

## A BRIEF GUIDE TO DATING BARTHOLOMEW MAPS

*This page has been compiled by Ken Winch, retired Bartholomew's Librarian and Map Curator.*

The foundation of the Bartholomew mapmaking business is generally taken to be the year 1826, the date of John Bartholomew's earliest existing work records.

### **Bartholomew Edinburgh premises - usually given on map covers:**

4a North Bridge	1859-1870
31 Chambers Street	1870-1889 (Originally 17, Brown's Square, changed by the Post Office c. 1875)
Park Road	1889-1911
12 Duncan Street	1911-1995

In 1989 Bartholomew merged with Harper Collins Publishers and in 1995 moved from Edinburgh to the Collins site at: Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow

### **Dating on the Maps:**

On early editions no date was included on the map and one has to make an estimate from the information depicted or possibly by the advertising on the map covers. In some cases a 4 digit job number is given, usually against the margin in the bottom left corner, which can be identified from Bartholomew company records.

From about 1911 until 1945 an abbreviated dating code was adopted using the last two digits of the publication year preceded by either an "A" or a "B" indicating in which half of the year the map was produced eg. A14, indicating that the map was published in the first half of 1914. This code can usually be found against the margin at either the top or bottom left-hand corner or sometimes centrally in the bottom margin.

From 1946 onwards the date of printing was normally shown at the bottom of the map.

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### **Bartholomew Half Inch to one Mile Series**

The sheets of this popular series were revised at frequent intervals and developed through a series of editions with changing sheet lines and numbering. A chronology follows with some notes on the titling of the maps.

## **SCOTLAND**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1875-1886 | Reduced Ordnance Maps of Scotland<br>Also:<br>Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey of Scotland.<br>[In 30 'District' sheets. Prepared and printed by J. Bartholomew for Adam & Charles Black. Successively coloured by counties, coloured by counties with contours and contoured with layer colours, county boundaries and railways in red.] |
| 1890-1895 | Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey of Scotland.   |

(Cover title: Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey, Maps of Scotland for Tourist's & Cyclists.) In 29 sheets. [With open borders and lat. and long. values.]

- 1896-1926 Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey of Scotland, scale 2 miles to an inch.  
(Cover title: Bartholomew's New Reduced Survey for Tourists & Cyclists.) In 29 sheets.  
[With scale of miles for outer border. Earlier sheets in brown covers, later sheets c. 1911 in blue covers.]
- 1922-1927 Bartholomew's "Half-Inch to Mile" Map of Scotland.  
(Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch to Mile for Motorists & Cyclists.) In 29 sheets.
- 1921-1932 Bartholomew's "Half-Inch to Mile" map of Scotland. (Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised "Half-Inch" contoured maps.)
- 1933-1937 Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch map. [Top left corner.]  
(Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised "half-Inch" contoured maps.)

## **ENGLAND & WALES**

- 1897-1903 Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey of England & Wales, scale 2 miles to an inch.  
(Cover title: Bartholomew's Reduced Ordnance Survey for Tourists & Cyclists.)  
[With scale of miles for outer border. Maps included in Survey Atlas of England & Wales, 1903.]
- 1904-1920 Bartholomew's "Half-Inch to Mile" map of England & Wales. (Cover title: Bartholomew's new Reduced Survey for Tourists & Cyclists.) In 37 sheets.  
[Distinction between first class and secondary roads (in red) for the first time.]
- 1924-1926 Bartholomew's "Half-Inch to Mile" map of England & Wales. (Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch to Mile for Motorists & Cyclists.) In 37 sheets.
- 1926-1936 Bartholomew's "Half-Inch to Mile" map of England & Wales. (Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised half-Inch Contoured Maps.)

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

- 1936-1943 Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch Map.  
(Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised "Half-Inch" Contoured Maps.)  
[New numbering system and amended sheetlines in 62 sheets, in preparation for combining Scottish and English series. Old and intermediate (e.g. A9) numbering given on both map and covers.]
- 1940-1963 Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch Map, Great Britain. (Cover title: Bartholomew's Revised "Half-Inch" Contoured Maps.)  
[New, slightly amended sheetlines, covering the whole of Great Britain in 62 sheets.]
- 1961-1974 Bartholomew's Revised Half-Inch Map, Great Britain. (Cover title: Bartholomew's Half-Inch Contoured Great Britain.)
- 1975 - 1999 Bartholomew 1:100,000 Map of Britain. (Based on the half-inch series).

(Cover title: Bartholomew, National Map Series 1:100,000. Photo-enlargement from 1:126,720 to 1:100,000.)

In the 1980's sales of these maps dropped and only a few popular sheets covering certain popular tourist areas were revised and by the end of the 1990's the series finally became out of print.

### **Other clues for dating these maps:**

**Road Numbering** was first added to sheets in 1921 following its introduction by the Ministry of Transport the previous year.

**CTC:** Between c 1911 and 1928 an arrangement existed between Bartholomew and the Cyclists' Touring Club for their members to send in any revisions they found to the maps. This was acknowledged by their logo appearing in the lower border of each map.

**Table of prices at different periods.** It cannot necessarily be taken that the prices were increased at the dates shown, but it may be useful as a guide.

	<u>Paper flat</u>	<u>Paper folded</u>	<u>Cloth folded</u>	<u>Dissected &amp; Folded</u>
1897		2/6	3/6	-
1890		1/-	2/-	-
1898		1/-	2/-	2/6
1912		1/6	2/-	2/6
1920		1/6	3/-	4/-
1943		2/6	4/-	5/6
1950		2/6	4/-	6/-
1952	2/6	3/-	6/-	9/-
1953	3/-	3/-	5/-	7/6
1957	3/-	3/-	5/-	10/-
1963		3/-	5/-	10/-
1968		4/-	6/-	12/6
1970		4/- (20p)	6/- (30p)	15/- (75p)
1971		6/- (30p)	8/- (40p)	20/- (£1)

### **Archives**

Specific enquiries on Bartholomew maps can be directed to their Glasgow company office which holds a representative collection of Bartholomew publications and certain bibliographic records. HarperCollins Publishers (Collins Geo), Westerhill Rd. Glasgow G64 2QT. Tel: 0141 306 3421 Fax: 0141 306 3425.

Collins Geo websites: <http://www.timesatlas.com> <http://bartholomewmaps.com>

The full company archive is housed in the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland, 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SL Tel: 0131 226 4531, Fax 0131 668 3472, email: [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk) <link to <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/index.html> >