources. Although it resulted in an acrimonious dispute, Sibbald also intended that John Adair would assist him in surveying and preparing county maps for the Atlas, so that the publication would update and supersede the Blaeu Atlas of 1654.

For a number of reasons, the Atlas was never published, although some of the material was included in Sibbald's *Nuncius Scoto-Britannus...* (1683) and his *Scotia illustrata...* (1684), as well as later regional descriptions. The transcription of the texts, written in late 17th century Scots-English, will open up the rich and varied contents of Sibbald's Scottish Atlas, which has hitherto been largely by-passed, as a source.

However, at some 230 pages, the task is a large one, and we would be keen to hear from other volunteers who may be willing to assist in tackling other parts of this volume or other texts!

If you would like to help, do contact Chris Fleet at 0131-623 3973, c.fleet@nls.uk



### RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON SCOTTISH MAPS

ATHOLL ESTATES. *Historic maps of Perthshire at Blair Castle: an exhibition of maps and plans from Blair Castle Archives 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October 2005*. Blair Atholl: Atholl Estates, 2005. 4p.

CUNNINGHAM, Ian; FLEET, Christopher; WITHERS, Charles C.J. 'Scotland's first atlas'. (*The Highlander*, 43(6), Nov.-Dec. 2005, 20-27); originally published in *Folio*, 9, Autumn 2004, as 'Putting Scotland on view: Joan Blaeu's 1654 *Atlas Novus*'.

FLEET, Christopher. 'James Stobie and his surveying of the Perthshire landscape' (*History Scotland* 5(4) July/August 2005, 40-47).

GRAY, Iain. 'Mapping the Land' (*Scottish Memories*, November 2005, 52-3).

SPENCE, Ian. *Playfair's Commercial and Political Atlas and Statistical Breviary*. Cambridge UP, 2005.

WEBSTER, Diana. 'Distilleries, docks and dormitories: Goad fire insurance plans'. (*Scottish Local History*, 64, Summer 2005, 22-24).

WEBSTER, Diana. 'Little acorns and tall oaks: Project Pont and after'. *Scottish Archives*, 10, 2004, 93-108.

The splendidly illustrated *The Map Book*, edited by Peter Barber (London, 2005), contains some items of Scottish interest including: Fleet, C. 'Sketching out Scotland's bounds: Pont's map of the Loch Tay environs, Scotland, ca. 1583-1600.' Webster, D. 'For the benefit and safety of navigation' and 'The last battle: Culloden 1746'.

Doreen Waugh announces a publication on place names, which includes maps in many papers.

Gammeltoft, P., Hough, C. and Waugh, D. (eds.), *Cultural Contacts in the North Atlantic Region: The Evidence of Names*. Lerwick, Shetland, 2005.

Price: £10.00 + P & P, available from: Dr Doreen Waugh, The Scottish Place-Name Survey, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. Tel: 0131 650 4162; e-mail: doreen.waugh@ed.ac.uk.

**Map Detective: on the trail of the revised map of the Stewartry**

One of the penalties for being a member of the Steering Committee of the Scottish Maps Forum is the recurring plea from the editor of *Cairt* to provide copy for this newsletter.

Last year, in response to an appeal, Jeff Stone proffered a cartographic enigma: some time ago, wearing his philatelic (rather than cartographic) hat, he had acquired two letters from William Faden, the London mapmaker, to James Niven, the Secretary of the Commissioners of Supply of Kirkcudbrightshire. Faden's first letter (dated 24 Oct. 1820) replies to the Commissioners' recent letter of 16 Oct., which had requested that he revise and print 100 copies of a new edition of John Ainslie's map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright (first published 1797).



▲ Enlarged detail of Kirkcudbright, from Ainslie's 1797 map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright

According to *Early Maps of Scotland* vol. 2, p.198, Faden purchased the four copper plates from Ainslie and reissued them in 1801 with a slightly different title (*A topographical map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright*): a copy of this second edition is in the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. But these letters related to 1820: was there a third, unrecorded, edition of the map?

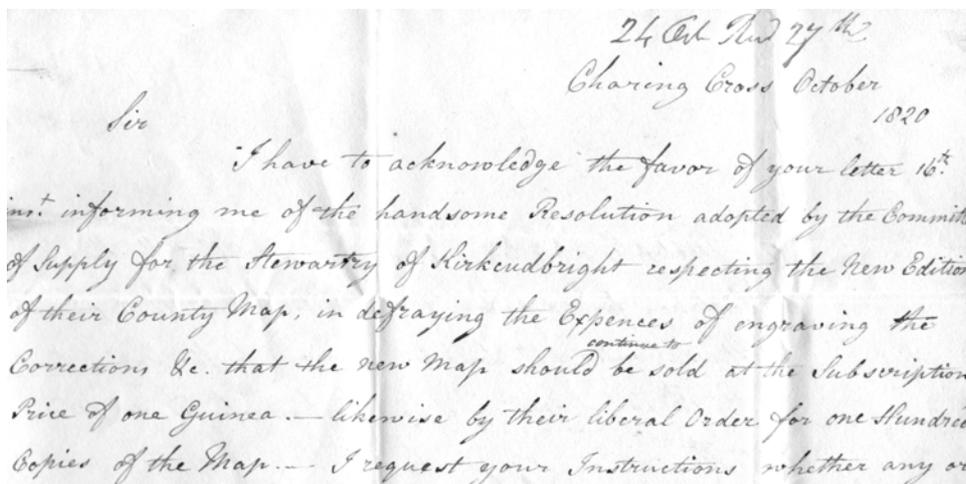
An internet search in COPAC (an online union

catalogue of major UK research libraries) showed that none of these libraries had catalogued a third edition online (although many catalogues of early maps have yet to be computerised). However the search also revealed that extracts from the minutes of the *Commissioners of Supply for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 1728-1828* had been published in 1933 by C.A.S. Maitland. Working in the National Library has its benefits; within an hour or two, the volume was retrieved and checked. Fortunately Mr Maitland had gathered together information thematically, and a couple of pages gave references to Ainslie's county map. The records showed that a third edition had, indeed, been issued.

A Google search also revealed that a later letter (of Dec. 1820) had been sold by a Canadian stamp dealer in October 2003. Unfortunately an enquiry to the dealer revealed that he had no records of the purchaser, and the only surviving information about this letter is the extract from the sales catalogue cached in Google.

From the early 18<sup>th</sup> century until 1889, when county councils were introduced, Commissioners of Supply were a committee of the major landowners in a county, who administered local affairs, for example encouraging and sponsoring the development of roads and bridges, organising divisions of common, and collecting and spending local taxes. According to the minutes, with several new roads and bridges in the area, the 1801 map was out of date and a copy of this map, with roads amended in red, was to be sent to Faden to update the information on the revised map. Maitland records that he had found a map, with red markings, in the archives in the 1930s, presumably the map referred to by the Commissioners in their minutes.

Enquiries to the Stewartry Museum, Kirkcudbright,



◀ Faden's letter to Niven 24 Oct 1820 mentions 100 copies to be sold for one guinea. Reproduced by permission of J Stone

**We welcome contributions, large (up to 3 or 4 A4 pages) or small, for Cairt. Please send them to the address on the front page**

the Ewart Library and Archives in Dumfries, proved unsuccessful in locating this amended map, or a copy of the revised third edition, which, according to Maitland, was published in 1825. This date was a little odd, as Faden retired in 1823, and it also seemed a long time from 1820 until 1825 for the work to be done.

In September a talk to the local family history society in Dumfries offered an opportunity to investigate the record books, held in the Ewart Library in Dumfries, to see if Maitland's information was both accurate and complete. The minutes revealed that the map had in fact been published by Spring 1821 – at the meeting of the Commissioners in April of that year the Secretary was instructed to place an advertisement in the local newspaper stating that copies of the new map were 'in hand', and could be purchased by landowners of a suitable standing for one guinea. Further trawling through microfiche of the local newspaper led to another disappointing dead end – the newspaper issues for 1821 do not seem to have survived anywhere.

So we knew that 100 copies of a revised (third) edition of Ainslie's map of the Stewartry, with additional road information, were printed by Faden early in 1821. The map was large and may be

issued in four sheets, which could be folded, or stuck together as a large rolled map. The sizes for Ainslie's original are 1022 x 1168 mm for the whole map, with four sections of 577 x 677 mm.

Do any of these copies survive in private hands? The minute books of the Commissioners of Supply give a ray of hope, as recorded at the end of one of the volumes is a list of the names of the purchasers of the maps, all considerable landowners in the area, together with the amount they paid. Having initiated this hunt, Jeff Stone has kindly transcribed this list (and is seeking local assistance for some of the names), and it may be possible to contact some descendants to see if someone still retains a copy, or to publicise the map in a local paper.

But a passing remark made some months ago to Ashley Bainton-Williams (who is researching Ainslie) has just borne fruit. He has located a copy of the third edition of *A topographical map of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright* 'revised and corrected Aug 12th 1820' in Cambridge University Library (Maps R.a.80). Perhaps there are others, not yet in computer catalogues, in other research libraries. Thus another note may be added to the bibliography of Scotland's maps.

**Diana Webster**

## EXHIBITION

### ***Sale of the Centuries***

There is a rare opportunity in this exhibition to see two of the earliest Scottish town plans held in the National Library of Scotland. The display follows the development of shopping, from street markets and roving pedlars to department stores. Based around selected manuscript diaries, correspondence and records relating to shopping activities in four centuries, several maps provide accompanying illustrative material.

On display is the beautiful town plan of St Andrews, believed to have been drawn by John Geddy around 1580. While there have been several facsimiles of this map, none has captured the freshness, clarity and jewel-like quality of the original manuscript. Do see it while you can!



▲ *Geddy's plan c.1580 shows the market crosses and tron in St Andrews*

St Andrews is also the focus of a display of the accounts kept by James Morice, tutor to three Mackenzie boys attending the University in the early 1700s, which shed light on the undergraduates' purchases 300 years ago.

James Gordon's highly colourful plan of Aberdeen in 1661 was commissioned by the local burgh council. Gordon, parson of Rothiemay, must have cut quite a dash in his new silk hat, part of the payment received from the burgh, together with 'ane silk gown for his bedfellow' and a silver cup or piece of silver.

*Zooming in on an enlarged scanned image of Gordon's 1661 plan of Aberdeen reveals market stalls ►*



A pocket terrestrial globe made by James Ferguson (1710-1776) is another library cartographic treasure on display, as an 18<sup>th</sup> century luxury item. Look out for the matching celestial map decorating the interior of the globe's protective case.

The exhibition is at the **National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh** until **12 February**. Monday-Saturday: 10.00-17.00; Sunday: 14.00-17.00