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speculation”

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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.

Scotland in Roman times — a little speculation

David Archer

In the late 1940s, the Ordnance Survey might have received a letter seeking to purchase a copy of *Scotland in Roman Times*, and very possibly would have replied that copies cost 3/9d. This appears to be in conflict with previous writings on the subject.¹ ‘The stock of this map was destroyed by enemy action on 30 November 1940, just before publication, with the exception of about fifty copies which I had removed beforehand for safety. I am sending these copies to a few interested persons and institutions.’ So Crawford wrote in the covering note to the copies he sent out.²

Roger Hellyer gives more detail: ‘First, about thirty of the surviving fifty copies were distributed in 1940, by OGS Crawford to a few libraries and colleagues he considered deserving of copies.’³ Surviving maps certainly support this. I know of copies that came from Professors Grimes in Cardiff, St John in Cambridge and others from an archaeological background. All have been used, with the soft paper covers showing wear at the spines and edges. Thus, about thirty of fifty newly printed copies were distributed. So far, so good.

However, a couple of years ago I saw a near-mint copy with a purple rubber-stamped price change on the cover: ‘SALES-COPY / PRICE / THREE-SHILLINGS & NINE-PENCE’, is stamped over the original black ‘PRICE THREE SHILLINGS’. The middle line of the stamp, the purple word PRICE sits over the original price and is almost invisible. Thus, in a mixture of purple and black ink the bottom of the front cover reads: ‘SALES-COPY / PRICE THREE SHILLINGS / THREE-SHILLINGS & NINE-PENCE’. This state of the cover is illustrated on page 53 of *Map cover art*.

Might the twenty copies not distributed by Crawford have been retained and later offered for sale at a higher price?

Whilst looking through some material destined for the Charles Close Society Archives, I came across a heavily used office reference book, with both manuscript and typed entries, letters, copies of memos and so on, containing a wealth of miscellaneous Ordnance Survey information, including many references to map prices. Compilation appears to have started just after 1941, with additions to 1958, possibly by a Miss Reed or someone else who moved in quite senior circles within the Ordnance Survey and needed such information readily to hand.

¹ See Roger Hellyer, The archaeological and historical maps of the Ordnance Survey, *Cartographic Journal* Vol 26, no.2, December 1989, p111-133, especially p113. John Paddy Browne, *Map cover art*, page 53. Charles Close Society, Digital Images Collection, Image 207 at https://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/DigitalArchive/Roman_Britain.htm Proof copy of quarter-inch (1:253,440) *Scotland in Roman Times* (CCS 218B/55/4), shows the red overprint proof, plus notes by Roger Hellyer.

² Roger Hellyer, *Cartographic Journal* Vol 26. Note 21 reads: Recipients included universities at Oxford, Cambridge, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Other copies are in the OSMRL and RCHME, probably the residue of his minute stock.

³ Roger Hellyer, ‘Scotland in Roman Times’, *Sheetlines* 46, 46.

Two separate handwritten entries concern *Scotland in Roman Times*:

-) The Forth, Clyde & Tay 1/4" Roman Period.
Prepared 1939, Not published, 3/-, being reprinted, No date.
Copy in table drawer.

and

-) Scotland in Roman Times. The Forth Clyde & Tay.
18/10/48. 150 M & F. only @ 3/9d. No letterpress.

I do not intend to comment on the titles used in these entries, as I agree with Roger Hellyer that *Scotland in Roman Times* should be used.⁴ I know of a few copies with the original 'PRICE THREE SHILLINGS', as in the first entry. All have 'PRICE (Flat & unmounted) 2/- Net.' on the map, and all show signs of use, some, a lot of use. All copies known with the stamped revised price have had the price details on the map crossed through in pencil.

I suggest there are three pieces of evidence for suggesting that the intention was to offer the map for sale:

1. The stamped revised price on the front covers, including the words 'SALES-COPY'.
2. The second entry in the book with a price of 3/9d echoes that of the stamped price.
3. The original price for flat and unmounted maps has been erased from maps with the revised price as they no longer existed.

What about the '150 M & F. only' in the second entry? I assume M & F to mean mounted and folded, a term used by the Ordnance Survey. The 'only' acknowledges the destruction of the flat sheets, hence the erased price on stamped copies. But 150? 150 copies available for sale? Might these refer to the reprint mentioned in the first entry? If so, why such a low print run, even for war time or immediately post-war? If 150 does mean copies available for sale, how many were in fact sold, given that they appear not to have been advertised? Pre-war, few people outside the OS would have known this map was being prepared, and after 1940 Crawford initially maintained that he had distributed the only copies saved, 'I am sending *these* copies' (my italics). So why would the few who knew of the map enquire whether sales copies existed, when they might have been the very people Crawford had favoured with copies? The accompanying note implied *all* had been distributed.

Further questions might be put.

1. Did Crawford remove considerably more than fifty copies, without acknowledging them?

Unlikely in my opinion, since on 19 August 1956, at home in Nursling, he inscribed a copy along the usual lines: 'November 30 1940 ... 50 copies which I rescued beforehand'.⁵ Sixteen years after the event he still maintains that only fifty

⁴ Roger Hellyer, 'Scotland in Roman Times', *Sheetlines* 46, 46.

⁵ From an inscription on an inside cover in a private collection: 'This map, printed in 1939/40,

copies were removed. Certainly the first copy I came across was owned by a man who had worked with Crawford at the Ordnance Survey. He told me that the maps were rare and that only a few copies existed. I was told his copy came from a handful within the archaeology department. Sale copies were never mentioned, nor large numbers of copies.

2. Did someone else remove copies of this map and not tell Crawford? If so, why did he never find out? Were they brought out and stamped 'SALES-COPY' only after he retired in 1946?

3. If 150 in the second entry means copies available for sale, how many were sold, how many remained unsold and what happened to them? I feel pretty sure that copies were available for purchase, if one knew of them, or failing that, Richard Oliver suggests 'the limited stock was at least readied for sale, possibly around the time of the price rise on 1/9/45'. No evidence has been seen that a stamped copy was ever sold. The copy I have with the revised price is in pristine condition and I understand came from a source in Southampton. I am sure it was never sold. Both Roger Hellyer and Tim Nicholson saw six copies in similar condition, with the revised price stamp in a drawer in the Record Map Library in the 1980s.

4. Why 'SALES-COPY' at the start of the revised price? My understanding is that 'SALES COPY' was only used on military maps offered to the public.⁶ Does this mean they were on sale during the war, as were one-inch War Revisions marked 'SALES COPY'?

5. Why 150? It could be an error, but fifty would be no better. Only twenty copies would fit the accepted wisdom. Does 150 seem a reasonable number per box? I have no details of OS store keeping along these lines, so hesitate to comment further, but each copy weighs just under 110gms, making 5.5kg for 50, which would easily fit into an A4 photocopy paper box. This seems rather small; I would have assumed the use of larger boxes, and agree with Roger Hellyer that Crawford probably removed a wodge of maps, rather than counting them.

6. In the first entry, does 'being reprinted' mean the printing materials were still available? If so, what happened to them? Another comment from Roger: 'If I gauge the mood of the OS immediately post-war correctly, I would have thought that SIRT would have been about the last map on their books of which they would have permitted any reprint'.

Why is there no letterpress with each map? Previously, the letterpress was a significant part of each archaeological map issued, but I believe a decision was taken to publish *Scotland in Roman Times* without a letterpress. None was

was ready for publication in November but the stock was destroyed by fire on the night of November 30 – December 1st 1940, except for 50 copies (of which this is one) which I rescued before hand (sic). O.G.S. Crawford. Nursling, August 19th 1956'.

⁶ 'Sales copies' were identified by either an overprint or a sticker, bottom right: this was 'calculated to prevent the soldiery offering their free issue for sale to the public'. Richard Oliver in Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, *Military maps: the one-inch series of Great Britain and Ireland*, page 35.

intended in the later stages of production, and 'No letterpress' in the second entry is purely confirmation of this, rather than stating an intended letterpress is absent.

The first, and most compelling argument for this is that Crawford wrote that the map 'was *ready* for publication in November'⁷ (my italics). Ready without a letterpress. Crawford never mentioned its absence, nor did he suggest the maps sent out were incomplete. When he sent a security copy with an earlier red overprint to Professor EA Hooton at the Peabody Museum, Harvard he did not include a draft letterpress nor mention it being prepared.⁸

Secondly, this is confirmed by the scoring for folds to produce the spine being the exact width of the folded map, with no allowance for any letterpress. Earlier archaeological maps had usually been issued with map pasted on to the inside of the rear cover, about 6mm forward of the 'rear scoring' for the spine. *Scotland in Roman Times* is pasted flush to this line, with the two spine scorings the exact width of the folded map. Were a letterpress to be pasted on the inside front cover, the spine would be too narrow, causing the right vertical edge of the front cover to pull away leftwards.

Thirdly, the original 1939 price of Three shillings would have been very low for an archaeological map with letterpress. In 1932, *Neolithic Wessex*, cloth backed with a 35-page letterpress cost Four shillings, whilst the 1938 *Dark Ages (North)*, paper with a 43-page letterpress also cost Four shillings, and cloth backed cost Five shillings.

Speculation as to why it was decided not to have a letterpress is probably pointless.

Maybe resources were focused on more pressing matters in 1939/40? Or was it decided to issue the map as soon as possible, and subsequently issue a text, possibly one for the whole projected series? I am surprised that Crawford never drew attention to the absence, when he might also have given a reason. Instead he says the stock was destroyed 'just before publication', and 'was ready for publication'. Not 'In the final stages of production' or 'before the letterpress was added'. Surely, if the map was incomplete he would have regretted and noted the fact?

Finally, we might speculate on *Overprinted 1939* which is the nearest we get to a publication date on this map. Supposedly printed in 1939, stocks were destroyed at the end of November 1940, almost a year later, possibly longer. In his letter to Hooton of 25 May 1940, Crawford writes:

1. '... on the published edition it *will* be in black'. (my italics).
2. 'this red overprint appears to be the only available copy'.

Surely, this suggests that the black version, though dated 1939, had not been printed by May 1940, as only a single copy of the red version could be found for Hooton. But why was the date of overprinting not changed to 1940, whilst the archaeological detail for the black plate was being changed?

I know of 19 copies of this map, some with and some without the revised

⁷ See footnote 5 above.

⁸ Roger Hellyer, *Cartographic Journal*. Vol 26, no.2, December 1989, p119.

price, and believe the time has come to try and record the total number of copies that have survived, and of these, how many have the revised price stamp. If numbers reported are significantly beyond fifty and twenty respectively, the accepted story of this map will have to be re-considered.

Perhaps members holding copies or knowing where copies reside could contact me,⁹ in confidence at david@david-archer-maps.co.uk or David Archer, The Pentre, Kerry, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, SY16 4PD.

For this piece, I have unashamedly plundered Roger Hellyer's work and used suggestions from email discussions, for which I am even deeper in debt to him than usual. Thanks are also due to all who have shared thoughts and supplied information over the years, especially Chris Bull, Richard Oliver, Richard Porter, Rufus Sweetman and Rob Wheeler.



Extract from proof copy of Scotland in Roman Times with red overprint showing part of the Antonine Wall. From the CCS Digital Archive at www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/DigitalArchive/Roman_Britain.htm

An exhibition titled *The World in a Book: Hakluyt and Renaissance Discovery* celebrating the life and legacy of geographer Richard Hakluyt on the 400th anniversary of his death is at the Bodleian Library until 23 December. Hakluyt (1552-1616) was an influential writer and editor whose works promoted exploration, commerce and the colonization of North America. He is also considered to be the first to lecture in modern geography at the University of Oxford.

⁹ Plus known holdings of *Dark Ages (North)* 1938, 3000/38 which has an almost identical history, yet is ignored by most collectors. 'Before the outbreak of war, some 70 copies had been disposed of in various ways. The whole of the rest of the stock was destroyed in November, 1940 at London Road'. CW Phillips, *Cartographic Journal* Vol 26, no.2, December 1989, page 119, footnote 68. These maps are not too uncommon, so it is always possible that Phillips was repeating incorrect hearsay from before his appointment.