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Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the  
International Map  
Collectors' Society

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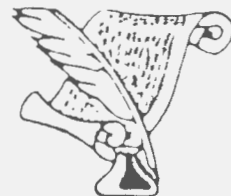
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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
IMCoS List of Officers .....	2
Editorial News and Views by Yasha Beresiner .....	3
Letters to the Editor .....	3
The New World in an Old Cage by Don McGuirk Jr., M.D. ....	5
Collecting Maps of the British Isles by John Beech .....	10

# Editorial News and Views



YASHA BERESINER

I HAVE enjoyed and very much appreciated acting as Editor for the journal for seventeen issues, since the inception of our Society and now I am equally delighted to pass on these responsibilities to Steve Luck.

I believe sincerely that change and progress go hand-in-hand and, considering Steve's track record with IMCoS to date, his irrepressible energy and great enthusiasm — I feel that there could have been no better choice for a new Editor of the journal.

At 31, Steve can look back at a varied and interesting career, with much of the last decade intensively spent surrounded by maps. As a keen enthusiast in history and geography, Steve was delighted by the opportunity presented to him when R. V. Tooley Ltd. opened their doors in Museum Street in the mid seventies. In that organisation, he was soon promoted to Associate Director. The experience he gained allowed him a well-deserved one third shareholding in the new Tooley, Adam and Co. Ltd.

Steve considers it a rare privilege to have legendary R. Tooley as his step-grandfather and feels this has given him an edge in the special expertise he has

developed on the maps by Saxton and other early English cartographers. The Editorship of our journal will allow Steve to exploit many of his latent writing talents, which will no doubt be reflected in the future issues of our magazine. His spare time activities include tennis, sailing and windsurfing as well as skiing, an activity which he has taken sufficiently seriously to become an instructor in recent years.

May I make my last appeal to you all to support Steve in his new endeavour as you have your previous editor, to keep constantly in touch with him and feed him with the material that is so desperately needed to keep our journal up to standard.

On behalf of the membership and its officers, I wish Steve . . . LUCK!

P.S. A word of deep-felt thanks to a man that has remained behind the scenes for most of the period that I have been editor: My good friend George Beal, he has been my guide and mentor in the composition and sub-editing for the last 10 issues at least.

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## Letters to the Editor

### *Editors Note:*

*This letter, addressed to our secretary, should cause some interesting reaction.*

Dear Mr Luck,

My apologies for overlooking my 1984 sub. — enclosed please find £12 cheque. I blame the oversight on my wife's recent serious illness and hospitalisation for two months before recovery.

While writing I would like to comment on the size of the sub. and the apparent paucity of "bulletin" articles and illustrations which is almost the only return a collecting member receives: no doubt dealer members find adequate recompense for their £12 as is evidenced from the number of circulars I have received since my address was published, against my request, in your list of members.

I am an ex President of the British Society of Australian Philately, with 420 members, and am also a member of the Australian New South Wales sister society. In both cases a bi-monthly "bulletin" is issued to all members averaging twenty or more sheets with numerous excellent photostat illustrations. The subscription to each society is £5 a year.

I see that IMCoS has 360 members resulting in an annual subscription income of £4,320 while the BSAP with 420 members has an income of only £2,100 (less than half!) yet the latter gives *far* better value to its members!

Might I suggest that without reducing its overall income IMCoS could double the subscription of its

dealer members and halve that of collector (only) members? The use of a Xerox copier for the bulletin would greatly reduce costs and permit more illustrated articles if these were forthcoming.

If you publish this letter it will be interesting to see the comments of other members.

Yours Sincerely,

(A. W. Rowntree).

Dear Sir,

Recently I bought a copy of George Bradshaw's "Map of the Railways of Great Britain". It is a large map measuring 3½ by 6½ and was published on the 14 January 1839, folded into hard leather covers with tables of the gradients of the main lines. I understand that Bradshaw's map is the first general map showing all the rail routes throughout the country.

Can any reader tell me more about George Bradshaw and the cartographical development of the maps of British railways? I feel sure that some IMCoS members are rail enthusiasts as well, and can pont me towards previous writings on the prolific early railway period, and railway maps, up to say the mid-1840s.

Any comments or suggestions gratefully received.

Yours faithfully,

Rodney W. Shirley.

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# The New World in an Old Cage

Don McGuirk Jr., M.D.

## The 1511 Ptolemy Geography

**R**ECTO of the first leaf in the 1511 Ptolemy Geography is the statement “The book of Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria on Geography with maps and a mappemundi, and with a supplement” “additione” “containing the places discovered by recent navigators” (after Harrisse). This “additione” apparently is the untitled double paged cordiform world map, which is the subject of the following discussion.

The 1511 edition of Ptolemy was supervised by Bernard (o) Sylva (no) or Sylvanus of Eboli. He, therefore, is credited with being the creator of this “additione”. Sylvanus’ interest in the Ptolemy Geography prior to 1511 is documented by Harrisse, who believed “the finest Latin manuscript Ptolemy in existence is the one preserved in the Paris National Library. It is signed ‘Ex officina Bernardi Ebolite in anno 1490’” (i.e. Sylvanus).<sup>1</sup>

Sylvanus dedicated his edition to Andreas Matheus Aquaevivus, Duke of Adria, Lord of Eboli, and within this dedication declared himself the author. Lloyd Brown felt this was an exaggerated claim, as most of the text is a re-editing of the earlier Jacobus Angelus translation.<sup>2</sup>

Sylvanus stated “When I considered that Ptolemy, with more care than any other geographer, had determined the relative positions and distances of the places, I was astonished that his maps only occasionally corresponded to the experience of the mariners of our time.”

However, to quote Nordenskiöld, “As an edition of Ptolemy, the work of Sylvanus is quite worthless on account of the arbitrary alteration of Ptolemy’s date for longitude and latitude . . . The merit, however, must be conceded to Sylvanus that he was the first to break with the blind confidence that almost every scholar in the beginning of the sixteenth century has in the atlas of the old Alexandrian geography.”<sup>3</sup>

Sylvanus’ plight was summarized by Johnson when he stated that this “typifies the dilemma of the Humanist scholar, depending on the unquestioning faith in antiquity, yet unable to reconcile this with the new mariners’ observations.”<sup>4</sup>

Very little mention is made of the recent geographical discoveries within the text. The circumnavigation of Africa is summarized in a single sentence, and no direct references are made to the transatlantic discoveries. Apparently, even in the enlightened Venice of that time, the true importance of these voyages had yet to be appreciated.

## The “Additione”

The “additione’s” fine craftsmanship has been recognized and praised by such historians of cartography as Nordenskiöld,<sup>5</sup> Bagrow,<sup>6</sup> Brown<sup>7</sup> and Woodward.<sup>8</sup> Lelewel<sup>9</sup> not only complimented it, but also described it as “Le monde nouveau enferme dans une vieille cage” — the new world locked up in an

old cage. This suggests that Lelewel looked upon the “additione” as an attempt to contain the new discoveries within the old cage of a Ptolemy mappemundi.

The map has had a few detractors, including the Labanoff Catalogue<sup>10</sup> and Raidel.<sup>11</sup>

Through the last century, this Sylvanus map has received many labels, including: 1. first map to use the cordiform projection, 2. first western printed map to show Japan, 3. first map to be printed in two colours, 4. first printed map to show the name Labrador. Statements 1. and 2. are, however, incorrect; and statements 3. and 4. may be incorrect.

There have been several articles describing the physical means by which this map was printed. Woodward<sup>12</sup> and Beck<sup>13</sup> have complete commentaries on this subject. Much of the conjecture regarding this printing revolves around the fact that the name “come” in Asia is printed in both black and red, the only placename so done, and apparently a mistake by the printer.

The projection for this map is called cordiform, heart-shaped, or homeother. This projection was first described by Ptolemy. He apparently never used the projection himself, preferring the conical projection. The “additione” is not in a true heart-shaped form because the space between latitude forty south and the south pole has been left uncompleted or truncated. This projection was further defined and illustrated by Johannes Werner’s treatise on projections in 1514. It may also be considered an early example of the Bonne projection, not formally developed until the eighteenth century. Depending on definition, one could claim the Waldseemüller map of 1507 was cordiform or that the first true cordiform map still extant is by Apianus 1530. More on this projection can be found in George Kish’s article on the cosmographic heart.<sup>14</sup>

## General Description

The traditional twelve winds are pictured around the map. They are of ancient Greek origin. Three signs of the zodiac are noted along the right border. As described by Thomas Suarez,<sup>14</sup> these represent the tropic of *Cancer*, the tropic of *Capricorn*, and *Libra*’s scales representing the equinoctialis, constantly equal night and day at the equator.

The “additione” extends from 80 north latitude to 40 south latitude. Sylvanus excludes that part of the world between 250 and 290 meridian. Sylvanus appears to arrive at this by merely extending the usual degrees of a Ptolemy mappemundi (0-180) by 70 to east and west.

The notations around the map warrant comment. On the left upper corner is occidens, the setting sun or west. The right upper corner is marked oriens, the rising sun or east. On the right side, the latitude parallels are marked by M.P. 62½, etc. The small phrase at the equator may be translated one degree of longitude and latitude at this parallel consists of 62½ miles. Thus, one degree at the equator was 500 stadia or furlongs, each equaling one eighth of a mile

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each. As the distance from the equator increases, the miles within a degree decreases (see map).

On the left side of the map, above the equator, are seven climates. Four climates are found below. The term climate is derived from the Greek word for inclination. The hours of the longest day of the year at various latitudes are also noted. Surprisingly, climates two through seven above the equator are in arabic numerals. The first climate north and the first two climates south are in roman numerals. The final two climates south are numbered by letters in abbreviated Latin. But the climates on the 1511 Ptolemeic mappemundi are all in roman numerals. It would almost appear that on this masterpiece of renaissance printing, the publisher, Giacomo Penzio, simply ran out of roman numerals.

### Geographic Presentations: Europe and Africa

The geographic changes noted on the map are of primary interest. Europe shows a corrected Scotland. Africa is shown to be circumnavigable. The old traditional ptolemeic names are used on the African continent with only a few "modern" exceptions, i.e. "melinde" and "caput bone spei" (cape of good hope).

### Asia

The eastern border of Asia is left uncompleted. This was the common practice of earlier ptolemeic world maps. Asia's eastern border ended not with a defined shoreline but at the final meridian of the map. The only previous exception to this in a Ptolemy Geography was the Ruysch world map of 1507. The Sylvanus "additione" is the only "modern" world map in a Ptolemy not to show a totally complete east Asian shoreline.

The name Gruenlant is shown in the northeast of Asia. It is interesting to note that there may be a second Greenland (engrolat) on the "additione" above the Scandinavian peninsula. There are four plausible explanations. First, Sylvanus may have just copied engrolat from a prototype map, not realizing that engrolat was that map's designation for Greenland, and then placed his concept of this same Greenland on the Asian coast, perhaps after Ruysch. Second, Sylvanus was not sure of the location of Greenland, and so placed the name on the map twice. This was not an uncommon practice at the time, i.e. to have the same distant land with several presentations. Indeed, Madagascar appears to have two separate presentations on the Sylvanus "additione" (comorbina in. and Madax). Third, Sylvanus knew that the Greenland of Eric the Red was north of Scandinavia and placed it there. The Greenland (Greunlant) noted on the Northeast coast of Asia represented the discovery of Gaspar Corte Real. DeGois states the name Corte Real gave his discovery was "Terra Verde" (green land).<sup>16</sup> This conceivably could be the same Y. Verdi (green island) noted on the La Cosa map. Forth, engrolat may not be Greenland at all, but another land altogether (see Nordenskiold, tabula XXX, where engroneland and Gronelandia both appear on the same map).<sup>17</sup>

### Northern Transatlantic Discoveries

The first new land noted to the west is an island labelled "terra laboratorus," land of the laborer. From notes on several early manuscript maps<sup>18</sup> we learn that the land was first sighted by a laborer or lavrador (landholder or farmer) from the Azores and so was

named after him. This Azorean was probably Joao Fernandez who received letters patent from Kings Manuel of Portugal and Henry VII of England to discover new lands. Many historians (for example, Morison) feel the land Fernandez discovered was Greenland. However, the insular configuration on the "additione" does not depict Greenland very well. Labrador is similarly depicted as a small island on the Fries' 1525 Carta Marina and the 1540 Vavassore world maps. Although much larger in size, the Labradors on the 1564 Ortelius, the 1576 Gilbert, and the 1593 deJode world maps are also similar in configuration. That these last three superficially resemble the southern aspect of Baffin Island is probably only coincidental.

West of terra laboratorus is another small land-mass, regalis domus. This land is left unfinished to the west, leaving the impression that the rest is yet to be explored. It is the only continental land of North America to be shown.

On one early manuscript map<sup>19</sup> is the legend This land Gaspar Corte Real of Portugal first discovered and brought home men of the forest and white bears. Therein is a multitude of beast, birds, and fish. He was shipwrecked in the following year and never returned. The Cantino map of c.1502 has the following legend next to the same land discovered by command of his most excellent majesty D. Manuel, King of Portugal, by Gaspar Corte Real, a gentleman of the royal household, who sent thence a ship with both male and female natives, and stayed behind, but never returned . . . there are many mast trees.

Many maps of that time named this land Terra Corte Real. Surprisingly, the translation of Corte Real and regalis domus may both be *royal household*. It appears that for some unknown reason Sylvanus latinized Corte Real's name. There is one interesting possible explanation. This same land was discovered by John Cabot for the King of England several years prior to Corte Real. On another early map<sup>20</sup> this land is called "terra de los Ingles" which could be loosely translated as domain of the King of England. All this becomes significant when one remembers that although Cabot's discoveries were for the King of England, he was a citizen of Venice. Apparently then claiming this land for the King of England he not only planted the banner of St. George for his sovereign, but also the banner of St. Mark as a remembrance of Venice. Additionally, some Venetians would have heard that on the return of Real's expedition, captured natives had in their

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possession a pair of silver earrings made in Venice and an Italian sword. Considering this, these Venetians may have taken great exception to naming this land after the Portuguese explorer Gaspar Corte Real. On the other hand, Sylvanus, by placing this land east of the "line of demarcation," i.e. on the Portuguese side of the new world, all but tells us this land is terra Corte Real. Sylvanus may have opted for the name *regalis domus* so that the Venetians could interpret this as domain of the king (of England), others interpret it as domain of the king (of Portugal) (note Cantino's designation, Terra del Rey de Portugal), while he retained its true meaning.

### Southern Transatlantic Discoveries

Further south on the "additione" are noted two islands. They are *Ispania insu(la)* and *terra cuba*, the discoveries of Christopher Columbus. Columbus called the first island *la Isla Espanola*, the Spanish isle, reportedly because its beauty and grandeur reminded him of Spain. His first name for Cuba was *Juana*.

The use of the term *terra cuba* is worthy of comment. Columbus ostensibly claimed that Cuba was part of the Asian mainland, *Mangi*, (the province of south China, so named by Marco Polo) because Cuba's land mass was so large that it could not be an island. He went so far as to have his men sign a document to this fact. Therefore, this was *terra cuba* rather than *insula cuba*. However, most of Columbus' contemporaries made this land an island on their maps, even Juan de la Cosa, who accompanied him.

A theory by HARRISSE would make the "additione" the first map in a Ptolemy Geography to delineate Cuba.<sup>21</sup> His argument centers on the placenames within the landmass west of Spanola on the Ruysch map. At first glance this is Cuba. However, the landmass is not named, and in HARRISSE's opinion, the placenames do not match up well with names on other contemporary maps of Cuba, but do match up with names on the apparent southeast coast of the North American mainland.

The only new landmass of continental proportion noted on the "additione" is labelled "*Terra Sanctae Crucis*", so named by Pedro Cabral. Cabral's discovery was quite by accident as he sailed wide of Africa in his circumnavigation of it, on his way to India. The landing occurred Easter week of 1500. He reportedly named this land *Ilha de Vera Cruz*, Island of the True Cross, because the following Sunday was the Feast of the Discovery of the True Cross. This quickly became *Terra Sanctae Crucis* on most early Portuguese maps, as opposed to Brazil on many early Spanish maps. (The name Brazil was derived from the dyewood collected there.)

The southern most aspect of this continental landmass is left uncompleted. Its western boundary lies in that part of the world not included on the map.

There is only one other phrase on this continent, *canibalis romon*. The first word is in reference to cannibals. The word has its derivation from the natives which practiced that act, the Caribs or Carails, from the area of Caribana on the northern aspect of the South American continent. Carib supposedly meant daring or brave.

Cannibals were first encountered by Columbus, probably on Santa Maria de Guadelupe or Dominica. Columbus wrote in August of 1498 "Deterime de ander a las islas de los Caribalis (*sic*)."<sup>22</sup> This same

phrase, island of the cannibals, is repeated on many early maps, including Cantino, Canerio, and Ruysch. The author would agree with Chiapelli<sup>23</sup> that the transplanting of this name from an island to the mainland of South America was probably most stimulated by the writings of Amerigo Vespucci.

Vespucci was a member of an expedition, apparently under the command of Goncalo Coelha, and sent by King Manuel of Portugal in 1501 to follow up on the discoveries of Cabral. Later Vespucci would write a terrifying story regarding one of his shipmates being killed, roasted and eaten by the natives. Apparently this story was first pictorially represented on the Kunstman II map. The picture of a man on a spit over a fire is noted on the southern continental mainland.

This author has searched in vain for a simple explanation regarding the word *romon*. Several theories are possible. One speculation regarding the word *romon* is that it is a poorly executed abbreviation of the phrase "*vivitur multis in comune*". The Ruysch map has *canibalos in(sula)* noted but there is no direct reference to cannibals in the placenames on his southern continent. Ruysch does refer to their presence, however, in the paragraph under *Terra Sanctae Crucis*. Here he discusses the natives who lived on this new world, their customs of having no king or religion, eating captives, and living in common (*vivitur multis in comune*). If the printer had mistakenly used an r instead of a c, i.e. mistakenly *romon*, instead of *comon*., this theory could easily be fact. That there are other, stronger, reasons to suspect that Sylvanus used the Ruysch map in preparing his "additione" lends some credence to this theory. There is also the amazing coincidence that this same mistake, i.e. an r being used in place of a c, occurred in the reference to cannibals on the 1513 "Admiral's Map". Here the island of the cannibals is designated "*y. de los ranibabalis*".

Most of the transatlantic delineations of the "additione" appear to have a common ancestry with other maps of that time which HARRISSE referred to as Type 1.<sup>24</sup> These all omitted the larger land mass northwest of Columbus' discoveries, conceivably the southeastern aspect of the North American continent. Other examples of this type 1 map include Kunstman II, the King chart, and the 1540 Vavassore world map.

### Japan

The image of Japan on the "additione" is most interesting. This is the first presentation of Japan in a Ptolemy Geography. On the Ruysch map there is a summary of Marco Polo's description of a large independent island, *Sipangus* (Japan), giving its location and describing its inhabitants. But Ruysch did not include Japan on his map because "as the islands discovered by the Spanish navigators exactly occupy this space, I have not ventured to lay down this island, presuming that the land called *Hispaniola* by the Spaniards must be *Sipangus*, especially as everything written about the former, is applicable to the latter, excepting the idolatry."

How did Sylvanus come to use this particular outline for Japan? Most earlier maps which pictured Japan presented it as a long rectangular island. There is a marked similarity between Sylvanus' Japan and the landmass just west of Spagnola on the Ruysch map. We see in both examples a triangular landmass,



with its apex in a southeasterly direction and its base unknown. The longitudes and latitudes of these islands are similar. Sylvanus appears to have come to the simple conclusion that if Hispaniola was not Sipangus, the island west of this was the next most likely candidate.

### Prototype Map

It appears likely that the Ruysch world map was used by Sylvanus in formulating his "additione". It is also likely that a map of the HARRISSE type 1. category was used by Sylvanus. Another printed world map in this category is the 1540 Vavassore.

But Vavassore is known to have copied other cartographers' maps. His copy of the 1545 Vopell map is just one example. Could it be that Vavassore copied a map which predated the 1511 "additione"? The geography of the map would suggest that this is a correct assumption, as no new geographical discoveries after 1502 are depicted. There is one map that could be both the prototype map which Sylvanus used and the pre-1511 map which Vavassore copied. It is the "lost" 1508 Bordone world map.

HARRISSE states, "In a privilege granted to Benedetto Bordone, designated therein as a professional miniaturist, on the 19th of September 1508, by the Senate of Venice, we read the following statement

Who with great labour and industry, and no little expense, applied himself for a long time to imagining and printing the entire country of Italy, and also the mappamundi in spherical form (in forma rotunda) finely executed, new, and of marvellous use for all those who take an interest in such objects. <sup>25</sup> "In forma rotunda" could easily be translated in round form. The above description could easily apply to the "Vavassore" map.

The similarities between the "Vavassore" and the "additione" are numerous. They are both woodcuts with the placenames printed into place by type, an unusual practice. They were both printed in Venice, and their presentations of mountains, rivers, and shorelines are similar. Of the 250+ placenames on the Sylvanus map, all but a very small handful can be directly attributable to the 450+ placenames on the "Vavassore" map. The formats on both maps similarly "round" in shape, having seven climates above and four climates below the equator. A small identical monument stands within Lybia on both maps. Greenland is noted on the northeast coast of Asia on both maps.

The differences between the maps are many, and most suggest the earlier appearance of the "Vavassore" map. Scotland is not corrected on the "Vavassore" but is on the Sylvanus. "Vavassore" presents the world in 190 degrees while Sylvanus extends it to 320 degrees. The name "come" on the Sylvanus map can easily be derived from "comedi moti" on the "Vavassore" map, while the reverse, although possible, is less likely. The "Vavassore" does not physically represent the discoveries of Corte Real while the Sylvanus most surely does. "Vavassore" extends the southern limits of South America to 25 degrees south, while Sylvanus extends it to 35 degrees south. "Vavassore" gives little detail to the presentations of Cuba, Hispaniola, Japan, Java Major and Java Minor. Sylvanus gives thorough details. The use of red ink for some of the placenames on the Sylvanus could be seen as an improvement on the "Vavassore" idea. The reverse would not

be true.

There is only one 1540 "Vavassore" world map which does not have his name imprinted on it. This is in the British Library and has the title "il tuto mundo tereno". Curiously, it is attached to a map of Italy, also "after" the "Vavassore" map of Italy, but again does not have Vavassore's name imprinted on it. (Remember that the Bordone world map was printed at the same time as his map of Italy).

Although all the above information only culminates in supposition, it appears not unlikely that the 1540 "Vavassore" world map is a copy of the Bordone 1508 world map, and that this Bordone map was the prototype map used by Sylvanus to create his "additione". That "il tuto mundo tereno" may actually be the 1508 Bordone will require further study.

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# Collecting Maps of the British Isles

BY JOHN BEECH

OUR Society is privileged to have as its President a person so accomplished and respected in the field of cartographic history as Rodney Shirley. We are especially fortunate that he has chosen not to be merely a distinguished figurehead, but has thrown his considerable energies into assisting in the planning and organisation of the Society's affairs and events.

Having a man of Rodney's stature so readily available, it was somewhat surprising to learn at the York meeting that this was only the second occasion that he had been called upon to address the Society as a speaker. On the evidence of his talk in York let us hope there will be many more such occasions.

The theme of Rodney's talk was collecting general maps of the British Isles, a subject on which he is an acknowledged expert and has written an authoritative book. In his introductory remarks however he described himself somewhat disarmingly but not very completely a "just a collector of old maps"! He reminded us what a rich field collecting general maps offered. In any standard county bibliography there would not be more than 35 or 40 county maps listed pre-1750. But nearly 350 general maps of England or the British Isles were published in the same period.

Although most of the talk was concerned principally with collectable maps of the British Isles, Rodney showed us facsimiles of two very early maps which were to have a great influence on later printed maps. The so-called "Gough Map" of c.1360 held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford is a manuscript map on sheepskin which, in Rodney's view, "was streets ahead of anything else around at that time." Its depiction of roads for example is adjudged to be astonishingly accurate. Copies of the Gough map were undoubtedly used by the compilers of the first "modern" printed maps of Britain. Mercator's great wall map of 1564, of which only four copies are known to exist, was a prototype followed by Ortelius and others, and when it was coupled with the results of Christopher Saxton's work set the main outline and pattern for maps of the British Isles for many years to come.

In the main body of his talk Rodney concentrated on collecting "themes" including the shape of the British Isles, maps as pictures of history, navigation by sea, routes inland, science and cartography, and the decorative elements in British maps.

These themes he illustrated with original maps on display and some excellent slides many of which had been taken by David Webb, the Society Photographer.

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On the shape of the British Isles, Rodney took us through the improvements in accuracy and definition which occurred between the early Ptolomaic woodcuts of Waldseemüller (1513) and Munster (c.1540) and the first surveys conducted by the Ordnance Survey at the end of the eighteenth century. We were reminded that until the O.S. began its monumental task, no proper survey of the whole of the British Isles had been carried out since the time of Saxton.

Maps throwing light on our island's historical background included those reflecting Ptolomaic concepts, Roman tribes, and Anglo-Saxon Britain: the latter exemplified by Blaeu's outstanding "Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy" after Speed. Another group of British maps showed portraits of kings and queens such as the general maps by Keere (James I), Desgranges (James II), Allard (William and Mary), Homann (Anne and George I) and Seutter (George II). The most comprehensive of all was Chatelain's map of 1708 depicting no less than fifty-four portraits of monarchs from Egbert in 801 to Queen Anne who ascended the throne in 1701.

Sea charts showing the British Isles were originally derived from portolan charts, and these were copied, among others, by Bordone and Honter. From about 1650 many new Dutch sea charts made their appearance, typified by engravings of Doncker and Van Keulen and the English plagiarist John Seller.

Although post roads had existed since the 1530s, it is surprising that no general road maps were produced until the mid-17th century — a phenomenon for which Rodney could find no satisfactory explanation. Ogilby's route maps were published in 1675,

and their derivatives are well known, but the first general road maps were in fact produced in the 1660s, by Carr and by Stent. Another interesting type of map was the "distance" map, based on the now lost wall map of John Adams of 1677. Towns were joined by straight lines, each marking the computed mileage between locations. Several derivative examples were shown, one of which with views of ports at the sides was printed as late as 1797.

Rodney described and illustrated several other collecting themes including scientific maps, fanciful maps and British maps with exceptionally fine and decorative cartouches. He ended his talk with examples of several large folding maps of the early 19th century. One of these was the detailed map of Britain by Nichols, Priestley and Walker dating from 1831 and showing canals, railways, and mineral workings. This superbly engraved and hand-coloured map was published in Wakefield. The talk concluded with an attractive map of the British Isles produced in 1949 by the National Geographic Magazine, handsomely illustrated with side borders, portraits, coats-of-arms, town views and local scenes. This showed that the art of decorative map-making was still alive; moreover, as Rodney paid only 20p for it a few weeks ago, it demonstrated that cost need be no bar to collectors nowadays.

This was a most entertaining and enlightening talk which I am sure those of us present hope will be repeated in the not too distant future. In the meantime we can look forward to Rodney Shirley's contribution on world maps at the September Symposium in the British Library.

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