



International Map Collector's Society

Woodstock, Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire, WR7 4BS. Tel: (038682) 619.

NOVEMBER 1980 *Newsletter* **VOLUME 1 No. 2**

Material to: Yasha BERESINER Box 70 London N3 3QQ Tel: (w) 01-836 8444 (h) 01-349 2207

To:

. . . . from your Editor

We are now formally launched.

If June 1980 is the date of conception of the IMCS then our London meeting on September 13 marks our official birthday. On that date the committee was formally elected. We have since drafted aims and objectives for the Society, arranged for future members' meetings and hope you will all participate in its activities. By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will have had a committee meeting in Oxford (Saturday October 23) to further promote the Society's affairs.

The Newsletter continues as a modest publication and it will do so until a greater response is received from the membership. A request for material for publication will be repeated without respite! Please allow the editor to be the judge as to the suitability of the news item you send in or the quality of the article you write. Your contribution is essential. You will find in this newsletter a biography of our President Rodney Shirley, who, no doubt, is well known to many of you. Wearing my public relations hat, I was very pleased in early October to be able to arrange for Rodney a ten minute recorded interview with the BBC Overseas Service. This was an impromptu question-and-answer session which, by the time this newsletter is published, will have been broadcast to some 60 stations all over the world. If any member of the IMCS heard the broadcast, we would be very pleased to publish his comments in our newsletter.

Other mapactivities are reported in the following pages and we trust the IMCS, through its membership, will play its own important part in promoting this fascinating hobby.

Let us hear from you.

YB

IMCS List of Officers

- President:* Rodney Shirley Esq., Sweet Briar, Long Grove, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2QH.
- Chairman:* Malcolm R. Young Esq., Whyr Farm, Winterbourne Bassett, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 9QE.
- Director:* Paul R. Sabin Esq., April Cottage, 15 Coughton Lane, Coughton, Alcester, Warks.
- Membership Secretary:* Richard Davies Esq., Woodstock, Flyford, Flavell, Worcestershire, WR7 4BS.
- Treasurer:* Stephen F. Webb Esq., 16 St Johns Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire
- Secretary:* John R. Beech Esq., 14, Echells Close, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.
- Editor and Publicity Officer:* Yasha Beresiner Esq., Box 70, London N3 3QQ.

OUR PRESIDENT

Introducing Rodney Shirley

RODNEY SHIRLEY has been collecting old maps since he was at school. Since completing his book **Early Printed Maps of the British Isles 1477-1650** (reprinted by The Holland Press in 1980) most of his spare time over the past eight years has been taken up with research into a new book on world maps. He has written a number of articles on maps in **The Map Collector** and other publications. Mr Shirley's full-time career has been in British industry where he was a director of several companies engaged in manufacturing and export. Recently he left the business field and joined the Department of Industry as a senior civil servant. Mr Shirley was educated at Stowe and studied at Cambridge and Harvard. He is married and lives in Buckinghamshire with his wife and three children. His other major interest is mountain trekking, and his travels have included such out-of-the-way places as Nepal, Ethiopia and the North Yemen.

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INTERNATIONAL MAP COLLECTORS SOCIETY

DRAFT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

prepared by John Beech, IMCS Secretary

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote, foster and encourage the activity of map collecting and the study of cartography and its history.
2. To encourage the preservation of maps for future generations and to provide practical information to assist this process.
3. To provide an international forum for people interested in map collecting and the study of cartography and its history, to meet and discuss their interests.
4. To provide activities and cater for the interests of all members of the Society from beginners to specialist collectors and dealers.
5. To provide information to assist members to pursue and enjoy their interests and to extend their knowledge of them.
6. To facilitate communication and the exchange of information and ideas between members, including non-commercial links between collectors and dealers.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Regular meetings of the Society, including meetings held on a regional basis throughout the United Kingdom.
2. An annual symposium.
3. A regular Newsletter containing articles, news, reviews and advertisements.
4. A membership list to facilitate further direct communication between members.
5. Mail bid auctions of members' materials.
6. The establishment and development of a library/information centre containing reference works which may be borrowed and information on collections, dealers, exhibitions etc.
7. The organisation of visits to libraries and other institutions housing map collections.
8. The organisation of lectures to the Society by guest speakers and members who are authorities on particular subject areas.
9. The provision of information useful to members who are travelling abroad, and a letter of introduction from the Society.
10. The organisation of facilities or events to cater for members with specialist interests.
11. The provision of specialist information, advice or assistance to members either directly or by putting them in touch with the appropriate experts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are cordially invited and will be most welcome to join members of the IMCS at their November meeting in London. You need not be a member to attend.

The meeting will be held at:—

**The Grosvenor Hotel
Victoria London
2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Saturday 29th November 1980**

The gathering is a social get together for those interested in map collecting. Mr. Tim Nicholson will give a short talk on Early Cycling and Motoring Maps. Visitors are urged to bring maps with them for exchange, query, or just for show.

Information about the meeting and the Society may be obtained from the Secretary Mr. Richard Davies, "Woodstock", Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire, WR7 4BS. Telephone: (038862) 619.

The Committee and members of the International Map Collectors' Society look forward to meeting you in London on 29th November, 1980.

Passing through VIENNA

by Malcolm YOUNG

There is so much to see and to hear in Vienna. A city that is always worth a visit is one that has been the creative home of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Bruckner, Mahler, Schubert, and Strauss and very many other composers, of Sigmund Freud, and the painter Klimt.

The Vienna State Opera, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vienna Boys Choir are well worth listening to if you get the opportunity. The Hapsburg Emperors who built these magnificent Baroque places were great collectors so there are many Breugel pictures and those of Rembrandt and Rubens as well as other works of art.

The visiting Map Collector after he has watched the performance at the 400 year old Spanish Riding School should walk across the courtyard to the Austrian National Library. The Map library is not easy to find, the entrance is in the corner of the courtyard. One passes through the main building ascending many floors to the top. Proceeding along a passage one then climbs a stone turret by a very narrow spiral stone staircase, the steps seem to go round and round for ever until you arrive exhausted at a painted

iron fire door. The bell push brings an immediate response and you enter a brightly lit map room greeted by a very friendly map librarian. The security is strict and the door clangs and is locked behind you. You note when signing the visitors book that there have been very few visitors in fact the last signature on this occasion was that of Rodney Shirley, our president.

A morning studying the Blaeu Atlases with their brilliant colouring, the early maps of Austria tracing the Danube valley and the old Danube flowing through Vienna, make you realise that high up in these very peaceful surroundings away from the noisy traffic below, you are at one of the old centres of Europe and the British Isles is on the fringe.

There were odd maps of Bristol and other English cities worth looking at, in fact there was nothing that was too much trouble for the helpful librarian to find.

A visit thoroughly recommended to map collectors on holiday or business in Vienna with an hour or two to spare. If you have any time call in and see V.A. Heck's map shop in the Kartnerring 12.

Members Classified Ads.

10 Pence per word. Please send your remittance with wording to the Editor, I.M.C.S., Box 70, London N3 3QQ.

* Mention the Society when replying to ads and in all your other correspondence. Application forms for you to send to potential members are available from the secretary. Support your Society.

* Maps and Charts of the Channel Islands required all types and dates. Write to P. Le Huquet, Lo, Musk Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 2JB.

* Stanley Gibbons Antiquarian have published their November catalogue. Write or phone for a copy: Stanley Gibbons Antiquarian / 395 Strand London WC2R 0LX 01-836 8444

* The new magazine for every collector "Everything Has a Value" published monthly by BAC Publications Limited 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BV order your copy now 60p per issue or £10 - Subscription rate per annum for 12 issues.

* Swan Galleries Inc. 104 East 25th Street, New York, New York 10010 hold regular maps and atlases auctions write for our schedules for 1981 and our catalogue of the forthcoming auction cables Swansales New York.

* Rosemkilde & Bagger P.O. Box 2184 - DK - 1017 Copenhagen K, Denmark will supply you with catalogue of maps from all parts of the world on request.

* We hold postal auctions at regular intervals covering antique maps, books and old sea charts. We buy Australasia and the Pacific also Judaica and English and Swiss topography. Please write to Neil McKinnon Ltd. P.O. Box No. 847 Timaru, New Zealand.

* Jonathan Potter Ltd. No.1 Grafton Street, London W1 Telephone 01-491 3520.

* Personal viewers most welcome to see our collection at Mappa Mundi Ltd., 5 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4EL 01-493 9836.

September 1980 Meeting of The IMCS . . .

a summarised report

Some 20 members of the Society attended the first of the regular meetings held at the Liberal Club in London on Saturday the 13th of September.

Yasha BERESINER, welcomed those present and proposed that a formal committee be formed by election and nomination of officers. He then Proposed Mr. Malcolm Young as Chairman of the Society, he was seconded by Mr. Bruce Marsden, Mr. Young was unanimously elected. He took the chair and the remaining officers were elected.

Mr. Rodney Shirley was proposed as President of the Society by Mr. Malcolm Young and seconded by Mr. S.F. Webb and was duly elected. He was invited to preside over the meeting.

In addressing the meeting formally for the first time as president Mr. Shirley said how much he welcomed the formation of the Society and that it was a great credit to the steering committee members that they had accomplished so much already. There was, he felt, a real need for a forum where map collectors could come together and learn from each other. He welcomed too the participation of dealers in their capacity as cartographic enthusiasts and collectors and also academics and researchers whose interests spread into the allied fields of topography, geography, history and conservation. The response from overseas collectors to the launching of the Society was especially gratifying, and it was one of the Committee's aims to foster links with foreign clubs and societies. There were, Mr. Shirley said, a growing number of devotees and collectors of old maps throughout the world, and he hoped that the IMCS could play an active role in bringing their interests together.

The Society now heard reports from the various officers who had been fulfilling their respective functions on a pro-tem basis since June. The Membership Secretary, Richard Davies reported that the Society had 46 members, 20 from

outside the UK; the treasurer, Mr. Stephen Webb reported that the current balance stood at approximately £400 — The Editor, Mr. Beresiner reported that 200 copies of the Society's Newsletter No.1 had been distributed and he requested articles and material for the forthcoming issue.

The reports were followed by a general discussion with several decisions being taken and which are to be incorporated into a "constitution" for the Society to be published in due course.

The members broke for tea and a general chat and returned to the lecture hall for Mr. Marsden's illustrated talk entitled "Before the Map — Some Reasons for the Making of Maps". Among the many interesting points raised by Mr. Marsden were the change in initiative brought about by the introduction of printing. Prior to this maps were nearly always prepared on a commission basis; but afterwards, more and more came to be produced by entrepreneurs and publishers on speculation. Thus, although we always associate the name of John Speed with the atlas produced in 1611-12 and subsequently, the actual work that he did for that atlas is very little — apart, that is, from bringing together the necessary people. Mr Marsden also reviewed some of the reasons for producing atlases most conclusions regarding which can only be made with the benefit of hindsight; so we may be putting reasons that have little basis in fact, in the minds of mapmakers. The prefaces and introductions to atlases provide much useful information with regard to the compiler's intentions and Mr Marsden would like to hear of any interesting examples especially from Latin and German text publications. This was followed by a general discussion with many questions being put to Mr. Marsden.

The meeting ended with members displaying some of the maps they had brought to the meeting and agreeing to meet regularly every two months in different parts of the Country and hold one large annual Convention. The committee members agreed to meet in Oxford on October 23rd and the next meeting for the members to be held in London on Saturday 29th November.

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES:

It is not always possible to be up to date with all the various auctions being held throughout Europe in which maps, atlases, globes and related material are offered for sale.

The Editor of this newsletter is in desperate search for a member to contribute regularly to a column to be entitled "Auction Reports". Please let me know if you can help: meanwhile here are the "obvious" auction houses to whom you may wish to apply for catalogues relating to map sales:

* Bonhams — Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH.

* Christie's — 8 King Street, St. Jame's, London SW1Y 6QT (This address covers all the many Christie's Branches in the UK).

* James Norwich Auctions Ltd., 33 Timberhill, Norwich.

* Phillips — Blenstock House, 7 Blenheim Street, New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AS

* Richard Nicholson of CHESTER — Stoneydale, Christleton, Chester CH3 7AG

* Sotheby's — 34 & 35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA. (This address covers all the many Sotheby Branches in the UK)

* Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd., 395 Strand, London WC2R 0LX

The N.A.M.C.C., Chester, Saturday October 4th . . .

a report by Chris MOORE

The Grosvenor Hotel became a treasure house — of antique maps — last Saturday, for the first meeting of the Northern Antique Map Collectors' Conference, to which collectors came from all over the country. No fewer than 17 rare Saxtons, nearly all more than 400 years old, and 30 or more Speeds graced the Pitt Suite as members considered the work of the two greatest English cartographers.

The conference began with a paper on Christopher Saxton, the Yorkshire Surveyor, by J. Brian Harley. While not diminishing his achievement Dr. Harley exploded a few myths: Saxton was hardly an innovator as his maps were produced towards the **end** of the European cartographic renaissance; and Saxton was essentially a local surveyor whose activities for most of his career were confined to a small area round his south Yorkshire home. It was the patronage of Seckford, the Elizabethan courtier, which provided the opportunity for his magnum opus, and perhaps the most remarkable achievement was the completion of the survey in the space of seven years up to 1579 — compared with the seventy years which

the first ordnance survey took nearly three centuries later.

John Speed, the Cheshire historian, cartographer, compiler, editor and notable sire (twelve sons and six daughters) from Farndon, was the subject of Rodney W Shirley's talk in the afternoon. While Speed relied on the surveys of Saxton and one or two other early mapmakers, his atlas had the added distinction of one or two town plans on each county plate — two-thirds of which he surveyed himself. Mr Shirley waxed enthusiastically about his subject, citing the 150 years of publication as evidence of Speed's greatness and popularity.

Mrs. Heather Lawrence, co-author of a recent major work on Saxton, joined the speakers in a final open forum in which the collectors discussed the moot question of the colouring of old maps, paper deterioration, and the criteria chosen for collections — so often the county(ies) of birth and associations. J. Alan Hulme, the Chester dealer who organised the conference, expressed the hope that it might be the first of a series: the evident enjoyment of the gathering certainly indicated such a likelihood.

To the Membership Secretary, Richard Davies, Esq., I.M.C.S., Woodstock, Flyford Flavell
Worcestershire, WR7 4BS. Tel: (038682)619.

I would like to become a member of the I.M.C.S. and herewith enclose my registration fee of £2/\$5
plus my membership fee for the first year of £8/\$20. Please make cheques payable to the I.M.C.S.

I can communicate in the following languages:

	Speak	Write
Address.	French	
.	Italian	
Telephone No	Spanish	
Particular Interests	German	
I am a collector/dealer/collector-dealer*	Others	

I do/do not * welcome correspondence

I am/am not * willing to take office in the Society

I can/can not * contribute articles/news items to the journal

I wish/wish not * to advertise in the journal. Do send me
further details.

Signed

Date

* Delete as necessary.

