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“Covering post-war Scottish Populars”

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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.

Covering post-war Scottish Populars

K S Andrews

This article builds on the contribution to the subject by Richard Oliver.¹

Introduction

The Second World War was responsible for the one-inch Scottish Popular maps with National Grid. When it ended, the need to restore British civil mapping quickly caused the New Popular Edition to be reduced in scope from covering Great Britain to just England and Wales, leaving Scots with revised pre-war Popular Edition maps on Cassini projection for another ten years. The National Grid was superimposed, emphasising their antiquity; being a Transverse Mercator system, it slopes across the sheets. The edition comprising 91 sheets, numbered 1 to 88 and 90 to 92, was initially issued from August 1945 (sheet 72, *Glasgow*) to April 1948 (sheet 1, *Yell & Unst*) and was progressively superseded by the Seventh Series on new sheet lines between late 1955 and mid-1961.² Sheets commonly cover an area measuring 28 × 19 miles, landscape format, giving a map 71.1 × 48.3 cm, but 19 sheets are portrait. Several are non-standard, e.g. *Glasgow* weighs in at 34 × 24 miles. The maps measure 11 × 20 cm when folded, the covers being 11.8 × 20.5 cm, portrait.³

Like and unlike

Roger Hellyer distinguished between the New Popular cover H96.1a by Ellis Martin and the Scottish Popular version H96.1b, with lion rampant, which resembles it.⁴ The New Popular cover is the larger, at 12.2 × 20.8 cm. To adjust the design to the smaller cover, the ripple edge is subtly modified. The New Popular is 12 ripples by 22 but the Scottish Popular is 11 ripples by 20, with one wider ripple part way down.⁵ The field inside the border is thus reduced from 10 × 18.5 cm to 9 × 17 cm. Space is further restricted by the height of the Scottish lion rampant: this fearsome beast, with the crown, is 0.8 cm taller than the roundel on the New Popular cover. The device is not new, it is a scaled down version from the pre-war cover of the Popular Edition of Scotland, where the giant creature, literally red in tooth and claw, must have scared away timid shoppers.

Scottish Popular covers also differ from New Populars in that the paper and cloth maps are not Bender fold. Paper, cloth and dissected versions of each Scottish Popular sheet are all covered the same way with two cards. Standard size landscape sheets when folded have seven panels horizontally, so the back cover is hinged by its left edge but some non-standard landscape and most portrait sheets have an even number of panels so their back covers are hinged on the side users of New Popular dissected maps would expect.

The index diagram on the back is common to New Popular and Scottish Popular covers, as are the insides with grid working information, though London and Bristol Cathedral must

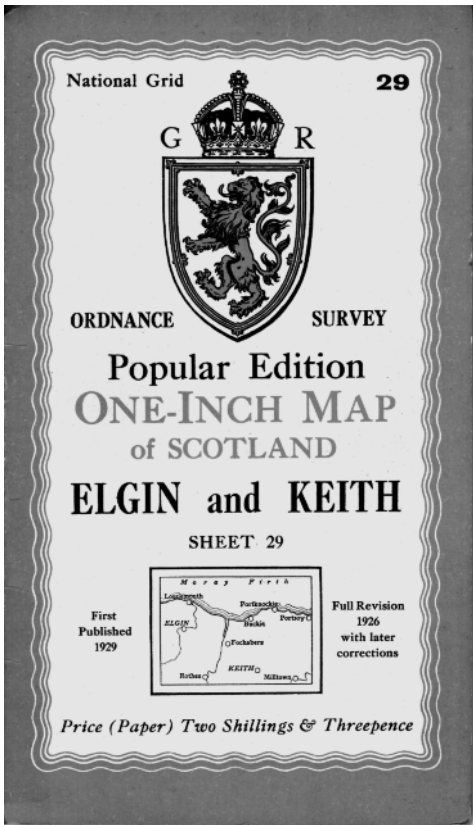
¹ Richard Oliver, *A guide to the Ordnance Survey one-inch Popular Edition of Scotland*, London: Charles Close Society, 2000, 15-16.

² *Ibid.*, 24-43.

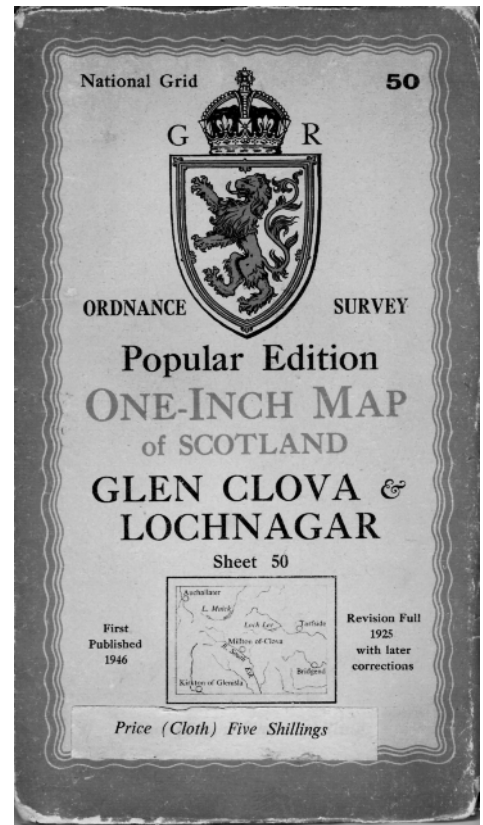
³ Some portrait format maps are a bit taller when folded and when covered, e.g. sheet 25, *Raasay and Applecross*, which can be up to 21.3 cm tall. The cover of sheet 72, *Glasgow*, one of the largest landscape sheets, varies from standard size up to 12.2 × 20.8 cm (the size of New Popular covers).

⁴ John Paddy Browne, *Map Cover Art*, Southampton: Ordnance Survey, 1990, 132.

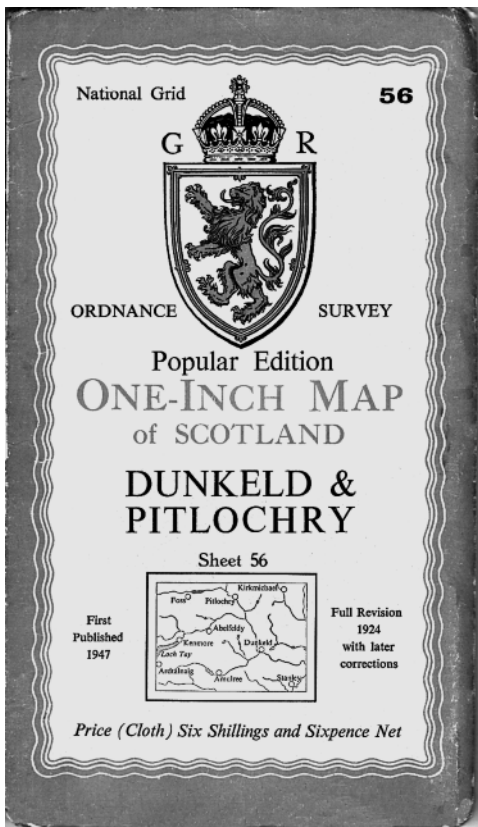
⁵ Did Martin get his inspiration for the 'raspberry ripple' motif from the water-lining of the coast on the sketch maps?



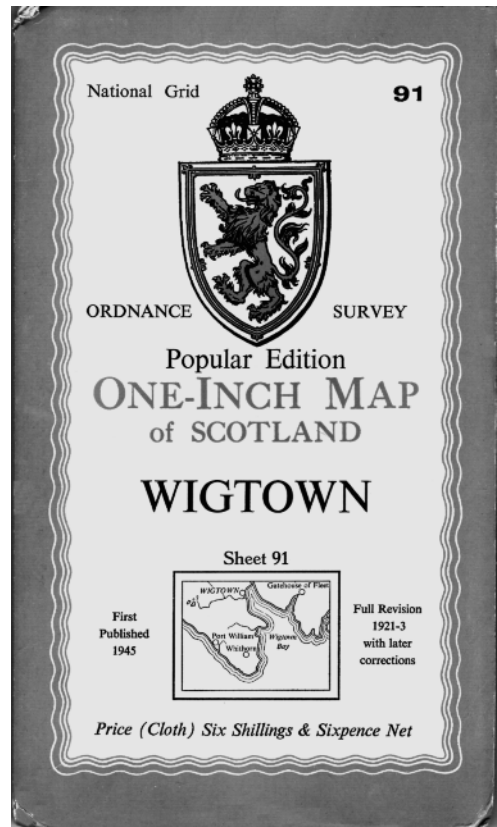
a. Group KA-S3 with 'SHEET XX'



b. Group KA-S4 with 'Sheet XX'



c. Group KA-S5 with 'Popular Edition' smaller



d. Group KA-S6 with 'GR' omitted

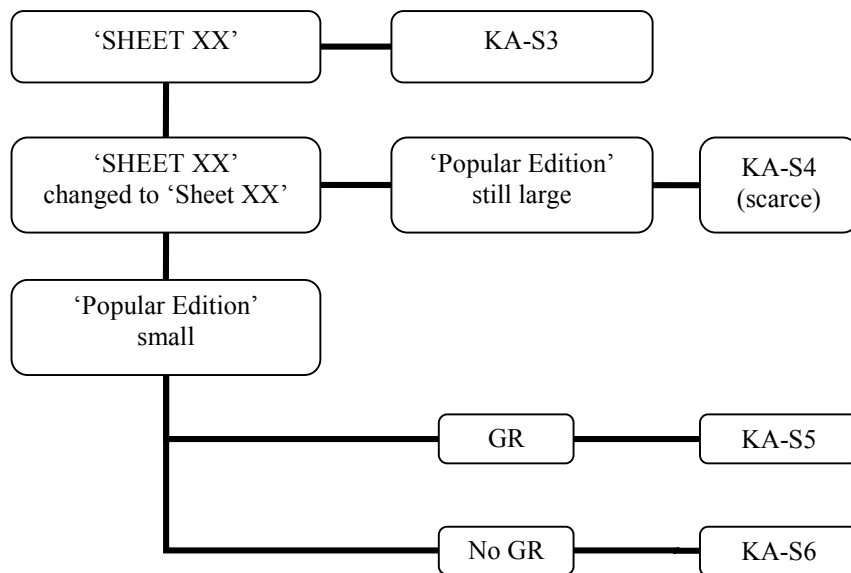
Figure 1: The four front cover groups

have seemed inappropriate examples to Scots. See reference 6 for a detailed treatment of these features.

Grouping the cover types

The front cover groups will be familiar to students of the New Popular Edition.⁶ The similarities of the cover features have allowed the same groups to be used with a prefix S for Scotland. Readers bemused by the multiplicity of New Popular variants will be relieved to realise that groups KA1 and 2, used for covers with 3-box sketches, have no Scottish counterpart, there is no spine to worry about and covers equivalent to group KA4 are very scarce.⁷

Most Scottish Popular front covers are similar to groups KA3, 5 and 6 and are styled KA-S3, KA-S5 and KA-S6 as shown in this tree and illustrated in Figure 1.



Classifying the variants within the groups

The paper, cloth and dissected covers are combined for classification and sheet-specific information is generalised. The original printed price is used; if hidden by labels, it can usually be deciphered by torchlight shone from below in a dark room.

Initially, the strategy adopted in this project was to identify each Scottish Popular map cover using the corresponding New Popular classification but it soon became apparent that, though this approach was usually satisfactory, there were covers that did not conform. It was therefore thought best to classify the front and back parts of the cover separately since there were potentially many combinations. This method also has the advantage of making classification a simpler procedure.

See Tables 1 and 2 for the features specific to the variants within each front cover group. Back cover variants are in Table 3.

⁶ *Sheetlines* 76, 14-28.

⁷ About 8% of New Popular covers are in group KA4; for Scotland KA-S4 drops to 1% (5/560). They would appear to date from about 1950 when there was a lull in the revision of Scottish editions – they are seen on editions of sheets that were issued initially in group 3 covers, stock evidently running low.

Table 1.*Group KA-S3 'New Popular Edition' in large print, 'SHEET XX'**Group KA-S4 'New Popular Edition' in large print, 'Sheet XX'*

	S3.1	S3.2	S3.3	S3.4	S3.5	S4.1
GR font 1	Y	Y				
GR font 2			Y	Y	Y	Y
Paper price	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	
Cloth price	3/-	3/-		3/-	3/-	3/-
Dissected price	5/-	5/-	5/-	5/-	5/-	
Tan card inside					Y	
Sections (1), (2), (3).	Y					
Sections (a), (b), (c).		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grid reference deletions /	Y	Y	Y			
Grid reference deletions				Y	Y	Y
Orkney & Shetland reference inside			Y	Y	Y	Y
Number seen	43	63	54	117	96	5

Price shown where example seen.

Table 2.*Group KA-S5 'New Popular Edition' smaller, GR**Group KA-S6 GR omitted*

	S5.1	S5.2	S5.3	S5.4	S5.5	S6.1	S6.2
GR font 2	Y	Y	Y	Y			
GR font 3					Y		
Paper price, Net	3/-	3/-		4/-	4/-	4/-	4/6
Cloth price, Net	5/-	5/-	5/-	6/6	6/6	6/6	
Dissected price, Net							
'National Grid' heading inside	Y	Y					
Grid reference deletions	Y						
Grid reference deletions \		Y					
National Grid and Reference System			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
His Majesty's Stationery Office			Y	Y			
H.M.S.O. (Booklet still 1/3)					Y	Y	Y
Number seen	4	77	13	7	10	67	5

Price shown where example seen.

Table 3. Back cover variants

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Red grid, no N by Shetland	Y	Y									
Red grid with N by Shetland			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Red sheet 89 on index			Y								
Red printing omitted						Y					
86/92 overlap not hatched.							Y	Y	Y	Y	
'Scale of Index' longer											
Seventh Series index											Y
2 lines below index.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
The open... <i>Published</i> ...											
5 lines below index. The open...									Y		
5 lines below index. NOTE:- Orders for...										Y	
5 lines below index. NOTE - These maps...											Y
Tan card inside					Y	Y					
'may be omitted, thus:' below diagram II	Y										
'omitted thus:-E538932,' below diagram II		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
'E538932, N177061 will' below diagram II							Y				
'3877, or, more frequently' below diagram II								Y	Y		
Large grid diagram.										Y	Y
'are now replacing the figures'											
Number seen	43	63	54	128	95	1	8	41	27	76	25

Variant 6 has not been seen on New Popular covers.

Variant 10 has the New Popular index with no red grid and no text east of Wick 'Sheet lines of...'. .

Table 4. Variants with New Popular equivalents

<i>Scottish Popular</i>	<i>Number seen</i>	<i>New Popular</i>	<i>Scottish Popular</i>	<i>Number seen</i>	<i>New Popular</i>
S3.1,1	43	3.2	S5.1,4	4	--
S3.2,2	63	3.3	S5.2,4	1	--
S3.3,3	54	3.4	S5.2,7	8	5.1
S3.4,4	117	3.6	S5.2,8	41	5.2
S3.5,5	95	3.8	S5.2,9	27	5.3
S3.5,6	1	--	S5.3,10	13	5.4
			S5.4,4	1	--
			S5.4,10	6	--
			S5.5,10	10	5.7
S4.1,4	5	4.2	S6.1,10	47	6.1
			S6.1,11	20	6.2
			S6.2,11	5	6.3

A cover is classified using the scheme KA-S(group.front cover),(back cover) so that a cover in group 5 with front cover type 2 and back cover type 7 is KA-S5.2,7. As can be seen by studying the list of variant combinations found (Table 4), this scheme was necessitated by some covers in group KA-S5. In groups 3, 4 and 6, all covers had New Popular counterparts, with the sole exception of S3.5,6 where the back cover is taken to be a one-off printing blip. The intended cover was surely the orthodox KA-S3.5,5. For an illustration of back cover variant 6, see the earlier query from Tim Bleasdale.⁸

The number of variants for New Popular covers in groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 is 31. The number of Scottish Popular variants is just 19, of which 14 correspond to New Popular variants. Their fascination lies in the unpredictability of group 5 covers.

The geographical distribution of the early cover variants is tied into the sketch map study, which will be reported in due course.

Generic and sheet-specific printing

On the front, the black text ‘National Grid’, ‘ORDNANCE SURVEY’ and ‘Popular Edition’ are not fixed relative to the shield, as is also the case with, to a lesser extent, the letters ‘GR’ astride the crown. These generic components of the cover design would appear to have been printed with the sheet-specific elements of sheet number (top right), title, sheet number with sketch map, and the price line. All covers also bear the dates of publication and revision. The two initial generic printing passes were therefore, in black, just the lion and crown motif and, in red, the wavy frame, the infills to the cap of the crown, lion and shield and the text ‘ONE-INCH MAP of SCOTLAND’. The red plate was modified to lift this latter text for groups 5 and 6 when ‘Popular Edition’ was raised and printed with smaller lettering. The insides and back are wholly generic.

Typefaces

By reference to the OS *Specimens of Type* book, Chessington, 1947, the typefaces on the front covers were identified. The bold sheet numbers, top right, were Founders Type Grotesque point size 18. Elsewhere on the front, three typefaces were used. Two were Caslon in inspiration and one was Times.⁹ The Caslon faces were Founders Type and the Times was Monotype. The covers in groups 3 and 4 were printed in Old Style, the flamboyant ampersand used in some titles and prices being quite characteristic (see Figure 1b). For ‘ORDNANCE SURVEY’ and where a title would otherwise take two or even three lines, Old Face Heavy Compressed was employed; this font has a simple ampersand and a characteristic ‘G’ (see Figure 1a). For groups 5 and 6, Times Roman was used throughout, except for the Grotesque sheet number, the red lettering which was left in Old Style, and ‘Sheet XX’ (see Figures 1c and 1d).

The sheet number line ‘SHEET XX’ was in Old Style and for group S4 ‘Sheet XX’ was also in that typeface. In groups S5 and S6 ‘Sheet XX’ was changed to Founders Type Old Roman with its characteristic ‘e’. The sketch maps are a separate topic to be considered subsequently.

⁸ *Sheetlines* 81, 56. See also page 57 of the same issue.

⁹ William Caslon (1692-1766), English typeface designer and foundry owner.

King George's font

To be a bit different, there were three typefaces used for the GR monogram astride the crown. The first, (font 1 in the tables of variants), seen on KA-S3.1 and S3.2, is Old Style. It was soon replaced by font 2 (unidentified), which was carried through from S3.3 to S5.4. The last, font 3, Times Roman, is seen solely on S5.5, the final variant before the GR monogram was removed due to the death of King George VI. These font alterations were easily done because the monogram was printed during the sheet-specific printing pass (see above).

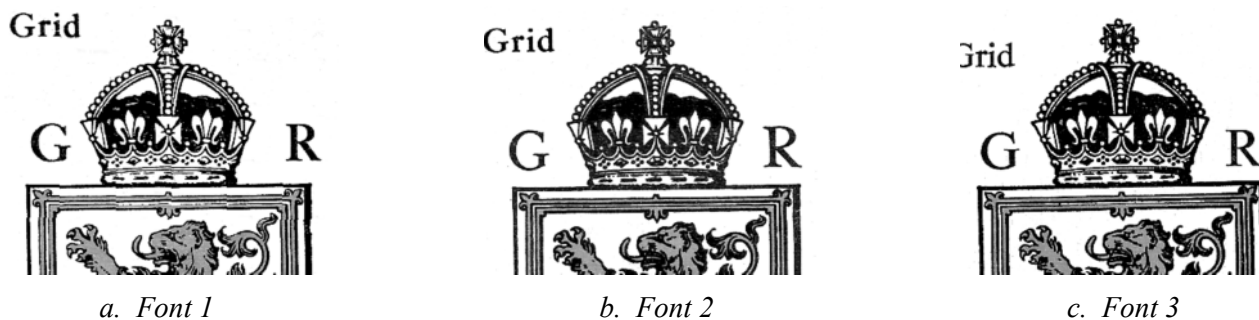


Figure 2: King George's font

Titles

The first phase of titles are seen on covers in groups 3 and 4, where capital letters in a range of point sizes were used except for 'and' and, sometimes, 'of' or '-on-' in lower case. The ampersand was used instead of 'and' to balance the layout or where space was at a premium. A cover with an unusual point size change is 'THE CHEVIOT HILLS' whereas 'THE CUILLINS, RHUM & CANNA', a popular sheet with rather more challenging hills, lacks this quirk.

With groups 5 and 6, Times Roman had no compressed version. Not even an ampersand would have prevented 'CASTLE DOUGLAS AND KIRKCUDBRIGHT' needing three lines. On two lines in the compressed font version, 'Grampian Mountains and Blair Atholl' is now in Times Roman sentence case so as to fit 'Grampian Mountains' on one line. We now have 'The CHEVIOT HILLS' needing two lines.

There is one title change to note. Sheet 81 was 'KELSO' from group 3 to 5 and 'KELSO and THE CHEVIOT' for group 6.

Point size changes

For the majority of covers, the sketch maps are landscape format, for which space is available within the limited free area of the cover. There is, however, a high proportion of two-line sheet titles in Scotland and these cause the cover to look cluttered. The crunch comes when a two-line title is combined with a portrait sketch, e.g. sheet 60, 'NORTH JURA and FIRTH of LORNE', when the layout was relieved by font size reductions – the sheet number and price lines of covers like this were reduced from point size 12 to 8. Later, when the cover was modified with 'Popular Edition' in smaller print placed closer to the shield, 'ONE-INCH MAP of SCOTLAND' was moved up the red plate and the cluttered appearance of these problem covers was relaxed. The sheet number lines were then all in the normal point size but the price line was changed to the intermediate point size 11 for all the portrait sketch covers, even where the title occupied a single line.

Price changes

<i>Date range</i>	<i>Paper</i>	<i>Cloth</i>	<i>Dissected</i>
to 30.6.50	2/3	3/-	5/-
1.7.50 – 30.6.52	3/-	5/-	10/6*
1.7.52 – 31.3.58	4/-	6/6	none seen
1.4.58 – 31.12.60	4/6	7/- [†]	--
1.1.61 on	5/6 [‡]	none seen	--

The date ranges are taken from New Popular data by analogy.

The price lines for 2/3, 4/6 and 6/6 used ‘&’ but ‘and’ was used for some 6/6 prices, especially on covers S5.4 and 5.5.

Very few covers have been seen printed after the price rise of 1.4.58. None were seen having the prices from 1.1.61, which would only have affected the Shetland Islands sheets 1-4, had new cover batches been needed for them.

The paper strip method is more common for price changes than rubber stamps.

* The half-guinea price for a dissected map from July 1950 has only been seen on a neat rubber stamping ‘Revised Price 10/6 net.’ similar to that used to re-price paper maps at 3/- and cloth at 5/-.

[†] The seven shilling price for a cloth map from April 1958 has only been seen on an official price change strip.

[‡] Only seen as ‘Revised Price 5/6 net.’ stamped on a copy of sheet 1 in cover KA-S6.2,11 signed ‘A D Bateman 1961’.

Date codes

There is a date code on the front hinge of about half of the covers in the following variants.

KA-S6.1,11 11.56 (four seen), 2.57, 5.57, 6.57 (two)

KA-S6.2,11 5.58, 7.58 (two), 1.59.

On New Populars the rear hinge was used and on the Seventh Series the front hinge.

The tan card interval

Back cover 4 and its tan card equivalent 5 were found on approximately 40% of Scottish Popular maps seen and 45% of those were the tan version. The tan covers KA-S3.5,5 were evidently produced in large numbers. It has already been shown that the tan-carded New Popular covers came after printing was begun on the spines of the covers of paper New Popular maps and therefore the plain card version was used before the tan one. In this study, sheet 35, *Sound of Sleat*, on cloth was found in both covers, printing 2235 in the tan cover S3.5,5 and the later printing 2337 in the plain S3.4,4. There is a similar situation with two copies on cloth of sheet 61, *Oban & Loch Awe*, with 8046/Cr in the tan cover and the later 2328 in the plain one. It is therefore deduced that the plain cards S3.4,4 were used both before and after the tan card version S3.5,5.

Shuffling the cards in group 5

Table 4 shows four variants in cover group 5 that have no correspondence with New Popular covers.

Now the advanced student will know that the grid working text inside the front and back of New Popular covers comes in nine varieties and will realise that the Bender cover format ensures that the two pages match as intended. The two-part cover on Scottish Popular maps has no such built-in assurance of conformity and where changes are trivial this is of no consequence. Indeed, the changes to the angle of cancellation of grid references and to the wrapping of the text around Diagram II seem pointless. However, the change from printing the inside front by letterpress to lithography which occurred at front cover KA-S5.2, as consistent cancellations reveal, was a beneficial change that saved the effort of overprinting (and the embarrassment of poor registration in an organisation where accuracy of registration on maps was vital).

Variant KA-S5.2,4 arises from two pages of grid working explanation not seen in conjunction on New Popular covers. The other variant with an unexpected pairing of grid pages is S5.4,4 which has the radically new version of the inside front with an old version of the inside back – hence Diagram II without Diagram I.

Variant S5.1,4 arises from the use of cards not seen on New Popular maps after KA4.2. Variant S5.4,10 has a new price on a card combination only seen on New Popular covers at the previous price. This shows that stocks of card were sensibly used up rather than discarded due to minor updates.

Endgame

The last change seen on the generic front card was the replacement of ‘His Majesty’s Stationery Office’ inside by ‘H.M.S.O.’ for variant KA-S5.5. The last change to the back card was the use of the Seventh Series index and the new note below it, variant 11.

Five examples of variant KA-S6.2,11, paper, were seen; these bear the price from 1.4.58 and this is the last change to the cover detail.

No covers were seen with ‘which have replaced the figures’ above the large grid diagram inside the back or with the HMSO booklet priced at 1/6 inside the front. These changes can be dated from Seventh Series date codes to August 1958 and June 1960 respectively. Therefore it is concluded that the last stocks of card with generic printing were produced before those dates.

The last sheets of the Scottish Popular and New Popular editions were superseded together in mid-1961 but the absence of Scottish Popular variants corresponding to the late New Popular variants KA6.4, 6.4x, 6.5, 6.5x and 6.6 presumably reflects the very different relative sales of Cornwall and Devon sheets compared to the Outer Hebrides, Sutherland and the Shetlands.

Disclaimer and acknowledgements

The study of 900 New Popular covers failed to find two of the variants.¹⁰ This study of a mere 560 examples of a set of two-part covers with more potential for variability will offer ample scope for additional contributions, which will be welcome.

The author is indebted again to Richard Oliver who revised the introduction, to Anne Taylor for access to the Messenger Collection at Cambridge University Library and to Peter Gibson who has reported on his collection and sent half for scrutiny. Thanks are also due to Tim Bleasdale whose hospitality, map collection and railway signage brightened a nostalgic visit to snow-covered Harrogate.

¹⁰ *Sheetlines* 82, 17-21.