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“Cornish Explorers - B editions”

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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.

Cornish Explorers – B editions

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All twelve *Cornish Explorers* were published as B editions mainly in August 2003, the three exceptions in September and November. Lists appeared in *Sheetlines* 68 and 69 stating that ‘These are all noted as revised for **selected** change 2003. No full revision date is given.’

All but four (including 109, which is a C edition resulting from a shift in map area in 1997) bear the legend: ‘Revised for **significant** change 2003. 108 appears as **B** ‘Revised for significant change 2003’ and ‘Reprinted for minor change 2003’. 106 and 107 simply appear as ‘Revised 2003’. 103 appears (incorrectly) as an A.

Whether or not ‘revised’ (in the cases of 106 and 107) was intended to imply an overall revision was discussed at length in the article on the A editions in *Sheetlines* 58. A comparison of the whole of 106 and part of 107 using 1:10,000 scale maps updated to early 2000 and air photos dated 1999 clearly indicate only partial revision.

This is most apparent, as is usual in the case of the 1:25,000 map, in respect of field boundaries, mainly deletion, and may be gauged by examples from 107. Considerable deletion is carried out in squares 1356 and 1759 but not to the immediate south and east in the case of the former, or to the south, east and west in the latter. In square 1354 there is both

⁹ The date is from the British Library on-line catalogue, and may be a date of reissue. I have not so far however traced an earlier issue of this map.

¹⁰ Dov Gavish, *Land and Map; the Survey of Palestine 1920-1948*, Jerusalem, 1991.

¹¹ E & G Wajntraub, *Hebrew Maps of the Holy Land*, Wien: Brüder Hollinek, 1992.

deletion and addition of field boundaries but a large area, of vegetation (green on the 1:10,000 map) does not appear.

To put this into perspective (and to be fair to the modern OS) *Pathfinder* SX49/59 (1312, published 1969) field boundary representation was as per 1904-5 over 147 km² (out of the 200 total), 7 km² as per 1932, 40 km² as per 1953 and 6 km² (all open moorland of Dartmoor) as per 1964!

On the positive side, sheets 112 and 126 are far better in appearance in that the mix of upright and sloping lettering (a legacy from early *Pathfinder* days) has been rationalised in favour of the former. Other improvements on all sheets are as follows: all the 'sketched' lakes and ponds, and a few buildings have been replaced by properly surveyed detail from the larger scales; firebreaks in woods (as distinct from wide tracks) are clearly depicted and in the majority of cases are new detail, and it is thought that very little in the way of new built up area detail or major new rural building (as opposed to farm buildings) has been neglected. As has been noted earlier, selective field boundary alteration occurs on all sheets.

Of particular interest is the *Isles of Scilly* sheet, 101. Apart from the islands and islets there is a 1:2500 survey of Hugh Town; a 1:10,000 survey of most of Tresco and Bryher, and a 1:25,000 extract of Penzance. All of these have been revised to a degree fully or partly in keeping with the main map.

On the down side (for those who do not like this sort of thing!) there is a curious infestation of purple and red seabirds – a symbol peculiar to the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust? (Purple = 'always open' and red = 'limited access'.) One final improvement to 102, the redundant British Rail symbol (additional to the red infilled circle) has been removed.

No tidal alterations were immediately apparent on any sheet. Air photos (1999), seemingly taken at the time of a mean low, confirmed much of the low tide lines in the Newquay and St Austell areas (bar a possible alteration at Par Beach) but very substantial differences to the low water channel and various sandbanks at Padstow and the estuary of the River Camel.