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International Map Collectors' Society

Winter 1985 – Volume 5 No. 4 (CN21)

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Invitation to Private Viewing

The British Library has kindly offered to arrange a private viewing for IMCoS members of the new 1986 exhibition 'The city in maps'.

This will be on the evening of the opening day, Wednesday 4 June, between 6 and 8 pm, in the King's Library. The evening will comprise reception, buffet, and access to the Map Gallery for viewing throughout. The curators responsible for mounting the exhibition will be on hand to discuss the plans and maps exhibited.

The Library has also extended an invitation to the British Cartographic Society, which will provide a good opportunity to get together with a fellow society.

Applications should be made as soon as possible, together with a remittance of £5 per person, to help cover the cost of the buffet, drinks and administration.

Write to your Treasurer, Geoffrey Ramsden, at:

'Holdfast End'
Holdfast Lane
Haslemere, Surrey
UK, GU27 2EU.

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EDITORIAL

Notes from The Chairman

Members I feel sure, will be very pleased to receive a copy of the International Map Dealers Directory which is published jointly by IMCoS and *The Map Collector*. The directory will be sent to all members (Paid-up) *free of charge*. The published price is £3.50 plus postage.

The Society like similar organisations is now facing the problems of increases in costs, especially of printing, artwork and postage. We have increased the size of the Journal and the special Symposium/Map Fair issue. This in turn means extra weight and of course additional postage. Further costs have been incurred due to the use of airmail for overseas members. The Committee has decided to increase our subscription rate which has not changed for three years. The new rates are listed below, but I would like to suggest to members, that the Society and members are better off if advantage is taken of the three year subscription at the reduced rate of £40.

The Society has had a very successful September Symposium in Helsinki. Our thanks go to Aarno Piltz and the members of Chartarum Amici for their friendly welcome and for the interesting programme provided for us. We hope to see many of their members at IMCoS meetings.

The UK members enjoyed a November visit to The Ordnance Survey headquarters at Southampton, our thanks go to Mr Baynes and his staff at the Ordnance Survey and to Geoffrey Ramsden for arranging the meeting.

Plans are now being made for a meeting in the North of England during March or April.

On Wednesday 4th June, the Society and The British Cartographic Society have been invited to

a special reception of 'The city in maps' exhibition by the British Library. A buffet reception has been planned at a cost of £5 per head, details are included elsewhere in this Journal.

The 1986 Symposium is being held in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society, London, on Saturday, June 21. The Map Fair and Exhibition will be held at the Forum Hotel. The theme of the Symposium, Map Fair and Exhibition will be 'Explorers' Maps'. The Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards will be held at the Royal Overseas League.

The Barcelona Symposium is taking place in the first week of October '86. Details will be published early next year.

I would like to thank Clifford Stephenson for his generous gift of a map that can be sold, in order that we can have a map printed on the cover of our Journal for 1986. The Society will receive at least £100. Clifford hopes that other members might like to offer a map for 1987 and subsequent years.

Membership Secretary

Caroline Batchelor is now in full command and has taken over from Ray Hutchison. It has been found more practical to have the Membership Secretary located in the London area, where computer records are kept. I would like to thank Ray for his assistance and Caroline for the enthusiastic manner she has filled her new appointment.

Secretary

I am sorry to report that John Beech, one of the original committee, has asked to be relieved of his

Membership – New Rates

As from 1st January 1986

Registration Fee (to cover initial administration costs)	£3
Annual Membership	£15
Three-year Membership	£40
Junior Membership (Under 21 or full-time student)	£6
Public Body or Institutional Annual Membership (will receive three copies of every issue of the Journal)	£20

duties, due to the increased pressure of work in his new Swindon job. John will be missed, we greatly appreciate the help he has given us especially guiding us through constitutional matters.

Faith Ashwood, our Advertising Manager, has offered to stand in meanwhile. I would like to

thank her for offering to keep the Society's affairs in good order at such short notice.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Seasons Greetings wherever you may be.

Malcolm Young

PROFILE

Caroline Batchelor has joined the IMCoS Committee as Membership Secretary from September 1985.

For the last 20 years Caroline has led a nomadic existence residing overseas with her husband Peter during the course of his duties for Unilever, the internationally based company. The Batchelors have, however, now moved back to the U.K. permanently. Caroline first became interested in maps while she was living in the Philippines: she discovered that they made lovely presents! As her collection began to grow Caroline decided to specialise and maps of Africa became her main collecting interest as she had lived in Zambia, Malawi and Nigeria.

Whilst Caroline was searching for maps of Venezuela to adorn her husband's office she happened to buy an edition of *The Map Collector*. This contained an advertisement for IMCoS which she immediately replied to. Having received so much personal pleasure from all the events which IMCoS has organised she is very keen to promote the Society and enlist as many new members as possible. Caroline can be contacted over membership matters c/o 83 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AL.

Editor's note: A photograph of Caroline, taken at the British Library during the recent 'Mapping the Commonwealth' seminar, appeared in the Autumn 1985 issue of the *Journal*.

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Visit to Ordnance Survey, Southampton

by Terry Kay

A party of IMCoS members visited the Ordnance Survey at their headquarters in Southampton on Friday, 8th November, 1985. The visit to the Ordnance Survey, who are the official publisher of survey maps and plans of England, Scotland and Wales, was attended by about 15 to 20 members. It commenced with a tour of the Record Map Library. This library holds about 750,000 current and superseded Ordnance Survey maps. Although principally used for staff reference purposes, the collection can be consulted by members of the public by prior appointment. Due to bomb damage during the Second World War the holdings are not complete. A fire in 1841 at the Tower of London (where the Ordnance Survey was originally based) also destroyed many of the earlier one inch maps. In this respect it is fortunate that a virtually comprehensive set of Ordnance Survey maps is held at the British Library.

The legal responsibilities of the Ordnance Survey to produce large scale maps and plans were explained by Graham Smith and Liz Dean of the Public Relations department. These legally defined responsibilities are to reproduce plans at the 1:1250 scale (about 50 inches to the mile) for

urban areas; plans at the 1:2500 scale (about 25 inches to the mile) for rural areas; and to reproduce maps at the 1:10,000 scale (approximately 6 inches to the mile) for areas of mountain and moorland. In the nineteenth century the Ordnance Survey published large scale plans of towns and cities at three scales, the largest of which were at the 1:500 scale (10.56 feet to one mile). An example of a 1:500 scale plan held in the Record Map Library was displayed of Barnsley, Yorkshire dated 1888. In addition a number of maps and plans of Haslemere, of various dates and scales were made available. These had been specially selected for our visit as they covered the home territory of Geoffrey Ramsden, IMCoS Treasurer, who had arranged the visit on the Society's behalf. Geoffrey, like a true map collector, was able to point out that he already owned a copy of each of the maps displayed!

The tour continued with a visit to the air-conditioned photographic and printing floor. We were able to see the entire production process of Ordnance Survey and Directorate of Overseas Survey maps which involves over 400 photographers and printers and some 800 draughtsmen behind the scenes. The Ordnance Survey employs in total over 2,800 staff in its headquarters as well as over 1,000 surveyors and backup staff dispersed throughout the country.

John Baynes of the Information Branch then gave a short talk of the history and origins of the Ordnance Survey. In his talk he mentioned the pioneering work of William Roy who had undertaken the *Military Survey of Scotland* between 1747 and 1755. Roy also suggested a national survey of Great Britain as early as the 1760's, and was responsible for measuring the famous baseline at Hounslow Heath in 1783. As an organisation the Ordnance Survey was officially established in 1791. Its first objectives were to complete the triangulation of the country and to produce a national one inch to the mile map series. The first one inch to the mile map of Kent, with a part of the county of Essex, was published in 1801. A copy of this map, which was privately published by William Faden, was on display in the Ordnance Survey exhibition centre.

Mr Baynes mentioned the later adoption of the six inch to the mile map scale. After 1840 the northern counties of England, together with Scotland, were surveyed at six inches to the mile although even this larger scale failed to completely satisfy influential opinion. In 1853 a survey of Durham was authorised at the 25 inch to the mile scale (1:2500). By 1893 the whole country, excluding areas of mountain and moorland, had

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been mapped at this 1:2500 scale. The later history of the Ordnance Survey and the adoption of a National Grid was then outlined. A short film on the Ordnance Survey, particularly concerned with the modern day role of the organisation and its products, was then shown.

The IMCoS party then had the opportunity to tour the Ordnance Survey exhibition centre. Amongst the items on display was a copper-engraved plate of an Irish one-inch sheet (Armagh) made about 1862. A selection of surveyor's instruments was also on display. Other special panels in the exhibition centre covered such topics as archaeology in the ordnance map; the role of aerial surveys and remote sensing from space; and of course the first one inch map of Kent and Essex already mentioned above. A set of framed photographs of all the Director-Generals of the

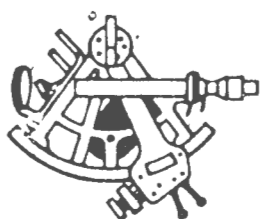
Ordnance Survey were also on view. These include such famous names as Major-General Mudge (1798-1820), Major-General Sir Henry James (1854-1875) and Colonel Sir Charles F. Close (1911-1922). It is this latter individual whose name is commemorated by The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey maps. This Society publishes a newsletter entitled 'Sheetlines' and can be contacted by writing to Brian Garvan, 66 Chalklands, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5TJ.

Finally, the Society is indebted to the staff of the Ordnance Survey for providing such an interesting programme for our visit. In particular the Society would like to thank John Baynes, Graham Smith and Liz Dean for their interesting and informative talks. Geoffrey Ramsden is also thanked for his work in make this enjoyable visit possible.

Research Fellowships 1986-87

The John Carter Brown Library will award approximately fifteen Research Fellowships for the year June 1, 1986 - May 30, 1987. The regular John Carter Brown Library Fellowships carry a stipend of \$800.00 per month. These Fellowships are open to Americans and to foreign nationals who are engaged in pre- or post-doctoral, or independent, research. (Foreign nationals are advised that the monthly stipend may not be sufficient to cover all of a Fellow's travel and living expenses.) Recipients of all Fellowships are expected to be in regular residence at the John Carter Brown Library and to participate in the intellectual life of Brown University. Therefore, preference may be given to applicants able to take up the Fellowship during the course of the academic year, September 1, 1986 - May 30, 1987.

Applications will be judged by committees consisting of members of the Brown University Faculty Liaison Committee to the Library and the National Advisory Council of the Library. Each Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of the applicant's scholarly qualifications, the merits of the project, and *the appropriateness of the inquiry to the holdings of the John Carter Brown Library*. One appointment each year, for up to three months, will be reserved for the recipient of the Jeannette D. Black Memorial Fellowship. This Fellowship is awarded to a scholar with a particular interest in research on the history of cartography or to one who intends to make considerable use of early maps in his or her research. Application forms may be obtained from: *The Director, The John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, R.I. 02912*. Applications should be postmarked no later than February 1, 1986. Announcements of awards will be made before March 15, 1986.



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IMCoS Symposium in Finland

Visit to the Nordenskiöld Collection

One of the highlights of the IMCoS Symposium meeting in Helsinki was undoubtedly the specially arranged visit to the Nordenskiöld Library. This great collection, housed deep in an air-conditioned suite underground at Helsinki University, is not open to the public. We therefore much appreciated the talk and tour given to us by the chief librarian Esko Häkli and his staff.

A. E. Nordenskiöld was born and brought up in Finland in the middle of the nineteenth century but spent the rest of his life in Sweden. His first career was as a scientific mineralogist leading to membership of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences and curator of the Museum of Natural History for four decades. It was however as an explorer that Nordenskiöld gained world renown. His expeditions to Spitzbergen, Jan Mayen island and Greenland led to his great venture of 1878–80 when he became the first to traverse the North-east passage. His ship *Tega* travelled past Novaya Zemlya and navigated the seas between the north Russian coastline and the permanent ice of the North Pole; finally exiting through the Bering Strait after spending a winter locked in the ice. The unfulfilled dreams of Dece, Willoughby, Barentsz, Moxon, and others, were at last realised.

It was only in the last two decades of his life, from 1880 onwards, that Nordenskiöld devoted his time to collecting atlases and books of travel, and studying the history of cartography. His outstanding work 'Facsimile Atlas to the Early History of Cartography' with over 185 illustrations is still in print as a large paperback, price £15.95, and it remains an indispensable reference book for all serious collectors. As well as many of his scientific books, Nordenskiöld's library contains over 24,000 maps from more than 500 atlases and from numerous books of travel and discovery. Only in the last few years has it been adequately catalogued, by Ann-Mari Mickwitz and Leena Miekkaavaara, in three substantial volumes. Copies of virtually every 'standard' atlas are to be seen; for instance, 51 out of 56 of the known editions of Ptolemy between 1475 and 1883. The story how Nordenskiöld systematically and persistently pursued rare items offered by leading dealers of the time – among them Muller of Amsterdam, Olschki of Venice, Rosenthal of Munich and Quaritch of London – is recounted in an excellent booklet by Esko Häkli: 'A. E. Nordenskiöld, a Scientist and his Library' (Helsinki University Library, 1980).

Regrettably, Nordenskiöld bought very few separately-published maps. Thus – his two 'Lafreri' atlases apart – his collection lacks a stock

of rare, individual, maps and has no wall maps from the early period. The 1880s would have been an ideal time to gather up some unique and disappearing items by mapmakers such as Gastaldi, Postell, Vopell, Deventer and Verbiest; just to name a few.

Leena Miekkaavaara, participating in the IMCoS Symposium, read one of the papers drawing on her unique knowledge of the Nordenskiöld material gained while preparing the catalogue for a decade or more, from 1968 onwards. Her talk focussed on the 'r.r.r.' works in the collection: these were the relatively few works given a triple rarity rating by Nordenskiöld himself when annotating his original card catalogue. He often refers to important, interesting or even 'very rare' items but surprisingly there are only nine 'r.r.r.' ones. They are as follows (abstracted from Leena Miekkaavaara's paper):

1. Elias Capreolus, *Heliae Capreoli in Chronica de Rebus Brixia . . .*, 1505?. With a map of the environs of Brescia, bought from Olschki for 125 francs in 1895.

2. Ambrogio Leone, *De Nola Opusculum . . .*, 1514. With four small maps showing Nola, in the vicinity of Vesuvius and Herculaneum.

3. Jan Huygen van Linschoten, *Descriptio Totius Guineae . . .*, 1599, and

4. Jan Huygen van Linschoten, *Description de l'Amerique . . .*, 1638; both with various maps. These two works by Linschoten were of great interest to Nordenskiöld in his studies of the early descriptions of America. They would not be counted 'r.r.r.' today.

5. Petrus Martyr, *De Orbe Novo . . .*, 1587. This edition of Peter Martyr by Richard Hakluyt has a map of the Americas engraved by Leonardo Gaultieri. It was reproduced in the Facsimile Atlas, fig. 82.

6. Joseph Moxon, *A Briefe Discourse of a Passage by the North-Pole to Japan, China etc. . .*, 1674. This book includes a discourse about a passage to Japan and China across the North-east Passage, and hence of particular significance to Nordenskiöld in view of his own expedition forcing this route for the first time.

7 and 8. Johannes de Stobnicza, *Introductio in Ptolemei . . .*, 1512 and 1519. In the 1890s, prior to the discovery of Waldseemüller's great wall map of the world of 1507, Stobnicza's work was accorded a significance which can no longer be substantiated.

9. Early sixteenth-century untitled globe gores. At the time, Nordenskiöld inferred that these

woodcut gores could be dated within the period 1511 to 1515. The same conclusions are maintained in the current catalogue. However, subsequent research suggests that the gores probably date from a few years later, as an inscription on the map, near the island of Spagnola, refers to guaiacum wood which did not become known in Europe as a remedy for syphilis until about 1518. (See R. W. Shirley, *The Mapping of the World*, Entry 43 and plate 44). In 1898 Rosenthal offered another set of the same gores, the fourth set known, for 8000 German marks.

After Nordenskiöld died in 1901 his widow

arranged for the sale of his library as a whole, and by means of a special subvention from the Tsar of Russia – Finland being part of the Russian empire at the time – the complete collection was bought by Helsinki University for 200,000 Finnish marks. A few years ago, in 1979, there was a special commemorative exhibition coupled with an international seminar. A review of the wide-ranging papers presented at the 1979 seminar and later gathered together into a book is printed elsewhere in this Journal.

Rodney W. Shirley

Map Exhibitions at the British Library

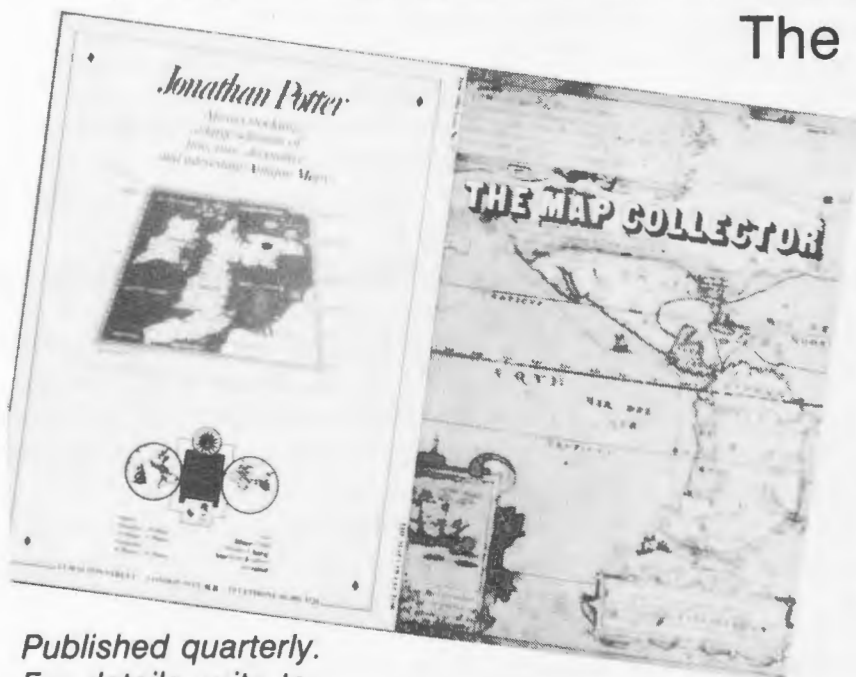
The British Library exhibition of atlases, maps and globes entitled *The Mirror of the World* is to be given an extended viewing until 6th May 1986. Located in the Map Gallery of the British Library, Great Russell Street, London W.C.1, this popular exhibition displays a selection of the most interesting cartographic materials acquired by the Map Library over the past decade. A leaflet about the *Mirror of the World* exhibition is available at the Map Gallery, or on application to the Map Librarian.

A new exhibition to be entitled *The city in maps: urban mapping to 1900*, is to be mounted from 4th June 1986 until 31st December 1987. *The city in maps* will portray the worldwide development of urban cartography from the time of the earliest printed maps and map-views of the 1480's until the end of the nineteenth century. The exhibition will consider the development of the modern street plan alongside the various other means of representing towns and cities from the middle ages to the industrial revolution.

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Helsinki – A Happy Visit

by Peter Batchelor

Map Collectors, one would think, should know the world. However when we gathered together to go to Helsinki for the IMCoS Symposium at the end of September, it seemed that very few of us had been to Finland before and we knew very little about it. Perhaps we had been told that the Finns kept themselves to themselves, but from the moment that we arrived it became clear that the opposite was true and the whole time that we were in Finland we were involved in a splendidly organised tour of map appreciation combined with a social whirl.

At the airport we were met by a smiling Aarno Piltz and Stig Söderström, a large bus and posies of flowers for the two ladies. We were taken to our hotel and hardly had time to check in before we were whisked off to a reception given by Osmo Kiikka the founder chairman of Chartarum Amici, the Finnish Map Collectors' Society and our hosts. His company manufactures paints and his collection of maps of Scandinavia, assembled over thirty years, is displayed in the corridors of the company's offices. After studying the maps we repaired to the bar so generously provided. All except Rodney Shirley, that is, who was so entranced by all the maps that he could not tear himself away. After that it was back to the hotel for supper. We kept passing signs that said Ravintola Restaurant and for a while we thought that the Ravintola company must have a monopoly of the restaurant business. We later discovered that Finnish is one of those languages that has its own word for restaurant.

We were off early in the morning to the very modern building of the National Survey Department, where our host was Taisto Saarentaus. It is a proud boast in Finland that it was the first country to produce a national atlas and we saw many fascinating documents both old and new – starting from plans produced in early surveys and finishing with examples of the four existing editions of the National Atlas and of parts of the fifth edition currently being prepared. We learnt how in Finland the production of a national atlas had been something of a symbol in their struggle for independence.

From there we went for lunch to a Russian restaurant and after that round the corner to the University with its lovely old library building. Then down to the lower depths where we were privileged to view the astonishingly rich Nordenskiöld Collection guided by Professor Esko Häkli and his colleagues. Privileged indeed – it was a feast for our eyes. The collection is so



Aarno Piltz, Chairman of Chartarum Amici, speaking at the Helsinki Symposium.

tightly guarded that even the Finnish members of the Chartarum Amici, to their chagrin, were not allowed to join us. Nordenskiöld was collecting towards the end of the 19th century and by the time of his death he had gathered together one of the most outstanding libraries of cartography, exploration and geography in the world, which subsequently became part of Helsinki University Library.

In the evening we were entertained to cocktails and maps at the Galleria Duetto, had a chance to meet our Finnish friends and discuss where to visit during the following morning which we had free. We had been thoughtfully provided with a list of map and book-sellers, so we soon spread around the town looking for treasures. In the afternoon we assembled for the Symposium itself, which was in the Hotel Helka. Aarno Piltz had all the speakers timed to the minute and even included a few physical jerks in between the sessions to keep us up to the mark. The only talk that ran over time was that of Aarno himself! His enthusiasm for his own speciality of maps of Karelia was such that we are now all experts.

The celebration Symposium Dinner was a very happy occasion, held at a restaurant which was a

former country house, in a lovely part of Helsinki. We were welcomed with a glass of champagne kir and wine and dined sumptuously. Our hosts Aarno Piltz and Stig Söderström demonstrated their command of the English language with elegant speeches and our side in our words of thanks showed that native English speakers could maintain the same high standard.

A late night was made easier by the fact that the clocks were changed on Saturday night and we were due for an extra hour in bed – most of us anyway. Stig made a mistake and arrived an hour early for the bus to take us to Porvoo and the Batchelors nearly missed it completely but for the kindness of Muhtar Katircioglu coming to find them. Porvoo is a lovely old town mainly built of wood, it is 40 kilometres from Helsinki and was the capital of Finland in earlier days. Our guide showed us round the old town and we walked up the hill to the very attractive medieval cathedral. After that we returned to the bus and then visited the oldest library in Finland. This was the small school library of Borgå Gymnasium, which had a magnificent collection of antiquarian books and some wonderful examples of maps and atlases of great interest to us. It was quite a task to drag

everyone away to the Haikko Manor House for a delicious buffet lunch. In the afternoon we continued on our drive through the lovely Finnish countryside to Frugard, the childhood home of Nordenskiöld, which was of a most interesting design. It is a fine house with a large central room, an upstairs gallery, and surrounded by smaller rooms downstairs each with a magnificent enamelled stove. The bus returned to Helsinki after a very pleasant day and some members with stamina even went along to visit an Antiques Fair.

Monday was the day for a final look around the town before we left on Tuesday and so we said goodbye and thank you to our hosts for an outstanding trip. Absolutely everything was arranged to perfection and we have some very happy memories. Most of our party came from England except for Prof. Dr. Novak who came from Germany, Themis Strongilos who flew in from Greece and Muhtar and Julia Katircioglu from Turkey direct from a rail journey to China. We were all delighted with our visit. We cannot thank by name everyone who looked after us, but special thanks must go to Aarno Piltz, Jan Strang and Stig Söderström, who formed the organising committee, for all their hard work.



IMCoS members examining 17c books of estate plans in the National Board of Survey, Helsinki. Seated centre is Aarno Piltz, Chairman of Chartarum Amici, with the Society's hosts from the Board of Survey standing behind him.

Finnish Connections

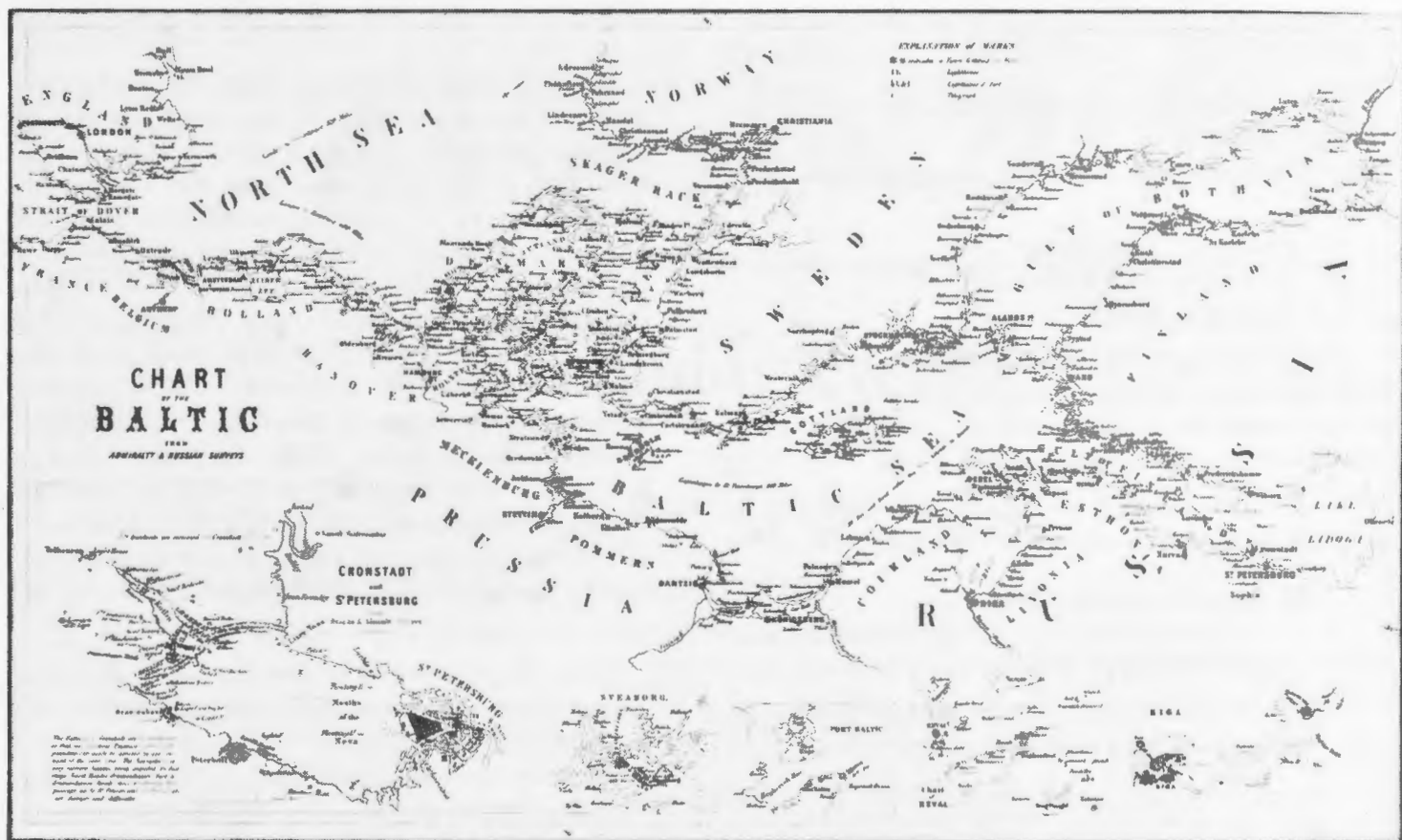
At the IMCoS International Symposium in Helsinki, Alan Bartlett spoke about a selection of maps, and writings about maps, all of which made some special connection between Britain and Finland.

At one point he showed two maps in turn which, unlikely as it seemed, had war as an unfortunate connection. The first was a plan of the small Sussex town of Lewes: that by E. Creighton c.1835. The second was the 'Chart of the Baltic from Admiralty and Russian Surveys', by A. S. C. Black, 1856. This chart, on an unusual and interesting projection, illustrated the Baltic theatre of Anglo-French naval operations against the Russians during the Crimean War. At that time, of course, Finland was a Grand Duchy of Russia.

The major battle there was the bombardment and capture of Bomarsund in the Aland Islands during 1854. Although in itself a success, it achieved little overall, but did lead to the strange connection with far-away Lewes. Prisoners captured during the assault were taken to Lewes

jail and, while they were not badly treated by the standards of the time, some died in jail before release came in 1856. In 1877 a monument was erected there which still reads: 'Erected by the Finlanders, Russian prisoners-of-war, memorial of their countrymen and fellow prisoners who died during their captivity in Lewes War Prison.'

Our illustration of the chart shows the 'Alands Is.' at the southern end of the Gulf of Bothnia. Inset, bottom centre, is a small chart of the Helsinki area, showing the off-shore fortress of Sveaborg, which was also subjected to massive bombardment during the war. A small group of IMCoS members, while in Helsinki, took a ferry trip to spend a fascinating couple of hours walking around the fortress-island, now known by its Finnish name of Suomenlinna. After viewing the massive stone fortifications that covered the small island, the group was not surprised to learn that it was not captured during the engagement. Consensus was that whatever projectiles were available at that time must mostly have bounced right off!



International News

by Alan Bartlett

The major event of recent months was the highly successful Symposium, and associated visits in and around Helsinki, enjoyed by IMCoS members and hosts Chartarum Amici. This is reported at some length elsewhere in the Journal.

As a further benefit from this trip, your Society is very pleased to announce that Jan Strang, Secretary of Chartarum Amici, has accepted our invitation to represent us in Finland. He is a dealer in old books, prints and maps, and his address is:

Antiikki – Kirja
Kalevankatu 25
SF – 00100 HELSINKI

Jan will be pleased to meet and assist any member visiting Helsinki. He does point out, however, that anyone wishing to call on the Nordenskiöld Collection must write to Helsinki University Library well in advance to obtain agreement which, in any case, is only forthcoming for bona fide study or research.

On a different matter, one of our new found friends in Chartarum Amici, Timo Reenpää, whose collecting interest includes maps of France, would very much like to hear from other Society members who share that interest. Please write direct to him at:

Köydenpunojankatu 2c28
SF – 00180 HELSINKI 18

We are delighted to announce the formation of a further offshoot of IMCoS, this time the Israel Map Collectors' Society. The inaugural officers are:

President, Eran Laor
Secretary, Eva Wajntraub
Treasurer, Ronny Klein.

The prime mover in starting this new Society is Eva Wajntraub, who has been welcome at several of our events in London, and in Cyprus for her wholehearted enthusiasm.

We are pleased to announce the birth of

"THE ISRAEL MAP COLLECTORS' SOCIETY"

whose first meeting will be held in London.

We are happy to welcome to our Society

anyone who wishes to join by paper and finally to visit.

Eran Laor, President,
Eva Wajntraub, Secretary,
Ronny Klein, Treasurer.

4, Princes Street,

London W1P 2PL

01-499 4441

Jaime Armero reports from Spain that he is making good progress with the arrangements for the IMCoS International Symposium in Barcelona in Autumn 1986. He already has great interest being shown by private collectors and dealers. He has also obtained the support of the Ayuntamiento de Barcelona – Directorate of Museums, and the Generalitat de Catalunya – the regional government, in respect of exhibitions, conference activities and appropriate visits.

From central government in Madrid – the map department of the Biblioteca Nacional has already offered to send rare and important maps to the exhibitions in Barcelona.

This already looks like becoming another successful international event for IMCoS. *The dates to pencil in your diaries for 1986 are 3–5 October.*

We were very pleased to hear from our Representative for South America, Dr. Lorenz Güller Frers, when he was in London recently. He is making every effort to promote the activities of the Society among the relatively small number of collectors in the very large sub-continent that comprises his territory and he tells us that his eventual although necessarily long-term aim, is to organise an IMCoS Symposium in Rio de Janeiro.

We were interested to see from the September issue of the newsletter of the Map Society of British Columbia, sent to us on an exchange basis, that 1986 is the centennial year for Vancouver. Their Society is meeting with two regional institutions of surveyors to organise a chronological exhibition of maps showing the development of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver. This name accords well with the expected theme of 'Explorers' Maps' for our London Symposium at the Royal Geographical Society on 21 June, 1986. Captain George Vancouver was described as having carried out 'perhaps the most arduous survey that it had fallen to any navigator to undertake', that of the intricate north-west coast of America from 39°N to 61°N.

Our Representative for Iceland, Kjarten Gunnarsson, was asked by Morgunbladid, the biggest daily newspaper in the country to tell them about the IMCoS 1985 London Symposium. This resulted in an interview and then a two page spread in the issue of 28 July, with numerous photographs, not only of maps, but of Kjarten himself with even more maps. Your International Secretary can report that the name of IMCoS

featured prominently, but can tell you little else of the written content, not having any Icelandic. This drives home the point that we members of IMCoS whose native tongue is English are very fortunate to have so many fellow members around the world who speak our language so well, something for which quite a few of us were most appreciative while in Helsinki recently.

Last but not least, the Society is grateful to our Representative in Canada, Ed Dahl, for donating a number of interesting items earlier this year. In July, Ed was both Chairman and Programme Organiser for the highly successful Eleventh International Conference on the History of Cartography held in Ottawa, which a number of IMCoS members attended and enjoyed.

Catalogues Received

RICHARD B. ARKWAY INC. 538 Madison Ave., New York NY 10022, USA. Tel: (212) 751-8135. Catalogue XXVII. Antique Maps. 44pp, 188 entries, numerous illus.

LIBRERIA ANTIGUARIA CATEDRAL; c. Merceria No. 20, 43003 Tarragona, Italy. Catalogue No. 15. 13pp, over 200 entries. Illus. Books and maps.

MRS D. M. GREEN, Antique Maps. 7 Tower Grove, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9LX. Tel: (1932) 241105. Map List No. 8 South Eastern and Home Counties. 1985. 12pp, entries by counties.

JAMES NORWICH AUCTION LTD; 33 Timberhill, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 3LA. Tel: (1603) 624817/625369. An Auction of Postage Stamps, Antiquarian Maps and Prints, Cigarette and Playing Cards, Saturday, September 28th, 1985.

JONATHAN POTTER LTD; No. 1 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LB. Tel: 01-491 3520. Selection of Fine, Decorative and Rare Old Maps.

The World and North America. 72pp, over 200 entries, numerous illustrations.

THE JOHN MONCKTON GALLERY LTD; 207 West Superior, Chicago, Ill. 60610 USA. Tel: (312) 266-1171. Catalogue One. A selection of 55 Rare Maps. 48pp, each map illustrated with detailed descriptions and references.

JOHN LEWCOCK, Bookseller; 4 Cobble Yard, Napier Street, Cambridge CB1 1HP. Maritime Travel, Theatre and Scholarly. 19pp, 1 illus. and 197 entries.

THOMAS SUAREZ RAREBOOKS; 2142 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. Tel: (212) 877-7468. Catalogue VII, 1985. A Catalogue of Fine Rare Books spanning 1501 to 1906, including voyages, atlases, medieval texts, geographies and illustrated books. 44p, numerous illustrations.

TOOLEY ADAMS & CO. LTD; 83 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AL. Tel: 01-486 9052. A List of Bibliographies and Works of Reference on all aspects of Cartography. No. 2. Over 200 entries.

Forthcoming Events

1 March, 1986

Auction of Antiquarian Maps by James of Norwich, at the Hotel Nelson, Norwich at 2pm.

24 May, 1986

Same detail as above.

3 June 1986

'City in Maps' exhibition at the British Library (see News Page for details).

21-22 June 1986

Annual Symposium at the Royal Geographical Society

22 June 1986

IMCoS Map Fair at the Forum Hotel

3-5 October 1986

Barcelona (Spanish Symposium)

Peregrinations of a Map Collector

by Clifford Stephenson, director of IMCoS

The only text book of my schooldays to survive in my library is dated 1917. The first chapter heading is 'The Representation of the Earth, subtitled Maps Scales and Distances'. The survival of only this book suggests that even in my youth there was in me a seed of a map collector. The seed first weakly sprouted when forty years ago I bought my second book about maps entitled simply 'Maps'; by Alexander D'Agapeyeff and E. C. R. Hadfield, Oxford University Press, 1942. I've just re-read it; it is simply written but informative; describing first the methods used in surveying, then helpful descriptions of the many different projections used in mapmaking. The second half of the book is entitled 'The Early Map Makers' those known to map collectors, from Ptolemy via Saxton, Blaeu and Speed and Ogilby to Greenwood and Cary. The book was too early to include in its Bibliography the doyen of map collectors, our R. V. Tooley, but does quote Chubb, Close and Fordham.

After this solitary sprouting my interest lay dormant until 1955, thirty years ago, on holiday in our Chairman's county. In Malmesbury, where we, as holiday makers do, browsed casually through the stock in an old mill full of antiques, with little interest to buy until one solitary item, an old map, caught my eye. Enquiry revealed that this map, of my native county, Yorkshire, came from a Speed atlas that the dealer was 'breaking'. It was pick-where-you-like, the maps were all one price £7.10s. (£7.50), not quite such a small sum then as it seems now, but cheap all the same, especially as they were from the Latin edition in fine condition and coloured. In discussion the dealer bemoaned that whereas that atlas cost him £200 the next would cost £300. Though acting in complete ignorance, I soon bought three other maps from the same atlas – I was wiser than I knew, I quickly added a few more old maps when, feeling that I had enough maps on the walls, I rested on my laurels, until, in Chelsea Antique's Fair, I met Baynton-Williams (père) who with little difficulty persuaded me that the set of three Ogilby's Coventry the road from London to Richmond Yorks, was just what I needed. I bought them at the bargain price £8.50. It is a constant pleasure that looking out of my window, I can see a furlong away, but now disused, part of that 1675 old road, shown on the map I bought in Chelsea.

My rekindled interest in old maps was fanned by our local Librarian who, knowing that my local government activities on the Council took me to

London quite frequently suggested that I visit one or two old book dealers he knew, who also sold old maps. I may surprise more recent recruits to our hobby that only a little more than 20 years ago dealers were so few that a collector soon knew them all. At that time, I only knew two London dealers with truly representative stocks. Francis Edwards in Marylebone High Street, where Mr Tooley presided over an extensive map department (now Tooley-Adams & Co.) and gave invaluable information and guidance to Tyros like me; and Mr. Bayton-Williams then in Bruton Street at South Kensington. Maggs Bros. in Berkeley Square had a smaller selection which by repeated visits I got to know almost as well as they did. Quite soon my arrivals home from London were regularly met with the question 'What have you bought this time?'. Usually it was still another map, or two.

Somewhere, I don't know where, I saw an advert for £5 parcels of old maps – a 'lucky dip' in which I dipped with subsequent great advantage. Several Mordens and Carys, Teesdale large Yorkshire and Bowens World, to mention only a few, were amongst the bargains from these 'lucky dips'.

In Cecil Court off Charing Cross Road was Louis Meier, surely the most remarkable of all 'characters' in the map trade. Said to be a Swiss who came to England to work in a Swiss bank, he became an avid collector of old prints and maps and kindred antiques in catholic variety; these he displayed – or rather stored – in a narrow shop, perhaps nine feet wide. His stock was piled in confusion down each side of the shop and overflowed to leave only a narrow path down the middle where would-be customers stepped fearfully. He was an old man of few words, of rather broken English, if he liked you, he would dig out – almost literally – what you asked for, if he didn't like you 'I haven't got one' was his reply without looking. The whole atmosphere and he himself were Dickensian – a microcosm of past days. The window 'display' scarcely changed from year to year – not that this mattered, the glass was seldom cleaned. I bought maps there from time to time but still wonder how he came to have *two* copies of the same first edition Saxton in his Cumberland folder. I bought them both. A somewhat macabre shadow hung over the shop, a few years earlier a murder had been committed in it.

Though I have made a few fortunate purchases over the years, I have had only one real 'find'. A

friend's friend bought a business and found a brown paper parcel on the top of the office cupboard, in it an old atlas so filthy that the dirt had to be swept off it. I as the so-called 'expert' was asked to appraise it and eventually to buy it which I did, not having seen, tucked in the back of the atlas two manuscript maps. One was of no significance, but the other after long research and enquiry proved to be of considerable importance to American historians. The story of its history and adventures which resulted in it finally resting in the Library of Yale University I have told elsewhere – but how this American manuscript map came to be in that old atlas in Huddersfield, England, will be for ever a mystery.

I think that most map collectors will agree that the two best developments in our hobby have been the founding of a magazine devoted to it: *The Map Collector* and our Society. We are all greatly indebted to the vision and enterprise of Malcolm Young and Yasha Beresiner who conceived and promoted the Society; to Rodney Shirley who presides over and contributes so much learning to it and to the Officers who gratuitously give so much of their time, knowledge and effort.

Both the magazine and the Society make invaluable contributions to our knowledge and pleasure. It has been a great satisfaction to me to have association with both of them; as a

contributor to the first and as a participant in the activities of the second. I look back on the IMCoS meeting at York last summer, which with the much lamented late Heather Lawrence I organized, as the happiest of my map collecting experiences and my appointment as Director of IMCoS, as my greatest cartographical honour. Incidentally, when I asked Malcolm Young what was my qualification for the honour his reply was, 'Well, you're our most ancient member' – what a qualification!

Now, 30 years and 500 maps after I started this fascinating hobby, I tend to 'rest' on my 'oars'. Such maps as I might still aspire to are likely to cost more than I wish to spend, but those I have and what I read in the *Collector* and *Journal* give me continued pleasure, as do the meetings and conferences and fairs I attend and as do the many friends I've made through this delightful hobby.

Being in my ninth decade I occasionally speculate on what should happen to my collection eventually, as many others have done about theirs. On the whole I think that failing a family interest in maps they are best put on the market, so providing for another generation the pleasure and excitement we have enjoyed in the hunt and acquisition. As someone truly said, collectors of antiques are merely trustees for the next generation of collectors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Although sent to Valerie Scott, Editor of *The Map Collector*, I thought other members of the committee and IMCoS would like to read it. Many congratulations to Rodney Shirley, Ed.

Dear Valerie,

Although it is now some weeks after the IMCoS dinner and presentation, may I write and thank you, and the other members of your committee for the great honour bestowed on me through the IMCoS-Tooley Award.

My astonishment and surprise when you made the announcement was 100% genuine so it must have been a well-kept secret. Please pass my great pleasure and appreciation onto your colleagues on the committee.

Rodney W. Shirley
Sweet Briar
Long Grove
Seer Green
Buckinghamshire HP9 2QH

Dear Editor,

According to Koeman's *Atlantes Neerlandici* vol. 3 (1969) p.136 the introductory section to Gerard and Leonardus Valck states the following: 'In 1687, Gerard Valck with his wife and son Leonard, moved into a house full of cartographical history: the house on the Kalverstraat, near the Dam, where Clement de Jonghe had lived. . . . Some years afterwards, they moved into the house where the Hondius family had lived: "op den Dam in de Wakkere Hond".' This obviously leaves one in doubt as to exactly when the Valck family changed their address.

In 1978 whilst consulting the RGS copy of *Nova totium geographica telluris projectio* (Koeman, *Atlantes Neer*, Vol 1) I noticed, at the foot of the typographic contents list, a pasted-on imprint. The contents list itself is headed in Dutch and Latin: Naam-register/Van de volgendes/Landkaarten./Elenchus/Tabularum & Chartarum geographorum./[list, in Latin, of 75 plates]/. . . The original imprint reads 'In de Kalverstraat

[. . .] Anno MDCCVI.'; the pasted-over amendment reads 'Op den Dam, in de Wakkeren Hond./ [. . .]/Anno MDCCVI./Cum Privilegio.'. Thus we now know the precise year of the Valcks' removal.

This small piece of information is not to be found in, for example, *Typographi & bibliopolaee Neerlandici usque ad annum MDCC thesaurus = Thesaurus Neerlandse boekdrukkers en boekverkoopers tot 1700: met plaatsen en jaren van werkzaamheid* by J. A. Gruys and C. De Wolf (Nieuwkoop: De Graaf, 1980), with English translation of the 'Introduction' by H. S. Lake. This reference book's 'Introduction' explains: 'Some regrettable but unavoidable limitations on the scope of the *Thesaurus* derive from the fact that most or all of the imprint catalogues used [those of

the Royal Library, Amsterdam; and the University Libraries of Amsterdam, Leiden, and Utrecht] happen not to cover the eighteenth century, give no addresses or trade signs . . . and so on . . .'. Regrettably, therefore, what would at first sight of the title seem to promise detailed and essential dating information for researchers and collectors cannot be utilized.

I trust that this small piece of information may be of interest to some of your readers.

Yours sincerely
Francis Herbert
Map Room
Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR

New Directory of UK Map Collections

by Terry Kay

The Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society has recently published *A directory of UK map collections*, second edition (Map Curators' Group Publication No. 3). Over 500 individual map curators and librarians have contributed entries to this directory which was compiled under the editorship of Ian Watt of the University of Sussex. The directory is greatly expanded from the first edition which was published in 1983. Institutions for which entries are provided include the National Libraries, the other legal deposit (copyright) Libraries, County Record Offices, Public Libraries, University Libraries and some private institutions and societies. Each entry, which is alphabetical by parent organisation, includes the name of the person responsible for the collection, the opening hours, restrictions (if any) on use, facilities available and a brief description of the collection concerned.

Special collections and 'strengths' are identified where appropriate. The larger collections, such as those held in the National Libraries, contain many special collections which could not all be separately listed in a general directory of this type. However the directory is useful in identifying the special collections in other institutions such as, for instance, the County Record Offices. As an example of this is that the Cambridgeshire Record Office at Huntingdon identifies separately its collection of printed maps of France, Germany, Austria, Italy and the Low Countries (1660-1835, 60 items). The National Railway Museum at York is listed as holding an 'almost complete collection of Railway Clearing

House and Airey railway maps; and 19th century published railway maps'. However, before the railway map enthusiasts look up the train timetables to York they should note that the reference library facilities at the National Railway Museum are only available by prior appointment, for which tickets may be available on successful application. Furthermore this particular library is only open for certain restricted hours between Tuesdays and Fridays of each week. A constant theme running throughout the directory is of the need for prior appointments to be made. Many of the collections listed are naturally only to be used for reference purposes; photocopying restrictions apply not only to maps published within the past 50 years (i.e. protected by the 1956 UK Copyright Act), but also to antique maps which may not be photocopied for reasons of conservation.

I cannot stress strongly enough to any potential users of the map collections held in libraries that they should always contact the institution concerned well in advance of a visit. A personal touch of the directory is to provide the name of the curator in charge of the relevant collection. Obviously this information will be subject to a fair degree of change but nevertheless this approach is to be welcomed. The intended audience of the directory appears to be wider than just those employed as professional librarians, curators and information workers. I genuinely feel that it is also a directory to be used and consulted by those members of the general public who are interested in maps and mapmakers.

Any publications produced by map libraries are also listed under the relevant entries. Swansea

City Council publications include, for example, *Air raids on Swansea* (1981) which contains facsimiles of Luftwaffe target maps of the area; Hull Library service publications include *The development of Kingston Upon Hull shown through contemporary maps and views* (1973, reprinted 1983); East Lothian District Libraries have produced facsimiles of *Wood's plan of Haddington*, 1819, and of *Wood's plan of Dunbar*, 1830.

A further feature of the directory is the three indexes to be found at the back of the book. Firstly the alphabetical listing is very helpful as entries are made under all the likely headings. The Barnet Library collection, for instance, is listed under both Barnet and the London Borough of Barnet. Secondly an index of 'geographical location' is provided. Thus, under the entry for Kent, the eleven individual institutions located in that county are to be found.

The third index is to 'keywords, cartographers, special collections, areas of coverage, etc.'. This index is useful in locating the whereabouts of such named collections as the Whitaker or the Beudeker collections but it is naturally dependent upon those collections having already been separately listed by the curators concerned when contributing their entries. Many of the subject, or keyword headings, such as those for air photographs, fire insurance plans and for satellite imagery do not identify all the libraries where such material is to be found. Goad insurance maps, featured in the *Map Collector* of December 1984, are listed under the main entries for Sheffield and for Nottingham public libraries but curiously are not picked up in the keywords index. Only the fire insurance plans held by the London Borough of Hackney are listed in the directory (other than the Goad plans mentioned above) which therefore provides a distorted picture as sets of these plans are held in the National Libraries and many other map collections in the UK. Similarly the only copy of Ptolemy's *Geography* identified by this keywords index is held by the Wisbech and Fenland Museum. The curator of this museum singled out this atlas, of which no doubt the museum is justly proud to have a copy in its collection, whereas no other curator mentioned Ptolemy. Yet as readers this Journal will know we are very fortunate to have many copies of the various editions of Ptolemy's *Geography* residing in the UK in our national, university and special libraries.

Potential users of this directory will, however, enjoy using the index to locate such esoteric entries as 'mines abandonment plans,' 'handkerchief maps' and 'Commissioner of Sewers maps 1747-1818.' Saxton's wall map of 1583 is identified via the keywords index as being held by the Birmingham public libraries where incidentally around 60 pre-1700 atlases are also located. One unusual entry that catches the eye is

for 'Peter Liddle's' (in Sunderland) which can only be consulted by prior arrangement with Mr Liddle. His 'personal experience archive' includes several hundred 1914-18 war front maps, some solely of the trenches, as well as Russian, French, German and Turkish war front maps of this period.

Ian Watt and the Map Curators' Group of the British Cartographic Society are to be congratulated on the sterling work that has led to the publication of this directory. There appears to be some gaps as not all the institutions approached replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Map Curators' Group. Nevertheless these gaps are minor and do not detract in any appreciable way from the achievements of the publication. The generous financial sponsorship of the map firm McCarta Ltd in the publication of this directory is worthy of special praise.

Copies of the directory are available at the very reasonable price of £4.50 (UK or Eire) and £5.50 (Overseas) on application to Chris Perkins, Convenor of the Map Curators' Group, British Cartographic Society, c/o John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Deansgate Building, Deansgate, Manchester, Great Manchester, M3. Cheques and postal orders should be made out to the British Cartographic Society.

Finally I should mention that the second edition of the *World directory of map collections* compiled by the Geography and Maps Section of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) is currently in the press. It is anticipated that this directory will be reviewed in the Journal sometime during 1986.

Classified

Oldfield Antique Maps & Prints. We specialise in British maps 1600-1850, Also early o/s maps. Send for free list of your area. We are also keen buyers. 34 Northam Rd, Southampton SO2 0PA. Tel: (0703) 38916.

English County Map specialist. Lists sent.
MRS D. M. GREEN, 7 Tower Grove, Weybridge, Surrey. Tel: 0932 241105.

JOHN TROTTER 11 Laurel Way, London. N20
Tel: 01-445 4293. Specialist in maps, prints, books of the near and middle east.

REVIEW

Papers of the *Nordenskiöld Seminar* . . . September 12-15, 1979. Edited by Kerkko Hakulinen and Arvo Peltonen. Helsinki, 1981. 250 x 175 mm. 246 pp (incl. 108 black-and-white illustrations). ISBN 951-99297-3-8.

The year 1979 was an auspicious one, for two reasons, to hold an international seminar in Finland focussing on the great explorer and map collector Adolf Eric Nordenskiöld. The first was the wish to commemorate his *Vëga* expedition and its successful navigation through the North-east Passage for the first time in 1878-79. The second reason was the wish to celebrate the publication of the first volume of the catalogue of the A. E. Nordenskiöld collection. This collection contains about 24,000 early maps and is one of the most valuable deposits in the Helsinki University Library.

The 18 papers presented at the seminar were partly rewritten and then specially illustrated for reprinting in this substantial paperback book of 246 pages. The breadth of topics covered can be seen from the reproduction of the contents page (opposite), with the first four papers dealing with Nordenskiöld's life and his collections of minerals, maps and scientific instruments. Two long and scholarly articles from Professor Koeman and Günter Schilder then recount the earlier attempts to explore and map the North-east Passage followed by wider-ranging papers on early maps generally and on Finnish mapping in particular.

Among these is an excellent essay 'Early maps as historical and scientific documents' by Helen Wallis of the British Library Map Library. Finally three papers cover the collecting and archiving of maps.

The contributors include map historians, general scholars and collectors; all speaking with authority. Yet somehow the papers are without exception fresh, easily written, and free from academic jargon. Hence they are a delight to dip into for information, new understanding, and pleasure. Among the authors are Stig Jaatinen, Esko Häkli, Leena Miekkaavaara, Henry Tuderman, Aarno Piltz, Taisto Saarentaus and A. Sakari Härö. All (in addition to Arvo Peltonen, one of the editors) were participants in the 1985 IMCoS Helsinki Symposium and if I personally omitted to congratulate them on their earlier authorship, then may I now do so. The *Nordenskiöld Seminar* is a most worthwhile book to read and browse into; it is not normally on sale but is now available on loan through the IMCoS Library.

At the celebration Dinner of the 1985 IMCoS Symposium in Helsinki, your President was presented with this book on behalf of IMCoS by Aarno Piltz of *Chartarum Amici*, organisers of the Symposium weekend. The Society expresses its warm appreciation to Aarno Piltz and his colleagues for this gift.

Rodney W. Shirley

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Taisto Saarentaus:

Maupertuis at the Polar Circle, 1736-1737

When thinking about the greatest insights of the human intellect, the first things to enter our mind are probably Fleming's penicillin, or Henry Ford's T-model or – perhaps just Winterhalter's zipper.

As is known they have indeed all been important, but if we think about it a little more profoundly, we find even greater insights – such as the revolutionizing fact published and scientifically proved by Nicolas Copernicus in 1543, stating that the earth is not a pancake but round and rotating like a ball.

The earth is a ball . . .

Copernicus – like all great inventors – had his own opponents and sceptics. Nevertheless, the truth overcame little by little and even his envious colleague scientists abandoned their pancake and accepted Copernicus' ball as their place of residence.

However, this scientific calmness had lasted only about one and a half centuries when new scientists – the English Sir Isaac Newton in the lead – already started to squeeze Copernicus' ball into a misshapen form. Newton concluded that since the interior of the ball is soft magma, its rotating motion apparently causes the ball to flatten at its poles.

. . . or at least almost a ball . . .

Newton's contemporary and the director of the observatory in Paris, Jacques Cassini, hastened to make some measurements near Paris, but on their basis he came to the opposite conclusion: the earth is stretched out at its poles!

These two famous scientists of their time both fortified themselves with their supporters behind their own scientific authority, causing the scientific world of the time to fall into an annoying state of uncertainty.

Two already then lively functioning academies of science and letters, the English Royal Society and the French Academie des sciences, considered it now their duty to start clearing up this controversy.

Maupertuis takes hold of the matter

In the sphere of the French Academy worked an eager Newtonian, mathematician and astronomer Pierre-Louis Moreau de Maupertuis, who started planning to send two expeditions to different parts

of the earth in order to solve with measurements the problem of the shape of the earth.

The French Academy got the financing arranged and so an expedition was first sent in 1735 to the equator, to Peru in South America, and another a year later to the polar circle in Scandinavia. Maupertuis offered himself as the leader of the latter expedition.

The task of the expeditions was to define by astronomical methods the length of one degree of the meridian arc separately on the equator and on the polar circle, which would bring different results, if the earth was not round. At the same time it would be found out whether the earth is flattened or stretched at its poles.

Maupertuis' departure

Maupertuis left Paris in the direction of the polar circle on the 20th April 1736.

As we know, these days people fly with a Concorde aeroplane from Paris to the polar circle in less than two hours to meet Finland's Santa Claus, but in Maupertuis' time one had to allow slightly more time for the journey. The expedition travelled partly by horse-drawn carriages and partly by boat. On arriving in Tornio town it was the 21st of June, two months had passed since their departure.

Abbé Outhier

Maupertuis had some assistants with him. One of them was a priest, Abbé Reginald Outhier. Maupertuis presumably chose him to be the expedition's shepherd of the fold partly because Outhier was an enthusiastic astronomer and therefore he could also be made use of in the surveys.

From our point of view Abbé Outhier is a very important person – he kept a precise diary during the expedition of everything he had seen and after the expedition he wrote a travel report called 'Journal d'un Voyage au Nord', which has spread around the world as translations and is amusing and easy to understand to anybody. I also partly base this causerie of mine on this report.

The conditions on arriving

The polar circle does lie rather far north, and the climate there is arcticly severe. But it was midsummer when the expedition came to its destination, and the surveys could be started in tolerable conditions.

Perhaps the only noteworthy problem at midsummer in that area is caused by mosquitoes, which immediately dashed in swarms of billions to gorge on the sweet blood of the southern visitors.

The expedition endured bravely the attacks of the mosquitoes and started promptly surveying the triangulation network extending from the Tornia church to the Kittisvaara hill in Pello. The length of the area to be surveyed was slightly over a hundred kilometres and the only actual traverse was the Tornio river which flows across the area.

Outhier's vivid description gives us a clear picture of the difficulties that the wilds of the polar circle brought upon the expedition. Surveying instruments were large-sized and heavy at the time, so dragging the devices tens of kilometres in

a pathless wilderness was an enormous task. The board and the lodging of the expedition were naturally also quite primitive.

Maupertuis was conscious of his responsibility as a scientist. From Outhier's report it becomes evident that Maupertuis didn't allow the difficult conditions to cripple the scientific execution of the work. All surveys were carried out with great care, often waiting patiently many days and nights in the wilds for suitable weather.

The winter interrupted the work

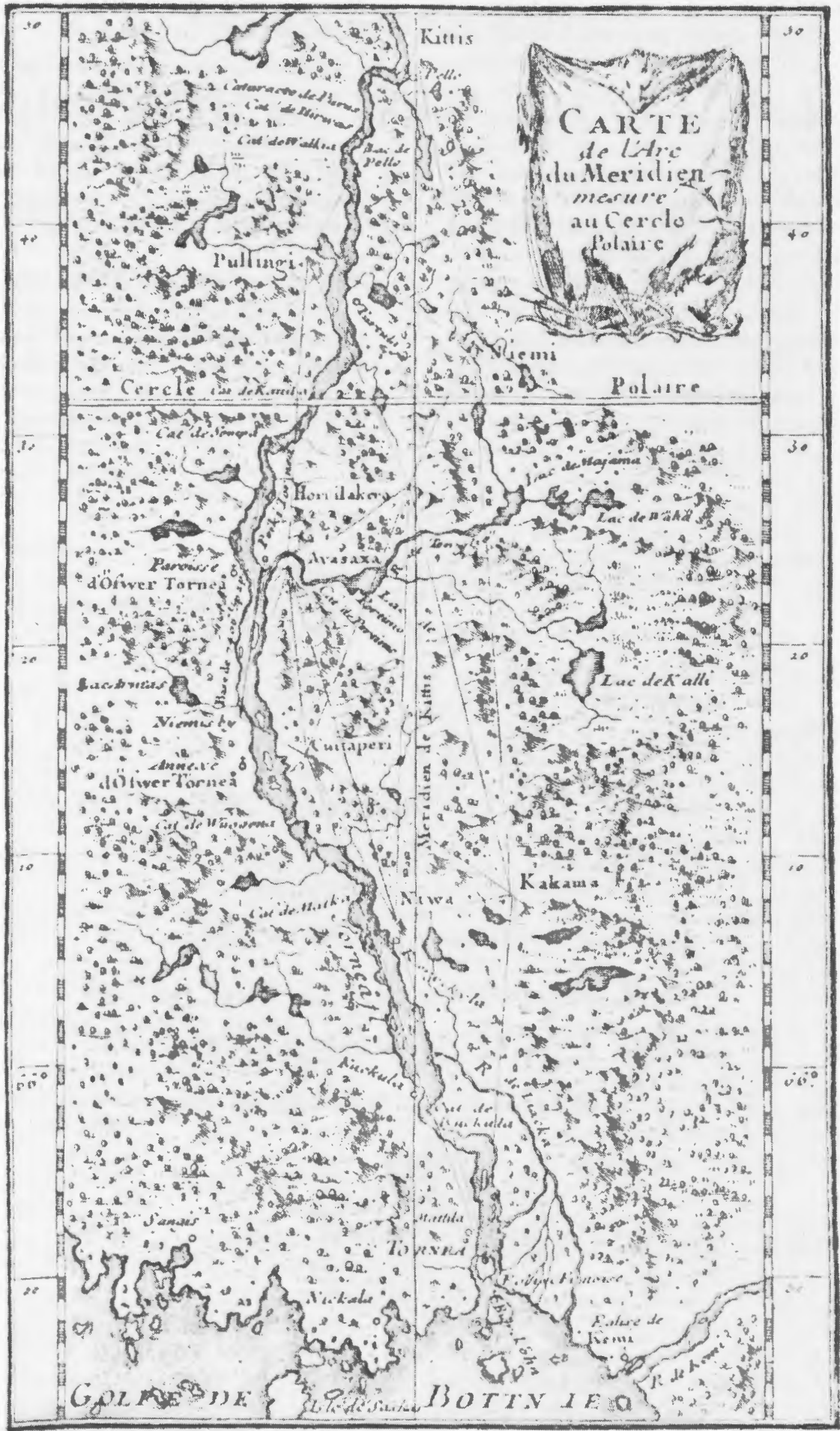
The brief summer of the polar circle turned quickly into autumn and winter, which interrupted the actual field work already in October, when snow began to fall. The expedition had to return to Tornio town to pass the winter. A

LA FIGURE
DE
LA TERRE,
DETERMINEE
PAR LES OBSERVATIONS
De Messieurs DE MAUPERTUIS, CLAIRAUT, CAMUS,
LE MONNIER, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences,
& de M. l'Abbé OUTHIER, Correspondant
de la même Académie,
Accompagnés de M. CELSIUS, Professeur d'Astronomie
à Upsal,
FAITES PAR ORDRE DU ROY
AU CERCLE POLAIRE.
Par M. DE MAUPERTUIS.



A PARIS,
DE L'IMPRIMERIE ROYALE.

M. DCCXXXVIII.



Delahaye sculpteur 1788

Maupertuis triangulation-network from Tornia to Kittisvaara

long and dark winter awaited them in the North, which was rather defective in its conveniences. Social life in the little town of Tornio was not very lively at the time, and only two persons in the locality were French-speaking. In addition to them there were a few clerics, who could be communicated with in Latin.

However, the winter had one advantage. The intense cold froze the Tornio river, which made possible the measurements of quite a long base line along the ice. A base line 14 kilometres long was measured twice and the difference between these measurements was only approximately 10 centimetres. The instruments and the conditions taken into consideration was also this measurement surprisingly accurate. The base line gave the triangulation network a perfect scale.

Peculiar habits of the people

During the winter Abbé Outhier wrote diligently down in candlelight his observations of local conditions and of the people's way of life. He narrates for example that small elks (reindeer) were kept as domestic animals, which one could ride and fly swift as an arrow across the thick snowdrifts. The Lapps ran after them on the snow with long boards tied on their feet and completely ignored the cold, which congealed hard as tin not only one's blood but also the content of the wine bottles brought along from France.

Another shock was the local custom of bathing in rooms heated up to infernal temperatures, where people whipped themselves with bundles of brushwood at the same time increasing the heat by pouring water on the glowing piles of stones, from which rose a steam which burnt one's skin red. On top of all this the people rushed out into the frost to crawl in the ice-cold snow.

Although Abbé Outhier's memoirs contain some exaggeration at places, they are mainly to the point and contain plenty of valuable ethnological observations. They give a good picture of the living conditions in that remote nook of the world two and a half centuries ago.

The final work and the return trip

The interrupted surveys could be continued in May the following year. Swiftly, though with no carelessness, the surveys were accomplished and the expedition could start its way back on the 10th of June 1737. The route was the same as before, they just stopped at the Falun coppermines in Central Sweden for a week. They were back in Paris on the 20th of August 1737. The journey had lasted a year and four months altogether.

The results

As a result of the journey Maupertuis could soon declare that the Newtonian theory, according to which the earth was flattened at its poles, was

correct. A comparison with the results of the Peru expedition showed that the dimension for the compression was 1:204. The value itself is rather incorrect – we consider the value 1:297 calculated by Hayford as the correct value – but even so it was to the right direction. 'Maupertuis flattened both the world and Cassini', mocked the Newtonians.

The dimensions of the earth have later been defined several times, getting always more accurate, but there has been no change in the direction of the compression. More recent scientists have in fact found many kinds of mistakes in Maupertuis' surveys, but by chance the combined effect of these mistakes led in the right direction. With bad luck the opposite might have happened and the earth would have flattened the wrong way for many years to come.

'Fortune favours the courageous', says the song and a courageous scientist Maupertuis surely was, daring to confront the arctic conditions of the North to the benefit of science. For this achievement he certainly deserves to get his name permanently in the history of science.

Next year it will be two and a half centuries since Maupertuis left on his expedition. The event will be celebrated at least by the Swedes in a noticeable manner. As the surveys were for all that done on present Finnish ground, this 'breaking start' in light causerie style is perhaps permitted from the Finnish quarter.

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