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“An Ordnance Survey staff association”

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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.

An Ordnance Survey staff association

Roly Hann's 'Dealer's Diary'¹ mentions the Ordnance Survey Technical Officers Association, later known as the Association of Government Geographers and Allied Technicians. I am not clear as to whether the change of title indicated a broadening of the membership beyond the OS. It appears, however, from Seymour² that this was one of two trade unions that represented the OS technical staff (in this case the lower grades), and that in 1950 the Association was absorbed into the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (which already represented the supervisors).

Roly Hann purchased in Farnham several late 1940s copies of the Association's journal, *On the Map*. The OS library does not hold any copies of this. Curiously enough, a similarly titled journal served a similar purpose elsewhere: *On the M.A.P.*, the newsletter of the Civil Service Clerical Association, Ministry of Aircraft Production, London branch, from 1941 onwards.³

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¹ *Sheetlines* 71 (December 2004), 19.

² W A Seymour (editor), *A history of the Ordnance Survey*, Folkestone: Dawson, 1980, 299.

³ *British union catalogue of periodicals*, 1957.