



Sheetlines

The journal of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

“New Popular one-inch maps - more on the
covers”

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Sheetlines, 82 (August 2008), pp.17-21

Stable URL: <http://www.charlesclosesociety.org/files/Issue82page17.pdf>

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Published by
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
www.CharlesCloseSociety.org

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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.

New Popular one-inch maps – more on the covers

K S Andrews

To write an article describing 41 New Popular one-inch map cover variants is to throw down a gauntlet.¹ This article records some extra cover features and two interesting additional variants discovered in their collections by the author and others who have taken up the challenge.

Ellis Martin hand-lettered covers

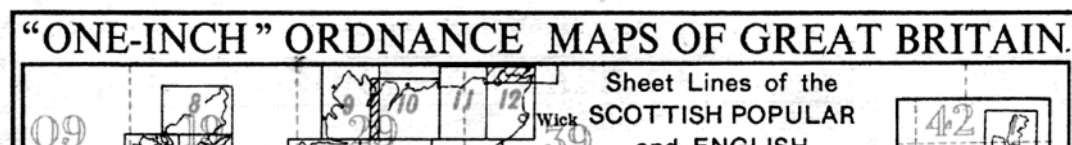
During the Second World War, eleven New Popular sheets were ready in hand-lettered covers. The copies mounted on cloth have covers with an index for the intended 190-sheet New Popular Edition which was then covered by a paste-on showing the composite New Popular and Scottish Popular indexes (variants KA1.1 to 1.4).² By viewing the index with an electric torch directly beneath it in a darkened room, the hidden index is revealed. The paper and dissected versions of these eleven sheets have the proper index directly printed on the back of the hand-lettered cover (KA1.5) so their covers were printed later, but before the publication prices were fixed at 2/3 and 5/- respectively. There are two features of the cloth cover paste-on to report.

a) Point out the difference

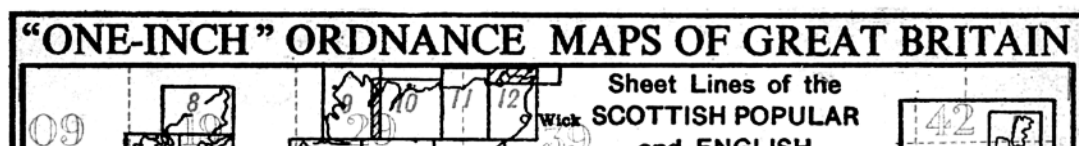
The heading to the concealed index is as follows (image courtesy of Richard Oliver).



The heading to the Ellis Martin cloth cover paste-on is as follows, with a new font, as can be clearly seen from the 'M', 'G' and 'B' as well as the new index and the red grid.



The heading of all other New Popular indexes is as follows, the difference being the removal of the full stop after 'BRITAIN'.



¹ *Sheetlines* 76, 14-28.

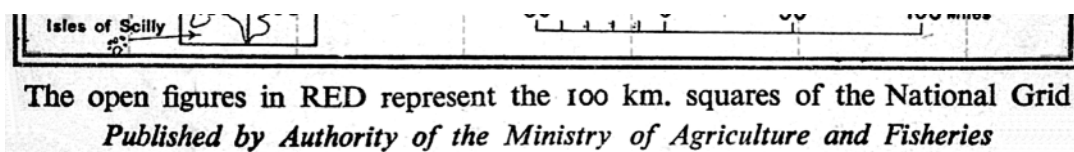
² The KA variant code scheme is described in detail in reference 1. Note there is an error in the table of group KA6 on page 28: 'red grid with N over index' is not a feature of KA6.1.

b) *The paste-on split*

The ‘*Published by...*’ line printed above the hidden index is printed below the index on the paste-on (KA1.1 and 1.3).



But there are two versions of the paste-on, the second being as follows (KA1.2 and 1.4). Note that the editor who uses full stops sparingly has been at work after ‘*Fisheries*’. It seems definite that this version, carried through to subsequent cover variants, is later than the one-liner.



By examining the author’s collection, plus that of Cambridge University Library (including the Messenger Collection) and through the co-operation of some CCS members and eBay vendors, a pattern of distribution of the two versions has emerged.³ The one-line version is on the south-eastern cluster of maps and the two-line version is on the rest (see Figure 1). Sheets 158, 161, 172 and 182 each have one cover of the ‘wrong’ type. The number of covers inspected was as follows: sheet 157-8, 158-7, 161-10, 167-8, 169-6, 171-5, 172-13, 179-10, 182-5, 183-6 and 184-6. More data would be welcome.

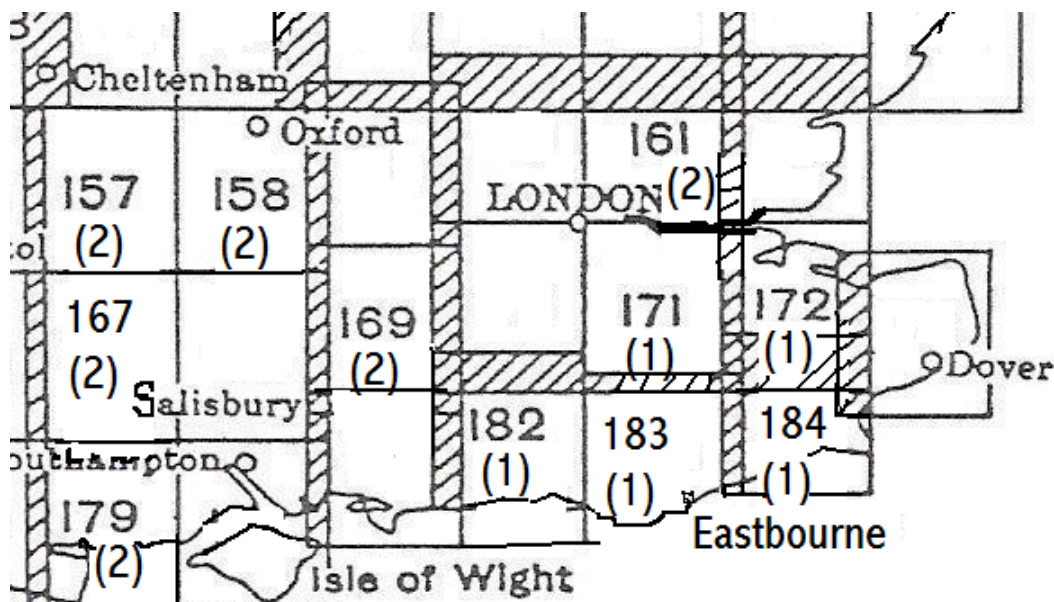


Figure 1: the Ellis Martin cloth sheet numbers with (in brackets) the number of lines of text below the index on the paste-on. Index diagram adapted from Roger Hellyer, *Ordnance Survey small-scale indexes: 1801-1998*, Kerry: David Archer, 1999 by courtesy of the publisher

³ The assistance of David Archer, Tim Bleasdale, Keith Case, Roy Firth, Peter Gibson, Richard Oliver, Anne Taylor, Pat Welham and Debbie Whiteman is gratefully acknowledged. In addition, thanks are due to Richard Oliver for helpful discussions.

It is suggestive that, faced with needing paste-ons for a known large number of the eleven covered sheets, the one-line version was superseded when less than half the covers had been altered (35 out of 84 in this mini-survey). With the slip pasted on the sheet giving information about grid working and the inside cover paste-ons giving yet more, OS may have thought they had missed an opportunity to draw attention to its presence on the new back index (it had been absent on the original), so quickly made amends.

The author favours the proposition that, in the case of cloth maps, the paste-ons of sheet and cover were all attached after the sheets had been mounted, folded and covered. There is evidence from grid amendment slips which show less creasing than the cloth map sheet to which they are attached, preventing the cloth from being flattened (and dissected copies show evidence of it being attached after dissection, see Figure 2). Again, the text inside the cover would surely have been printed directly on the card if that were possible, as was done for paper and dissected versions. The evidence for the new index being glued on after map covering is more tenuous, just the negative fact that no covers seen so far have been trimmed through its lower edge. But why a flapping red-on-white price tag that did not conceal the original price on the cover?

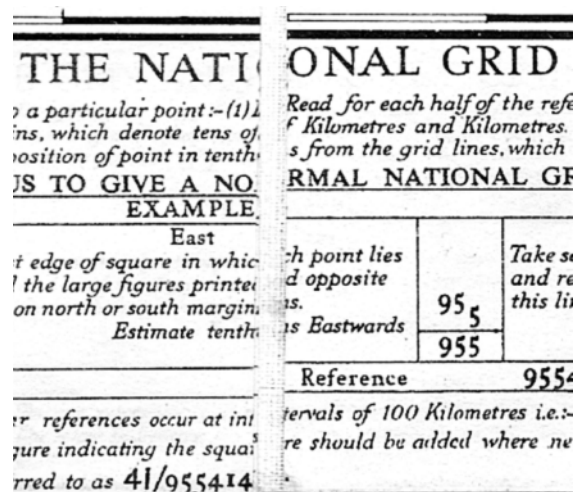


Figure 2: the grid working amendment slip of dissected sheet 169, Aldershot. The left half does not reach to hide the rules and 's' of 'square' beneath, showing attachment after dissection. Note also 'whic ch' and 'int tervals' – these not parts of the one slip

The index diagram

There are two new points to mention about changes to the index diagram. The diagram was initially printed with the text 'Sheet Lines of the SCOTTISH POPULAR and ENGLISH NEW POPULAR EDITIONS.' on the sea to the east of Wick. Perhaps the Welsh felt slighted, for this text was removed when the red grid lines were cleared for variants KA5.4, 5.5, 5.7 and 6.1. Secondly, there are two versions of the index scale, the text 'Scale of Index' being short and then long (see below).



The long version was used when the hatching was omitted from the overlap of sheets 86 and 92 on the New Popular version of the index. From variant KA6.2 on, a Seventh Series index was used.

LONDON, S.W.

The original article boldly reported the titles of London sheets with commas were only on the hand-lettered covers of sheets 161 and 171. Geoff Cleaver has kindly pointed out that his first map, bought in 1945, sheet 170, has 'LONDON, S.W.' in letterpress on the cover.

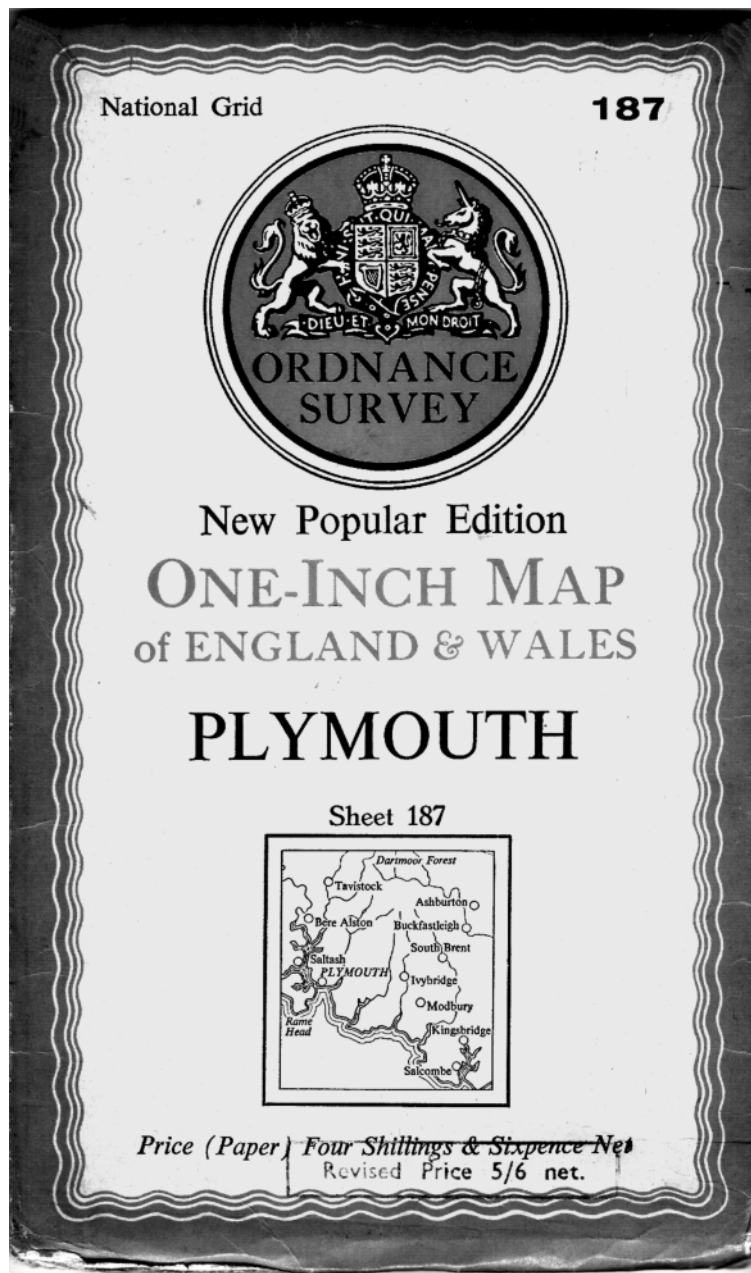


Figure 3: a New Popular cover of mid-1960 with publication and revision dates omitted

Montgomery and Llandrindod Wells

Front cover sheet titles are usually in block capitals but investigation of the exceptions has proved interesting. For sheet 128, ‘Montgomery and Llandrindod Wells’ is in upper case on variant groups KA3 and 4 but on groups KA5 and 6 is in sentence case. The explanation would seem to be that the Caslon font used for the early titles had an especially narrow version available for use where space was tight, e.g. for sheet 128, *inter alia*. From group KA5 onwards when ‘New Popular Edition’ was set in smaller type, the font used for titles was changed from Caslon and now no narrow characters were available; the font size from one title to the next was varied but the proportions of a character were unchanged. Therefore ‘Montgomery and Llandrindod Wells’ will be found on the later covers, and, incidentally, on Seventh Series covers, in sentence case to make it fit.

Rear-Admiral Beamish MP defied

At the request of Rear-Admiral Beamish in 1944, the dates of map publication and revision were printed on covers. After a few initial hiccups, this was faithfully done until 1966, when Seventh Series covers RO21a onwards omitted them.⁴ However, in May 1960 they were temporarily dropped on the scarce Seventh Series cover variant RO6ax. A temporary lapse datable to the same period has now been found on New Popular covers in the south-west of England, the only region still covered by the edition at that date (see Figure 3). The cover for *Plymouth* illustrated is otherwise variant KA6.5 (the HMSO booklet price is 1/6), so it should be classified KA6.5x. A similar omission has been found on sheet 188, *Torquay*, but this time the HMSO booklet price inside the cover is 1/3 so the cover should be classified as KA6.4x.⁵

For New Popular covers, these date omissions span the changeover period for the HMSO booklet price, dated by Seventh Series cover hinge codes to mid-1960. Therefore it is postulated that there might be, somewhere, by analogy, a so-far unreported new Seventh Series cover variant RO6bx with booklet price 1/6.

It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Case of Identity*

⁴ K S Andrews and R C Wheeler, *Sheetlines 70*, 11-21.

⁵ Thanks to Pat Welham for reporting these variants.