



# *Sheetlines*

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“Edinburgh event, September 2009”

*John Davies*

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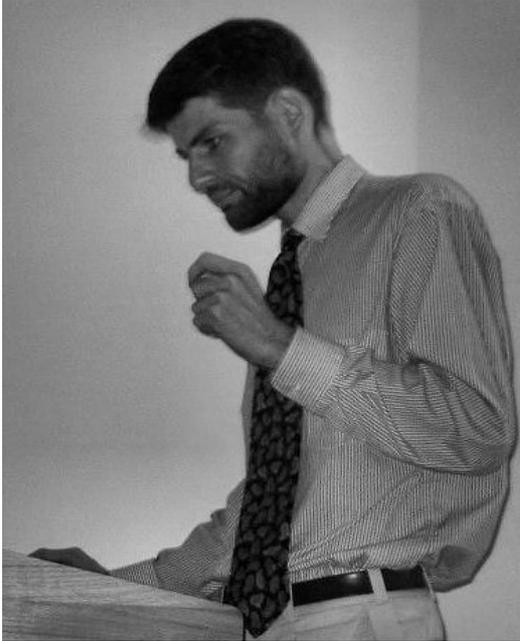
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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

## Edinburgh event, September 2009

The highlight of our day at National Library of Scotland (NLS) was the launch of *One-inch engraved maps of the Ordnance Survey from 1847* by Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, with the authors signing copies which the printers had pulled out all the stops to deliver in time.



Chris Fleet of National Library of Scotland addressing the meeting at NLS [GJ]

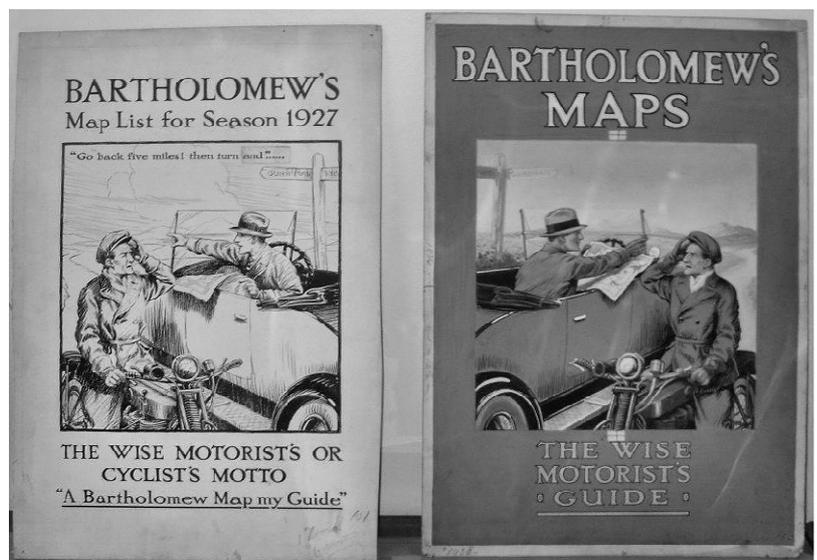
The day included a series of fascinating illustrated talks. Richard, introducing the book, spoke about some of the more unusual items which they had uncovered during their researches, whilst four other speakers presented topics which, we hope, will in due course find their way to publication in future *Sheetlines*.

First, Andrew Cook spoke on the training of surveyors for the East India Company, showing some of the beautifully detailed surveys students produced of the two training locations Snowdonia and Lichfield. Rob Wheeler recounted the story of Operation Market Garden, the battle of Arnhem 1944, and suggested that the failure of Allied troops to capture the intended bridges may have been due to errors and inadequacies of the available maps. Chris Board demonstrated

recently discovered maps showing the development of postal routes and rural post offices of the Transvaal. Finally, Francis Herbert examined the scanty information available about the network of Ordnance Survey agents in Scotland in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Over lunch we viewed an exhibition prepared by Chris Fleet and his colleague, Karla Baker, of some of the items in the Bartholomew Archive, for which NLS has received funding from the John R Murray Charitable Trust to catalogue and conserve.

Later, Chris Board led a discussion about the disposal by OS of their Historical Mapping Archive, necessitated by their move to new premises. A summary of the current position appears on page 5. John Davies demonstrated *Sheetfinder* and mentioned the co-operation with NLS by which we are able to display images of sheets from their collection whilst Chris Fleet described the NLS digitisation project, illustrated with items that can be seen on their website at [www.nls.uk/maps](http://www.nls.uk/maps)



Part of the Bartholomew Archives on display at NLS [GJ]