Where are the trees?
Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Maplines. Usually this edition is relatively quiet one, with a few good features and articles to browse away the Summer. This edition is a little bit different in some ways but is also exactly what you would hope for your summer reading, with the new June Symposium and Awards ceremony round up and plenty of thought-provoking articles, features and recommendations for map-related exhibitions, websites and books to investigate.

How is your eye for detail? Excellent? Are you sure? Well our stunning Earth Quiz, sponsored by Cosmographics, is just the thing to keep you very busy across the Summer; we challenge you to identify the locations and send us your entries.

We also have an intriguing selection of feature articles to keep you engrossed and set you thinking. How exactly do conservationists locate and map threatened trees around the world with any certainty? What are the problems facing cartographers in trying to raise the profile of cartography across the map-making community? Lastly, follow our Maplines colleague Adam as he traversed the job market earlier this year searching for that elusive job. Successfully thank goodness! Well done Adam!

We hope you all enjoy the Summer. See you all soon!

Lynda on behalf of Lynda, Martin, Adam and Mark Maplines Editors

Notes from our President

With the 2009 Symposium successfully in the bag, we can now go to all the organisations, speakers, delegates and sponsors for making it such a hugely enjoyable and high quality occasion covering a wide range of cartographic aspects. It is especially encouraging to see so many attending from parts of the geo-spatial data user community we haven’t reached before, a testament to the success of the Better Mapping seminars and much improved promotional activity supporting the Symposium.

I would also like to thank Harben House in Newport Pagnell for welcoming us so warmly for the past two years but I’m now already looking forward to the 2010 event elsewhere in the country. The benefits of holding the Symposium in different regions are numerous and it remains our aim.

A wise and respected member of the Society advised me a few years ago, ‘remember, cartography is a broad church’. I have always kept that in mind and wish to continue to encourage and support the many interests of the Society membership as a whole but I also have to recognise that the concentration is getting a whole lot broader. The numerous ways in which cartography is manifesting itself through advances in technology is truly staggering, some of which we saw at the Symposium, and in ways the founders of our Society could not have dreamt of 46 years ago. Technology and readily available geographic data have opened the door of map making to a vast population of geographic information users and providers.

The underlying principle of the Society, to promote the art and science of map making, should drive us in reaching out and supporting this expanding community. In fact I’d go further and say that as the British Cartographic Society we are obliged to address effective mapping to support the nation’s economy.

An aged but powerful statistic and one I regularly refer to in papers or presentations comes from a 1999 independent study that reported an estimated £1.1bn (or around 10% GDP) of economic activity in Great Britain was underpinned by Ordnance Survey data alone each year. If you consider that a review since has suggested that this figure is much underestimated and also did not include other sources of data, then the enormous influence and impact of geographic information on the economy is even more transparent. Most uses of data produce a map, whether on paper or living briefly on a screen, that supports a decision-making process. It requires little imagination to recognise the potential for very expensive waste associated with poor mapping, ultimately leading to poor or delayed decisions. That is where we come in. This broader congregation comes from a variety of interests or disciplines but each has the common theme of communicating geographic information, the essence of cartography, driving through its very raison d’être. The tools used to build the mapping or the media used to display the mapping are of little consequence, it is the application of cartographic principles that matters.

We have seen dramatic technological advances in the geographic information industry in recent times and, in my opinion, cartography was slow to react leaving us somewhat on the sidelines of some great innovation. More recently we have worked hard to reposition ourselves to the point where the industry is now at least listening to what we have to say if not fully embracing our ideals. The new faces joining us at the Symposium is just the start. We need to convince them and their colleagues that their and our interests share a common purpose. We must also ensure that the hoped-for increase in membership is not a threat to any existing interests within the Society; the greater diversity is something to be encouraged and celebrated as it will enrich us all.

Much of this reasoning is behind the review of the membership of the Society which is ongoing and needs to consider the relevance of the Society to mapping-related industries. At the Symposium I presented to delegates an overview of where we had reached to date, giving all who attended another opportunity to join the debate and council later embraced in principle the actions being taken.

Further agreement should be reached when Continued on page 18...
Where are the trees?

Amongst the many ambitious commitments to protect biodiversity, governments around the world have pledged to conserve 60 percent of the world’s threatened flora by 2020. One of the stumbling blocks to achieving this target is the lack of consolidated information on which plant species are threatened with extinction and where they occur. Pulling together the mass of botanical data on plant distributions and conservation assessments at a global level is a daunting task but significant progress is being made. Analysis of geographical data for plant species is a very important component in assessing risk of extinction and determining preventative action to be taken.

An important methodology for assessing the conservation status of tree species using GIS was developed by Professor Adrian Newton, of Bournemouth University, a key member of the Global Tree Specialist Group. Adrian has worked in forest ecosystems around the world and has seen the devastation of forests at first hand. He considers that, “It is essential that we mobilise and sort data on tree species so that we can use it to support conservation of endangered species in their natural habitats before it is too late. GIS provides the tool that we need to store and analyse scattered information.”

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. Greek Proverb

The methodology devised by Adrian Newton was initially used to assess the conservation status of magnolias in the wild. This charismatic group of trees valued by gardeners for their early spring blooms also yields important products for local communities with timber, medicinal products and food all being sourced from the wild trees. Magnolias have an unusual disjoint biogeographical distribution, with centres of diversity in South China and Colombia reflecting the impact in ancient shifts in climate. Now 133 species, over half the species known in the wild, are threatened with extinction.

The methodology for assessing magnolia species involved analysis of the distribution of each species using data from botanical literature and online herbarium databases. The information available for different species varied in terms of accuracy, precision and date of collection; both recent and historical distribution data were included in the analyses. In cases where precise locality data were lacking, information on the political units and altitude range within which the species has been reported were used to define the maximum potential range of the species. A map of global forest cover from satellite remote sensing imagery was used to define the potential distributional range of each species based on available habitat. For this purpose, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) has been reported. The resulting polygons for individual species were intersected with the forest cover map derived from MODIS data. The resulting maps indicate the current extent and distribution of forest in which each species is likely to occur. The maps were used as a basis for assessing the risk of extinction, according to the IUCN Red List categories and criteria (IUCN 2001).

IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN 2001) and represents the total forest area occurring within the distributional range of the species. In reality, only a proportion of this forest area is likely to be occupied by the species being considered, i.e. the ‘area of occupancy’. As the current distribution and status of most magnolia species is poorly known, this approach was considered to provide the most accurate assessment possible with the information available. The IUCN criteria were applied conservatively; estimates of potential area of occupancy were applied to criteria relating to extent of occurrence. Wherever possible expert opinion was also sought to evaluate the conservation situation for species based on site visits.

The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn. Ralph Waldo Emerson

The rate of forest habitat loss was calculated using statistics for change in national forest cover, obtained from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) produced by the FAO (2006). The guidelines for using the Red List criteria produced by IUCN refer to ‘continuing decline’ as ‘a recent, current or projected future decline, which is liable to continue unless remedial measures are taken’. ‘Continuing decline’ exists if the area of forest cover was considered to be declining in the latest GFRA, as well as in previous assessments dating back as far as 1990.

The magnolia conservation assessment was published in 2007; it has been used to plan conservation action both in botanic gardens and in the wild. Restoration of some of the most endangered trees is now taking place. Further assessments are underway for maples and rhododendrons all based on GIS mapping and expert review. Taking a slightly different approach, BGCI are working with the Global Tree Specialist Group and Bournemouth University to map and assess the conservation status of all tree species restricted to mountain areas, as these are considered most vulnerable to climate change. With the maps compiled for all these species monitoring is also possible to assess how the range of the species might shift through time.

In total, there are currently 6227 tree species included in the IUCN Red List of which 1002 species are recorded as critically endangered, the most threatened category for species based on the risk of extinction. Many more species need to be assessed; using the GIS procedure will speed up the process. At the same time using the information already collected we can start to ensure that no species of tree becomes needlessly extinct.

Sara Otsfield
Secretary General
Botanic Gardens
Conservation International
www.bgci.org

When you enter a grove people with ancient trees, higher than the ordinary, and shutting out the sky with their thickly inter-twined branches, do not the stately shadows of the wood, the stillness of the place, and the awful gloom of this doleful cavern then strike you with the presence of a deity? Seneca
Adam’s Odyssey

If the last few months have taught me anything it is surely that nothing in life is guaranteed. Six months ago, from my relatively safe and secure fourth floor office window seat in Manchester city centre I was quietly looking forward to the coming year, planning my assault on all things cartographic and generally smiling wistfully as I prepared my ambitious yet cunning plan to take over the mapping world. I had visions of colourful and complex maps, my name in lights and a trophy cabinet the size of a small London borough.

Of course I watched the news, who didn’t, but who can really say they were paying attention to the crucial bits, the bits that told you between the lines that the economic world is going to implode, financial markets will crumble and a holiday on the Continent will cost twice as much as it did just twelve months previous? I confess my mind must have been elsewhere at the time, confident like so many others that the predicted doom and gloom would not affect me, passing me by like a raincloud avoids Manchester. I’m no Mystic Meg but even I should have made that connection. It always rains in Manchester. Always. The city is famous for it.

Fast forward to March and I find myself unemployed, my position as Cartographer surplus to requirements myself unemployed, my position as Cartographer surplus to requirements and my march to the top of the mapping world, I had visions of a small London borough.

But what struck me most about my journey thus far was the country was in and here I found myself, a mess the country was in and here I stood, prepared for the worst and yet cunning planning for the best.

As Easter approached and yet another month began to wane I clung on to smaller and smaller straws. No-one advertises before a public holiday, I was told; the new financial year should throw up a few opportunities, another mention. Had it really come to this? Was I destined to rely on the budgetary decisions of others? I felt as helpless as a relegation threatened football club, desperate for a result to go your way knowing that no matter how hard you worked, how hard you trained, how hard you looked for answers, ultimately your fate lay with the hands of others. And this was difficult to accept.

As it happened, I was fortunate. A result did go my way and my performance in the resulting interview felt like a thumping 3-0 win on the last day of a season to avoid the drop. Had it not gone to plan who knows where I would be now, mentally or geographically. The consequences of being out of work were all too plain to see and it became easier to understand why some less fortunate than I lose their way a little when hunting for work.

As I commenced for the first time to my new post as GIS Specialist I contemplated the reasons for my relative success. I had had help, that much was evident. And I had somehow remained upbeat and positive that work was around the corner, continuing to believe that cartography and mapmaking was as important now as it has ever been. But what struck me most about my feat was that I had successfully navigated the seas of information regarding job hunting and CV’s. Worryingly I realised I am probably not alone; there will be others desperate to continue their careers in mapmaking but unsure of their options. Unsure of what help is out there and clueless of where or how to begin their search. I hope, like me, they find success. It is important that those in work and those with the ability to make a difference extend a helping hand to those that want help.

Attracting young people into our industry is one effort, retaining them is a whole different game.

With little out there to guide this ship I somehow managed to turn up in port, on time, to start again. I am grateful to all those that helped me along the way. My journey continues.

Adam King

Maplines Editor

Letter to the Editors

Just a reminder that if you wish to tap your toes at this year’s Symposium you need to book quickly! Someone should tell our carefree and toe-tapping Administrative Consultant (whose employers probably pay his Symposium fees for him anyway) that he has now acquiesced in the cost of attending the BCS Symposium rise to £711. I calculate that amount from his excellent-looking fee: £80 workshop, 2 x £120 day sessions, 3 x £96 nights accommodation, £10 Chicksands visit, and £927 VAT at 15%.) It’s a lot of money, well spend on three days being chucked at a henhouse beside the M1 in Buckinghamshire. It’s also a lot to pay for hearing the first formal presentation to the membership of the BCS Strategic Review, something which ought to be done at an open business meeting of the Society. I’d be interested to know how many choose to attend at their own expense and in their own time, and how many are cannon-fodder paid to go by employers at £700 a time and treat it as salaried time as well. We’ve come a long way from the guiding lights who founded the Society in the 1960s from their personal interest in cartography, and I’m not sure it’s all been along the right road. Roll on September in Edinburgh, when people who enjoy maps will get together, and less expensively too!

Andrew Cook

*And if any bright spark complains that it adds up to only £170.70, tell them they can put the 30p change towards one of the £15 taxi fares to and from Milton Keynes Central.
Putting Cartography back on the map

A
t the Annual Symposium in June 2009, Bob Lilley, President of the British Cartographic Society (BCS) gave an overview of the review process the society had taken in light of the slow decline in membership and the increasing marginalisation of cartography as a source of knowledge. The paradox confronting BCS is that in an age of pervasive geospatial information and intelligence and rapid advances in geocomputational techniques and geotechnologies (e.g., GIS, Sat-Nav, LBS, GPS, remote sensing, Web 2.0 applications), cartography seems to be becoming somewhat of a peripheral art and science. Put simply, the new generation of map-makers are often bypassing cartography in favour of tacit knowledge, intuition, and principles drawn from graphic design and information visualisation. One of the prime solutions advocated to address these issues was for the BCS, and the cartographic community in general, to reassert the role of cartography as the key provider of geovisual knowledge.

To reverse the fortunes of the BCS, I suggest, one needs to do much more than aggressively and unapologetically reassert cartography as the science of representing the spatial dimensions of the Earth. Instead it is my belief that cartographers need to engage in a reflective process of thinking through how cartography is philosophically constituted and start a process of self-referential, methodological rethinking. This rethinking needs to be nothing less than a root and branch review that questions and reconfigures the foundational knowledge of cartography rather than merely tinkering around the edges of established ways of knowing and doing. Such a philosophical engagement is important because how we comprehend cartography shapes how we practice it. That is, the ontological underpinnings of cartography shape its epistemology — the kinds of questions we ask and how we ask them ...

A root and branch review that questions and reconfigures the foundational knowledge of cartography

Most practicing cartographers understand cartography to be a representational science underpinned by a conventional scientific ontology wherein the World can be objectively and truthfully mapped using scientific techniques that capture and display spatial information. In contrast to sciences such as physics or biology that focus predominately on understanding the World, cartography has become a science of measurement and representation (a science focused on the production of scientific knowledge). The job of cartographers is to effectively and truthfully represent and communicate spatial relations, not to employ the map to interpret the World — that is left to those that use maps. This disjuncture between measurement and the work of the map means that the epistemology of cartography has come to focus on technical questions of mapmaking rather mapping per se or understanding spatial relations more broadly. As a result, a great deal of work has been undertaken to produce rules and standards regarding how spatial information is displayed. This is reflected in the cartographic journals where the vast majority of articles concern the production of maps rather than how maps do work in the World in diverse ways or interpreting what the maps reveal.

In short, as Jeremy Crampton (2003) and Dodge and Kitchin (2007) argue, cartography has become ontically in nature; that is, its foundational underpinnings are fixed and unquestioningly accepted and it evolves through technical rather than philosophical advances. Cartography in these terms develops by asking self-referential, methodological questions that aim to refine and improve how maps are designed and communicate rather than by critically examining the ontological assumptions of what a map is and how it undertakes work in the world. The consequence is that cartography, with the exception of critical cartography, has become intellectually moribund vis-à-vis the rest of the sciences (and it is fair to say that critical cartography is understood and practiced by a very small number of mostly academics and constitutes a marginal set of ideas within the broader cartographic community). Indeed it is telling that the recent BCS symposium did not have a single paper or session devoted to map theory or philosophy ...

How do we comprehend cartography shapes how we practice it.

For cartography to reassert itself as a key discipline in the geospatial age, it is my contention that it needs to do so as a fertile source of ideas rather a storehouse of techniques. That means re-engaging in philosophical debates occurring across the sciences with respect to ontology and epistemology. As Dodge et al. (2009) detail, maps can be conceptualised in a number of ways not simply as representational truths — maps as constructions, inscriptions, proscriptions, acts, performances, practices, and many others. My suspicion is that for those working in GIS, and in particular LBS and Web 2.0 applications, maps are conceived of largely in these ways. They are much more interested in the work a map does and whether it succeeded in its intended aims of helping the person using it to achieve their objective than whether the map conforms to precise scientific standards or how it looks. The map is understood as a form of knowledge that unfolds in practice and actively does work in the world, not as a representational truth.

It is not until cartographers start to think of maps in these ways and to re-think the epistemology of their practice and research that it will become intellectually exciting and stimulating for the new generation of map-makers. What that means in practice is an intellectual shift from map-making and how maps communicate to the ontological assumptions of critical cartography that embraces how maps are engaged with and used in practice, often as a means to an end. In this sense the BCS should, at the very least, change its tagline from ‘The Art and Science of Mapmaking to The Art and Science of Mapping. Cartography is much more than making maps. I know that Old traditions that try to discipline and constrain youthful enterprise will always be fighting a losing battle. Instead old traditions are best advised to engage with new ideas and ways of doing things and to find ways to adapt so that they remain relevant and re-establish themselves as a core set of ideas and knowledge. For me, this necessitates a rethinking of cartography: fresh ways of re-imaging the foundational underpinnings of the discipline that draws it out of its moribund state and makes it an intellectually stimulating practice for cartographers and puts it on the map for others. Such a rethinking will not be an easy task but it will help cartography evolve and reassert its position as a key geoscience.

Prof. Rob Kitchin
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References

Mapping Manchester

...Cartographic Stories of the City

26 June 2009 to 17 January 2010, Rylands Library Reading Room.
www.library.manchester.ac.uk

This exhibition, curated by Martin Dodge and Chris Perkins, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, builds upon a longstanding research interest in the many roles that maps play in society.

Over eighty different maps, plans, diagrams and photographs of the city published over the last two hundred and fifty years, range in date from the first large scale survey of the city published by William Green in 1794, to a 2008 statistical map of binge drinking hotspots across Manchester. A wide array of designs is displayed, ranging from network diagrams, building plans, strip maps, to three-dimensional bird’s eye views, such as Heywood’s iconic Victorian Pictorial Map of Manchester, and digital animated mapping. The maps exhibited are more than just ‘pretty pictures’: they are powerful tools instrumental in the making of the contemporary Manchester, and can be read as rich stories of urban life.

For further information about Martin and Chris’s research, see www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/ geography/research/maps/
The Earth from satellite, more beautiful than ever!

Cosmographics announces PlanetObserver’s creation of a new seamless global digital Earth imagery database in natural true colours, with a resolution of 15m/pixel. This Earth observation tool consists of 8,600 scenes collected from the civil observation satellite Landsat 7 ETM+, a 10-terabyte dataset split into 16,200 tiles of 600 Mb each.

This dataset was carefully developed to offer an outstanding visual quality, while presenting technical features similar to other existing global mosaics (georeferenced and orthorectified data). Using true colour input imagery (the 3 bands of the satellite sensor visible to human eyes), colours match perfectly the true beauty of planet Earth, both on land areas and on coastlines, and are processed in a seamless and homogenous way.

This Earth dataset is truly global and includes Antarctica and all islands. It provides an extensive discovery of the planet, both in 2D and in 3D thanks to a 90m resolution Digital Elevation Model.

PlanetObserver global Earth imagery constitutes the perfect resource for IT applications, 2D and 3D navigation and simulation solutions, webmapping, museographic applications (large format prints, interactive animations, thematic exhibitions), media, etc.

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UKMap Launch Hailed a Success

The GeoInformation® Group, publishers of UKMap, have revealed that the launch of its new large scale mapping product was a complete success.

The launch, that took place at the British Computer Society on June 8th, was packed out with over 70 invited guests from a wide range of market sectors, including police and emergency services, land and property, retail, education, internet mapping and local government.

The audience was given the first look at UKMap and the many benefits it will bring to the UK location market, including accurate data, derived data rights, new local information and cost savings. UKMap is made up of the Topo product suite, comprising of 8 map layers, and the thematic product suite, a 1:5,000 scale map layer with annotations for use on the web.

UKMap proved its versatility through demonstrations on standard desktop GIS, including ESRI and MapInfo, and STAR APIC demonstrated its UKMap Oracle solution.

Attendees were also given a sneak preview of the UKMap’s latest field data collection tool, MAGIC, designed with government support to improve rapid data collection.

Chris McCartney of Pitney Bowes Business Insight commented, ‘the launch offered us a chance to get an understanding of what the UKMap is all about...There seemed no doubt that The GeoInformation Group have (sic) listened to customers and what the market wants – choice!’

Peter Jolly
Corporate Liaison Officer
pjolly@esriuk.com

The XYZ Digital Map Company agreed to provide maps to help decorate the BMW.

The roof was covered by the Global Mapping World Map; the bonnet by the Global Mapping Europe Map; the boot by the Global Mapping British Isles map created from People’s Map data; the doors are covered by XYZ Postcode maps and by France and Spain from the giant EARTH atlas, which was created by XYZ from XYZ digital databases. The maps were chosen in order to reflect the route they covered.

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The one rule Paul Coward and Chris Nelson, from Salford GIS, had to adhere to was to spend no more than £200 on their vehicle. This they succeeded and bought a ‘battered’ [26 year] old BMW, costing £198, for the occasion, one at which they hoped to raise at least £3000 for MapAction.

The event was so successful that it will be repeated again in September. The participating teams are encouraged to decorate their vehicles and in an inspired move, The XYZ Digital Mapping Company agreed to provide maps to help decorate the BMW.

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Symposium 2009

And nine months later we were back...what a difference!

Memories of September’s dank, sodden, stormstruck Symposium quickly disappeared as we arrived to begin our first June Symposium in glorious warm, balmy sunshine. The beautiful weather was also the perfect opportunity to explore the picturesque town of Newport Pagnell with its historic almshouse and churches.

There was a reserved and expectant air as the main Symposium events began with a very solemn, understated drinks reception, quite belying the rich quality of the speakers and papers which were to come over the next couple of days.

The main Symposium opened with a presentation by Bob Lilley, BCS President outlining the important points and thinking behind the BCS Strategic Review. It is clear from these details of the Review and the subsequent Q&A discussions that there is a great awareness of the need to broaden the reach of the BCS to encompass members of the growing community of map makers and underline to them the importance of creating better maps. Better maps equals better communication; this is a vital message that the Society must encompass and deliver. As my background is as an information professional rather than as a practising cartographer, the workshops are a conundrum for me. Should I experiment to see what I might learn about areas and subjects well outside of my experience or are these areas of the Symposium that are just not designed for me? This year I did experiment and was delighted to find that my two selections, GS3D Geological 3D Mapping and What’s hot? What’s not? Using Thermal Mapping to be two of the best sessions of the entire Symposium. Comparing notes with colleagues, it was clear that all of the workshops were equally well received.

Where the Symposium really hits home for me is when the papers given relate both to my life as a map and information specialist and my private life. Two papers in particular did this for me this year. As Gareth Evans explained the principles of ‘Stop-Specific’ bus mapping, a voice in my head was silently pleading for him to take the idea straight round to my local council and bus company. However, as a Londoner of 20 years standing and a constant observer of the trials and tribulations of the average visitor to London town navigating the plethora of dubious signage and navigation aids provided all over the city, my favourite presentation was Legible London, a wayfinding system for London by Tim Fendle from Applied Information Group. This innovative and exciting project runs from the premise that the average person has a very narrow experience of only certain routes through London, often radiating only a short distance from the chosen Underground station and instead of walking to their destination, relies on public transport to fill in the gap between Underground stations. Through simple and beautifully-designed signage and leaflets showing the actual walking relationships between different features and routes this pilot project, based around Bond Street is promoting walking through Central London, hoping to save many many unnecessary public transport journeys.

While all the lectures and speakers were excellent, it is a shame that the emphasis on the social and networking aspects of the event have lessened over the last three years. These are an essential part of the Symposium experience and the wish for them, i.e. the Quiz, the evening social events and specialist group events, is evident, but as they are no longer part of the official evening programme as they once were, the Symposium seemed all the poorer. I would also like to see the return of the delegates list, a vital tool to communicating and navigating the Symposium for both new delegates and regulars and often the connections it affords being one of the main reasons for attending such a conference in the first place.

I greatly applaud all the hard work that has gone into redefining the Symposium structure over the last 3 years. Some aspects are still developing, the majority are a great success. I am looking forward to being in a different location next year. That will bring back the lovely opportunity for exploration of a never-before visited city, which for many of us was also a key part of the Symposium experience.

Roll on the next Symposium in June 2010 – I hope to see you there!

Lynda Bailey FRGS, FBCart.S.

Robert Kitchin who described the analysis of cross-border data in Ireland also spoke briefly on the changes happening to cartography, changes he explains on in much more detail on pages 6-7.

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Robert Kitchin who described the analysis of cross-border data in Ireland also spoke briefly on the changes happening to cartography, changes he explains on in much more detail on pages 6-7.

The Helen Wallis Memorial Lecture Communicating with Maps: Did The Message Get Through? given this year by Barbara Bond MBE, Pro-Chancellor, University of Plymouth, (see page 2) was both humorous and thought provoking.

Symposium structure over the last three years. Some aspects are still developing, the majority are a great success. I am looking forward to being in a different location next year. That will bring back the lovely opportunity for exploration of a never-before visited city, which for many of us was also a key part of the Symposium experience.

Roll on the next Symposium in June 2010 – I hope to see you there!

Lynda Bailey FRGS, FBCart.S.
Here & There — a horizonless projection in Manhattan

A horizonless projection in Manhattan looking downtown from 3rd and 35th.

Here & There explores speculative projections of dense cities. This poster of Manhattan looks downtown from 3rd Avenue and 35th Street. It is intended to be seen at that same place, putting the viewer simultaneously above the city and in it where they stand, both looking down and looking forward.

Why New York?

Other cities and places were tested in early experiments, but New York has unique qualities. There’s a consistent grid in Manhattan, and a variety of low- and high-rise buildings. Combined they force the projection to discover how the bent perspective can be made most effective. Manhattan is iconic. The poster seeks to be familiar even to those who have never visited, or visited only in Google Earth and Grand Theft Auto. It both maps New York and explores urban representation.

Print is one way to use the Here & There projection. Schulze & Webb has also created video and physical renditions, and has plans for interactive, location-based output.

The projection

Imagine a person standing at a street corner. The projection begins with a three-dimensional representation of the immediate environment. Close buildings are represented normally, and the viewer themselves are shown in the third person, exactly where they stand.

As the model bends from sideways to top-down in a smooth join, more distant parts of the city are revealed in plan view. The projection connects the viewer’s local environment to remote destinations normally out of sight.

You can read more and find posters at: www.schulzeandwebb.com/hat

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Great minds of the past grapple with the big issues of today: #6 Sir Christopher Wren

Sir Chris pens a letter to The Times as yet another 3-D city-mapper complains about his architectural extravagances… "Dear Sirs, had I realised the grief I would cause you, I…"

The lieutenant asked to see that remarkable map in order to study it. It wasn’t a map of the Alps but the Pyrenees.

Goodbye.

Albert Szent-Gyorgi, who knew a thing or two about maps, by which life moves somewhere or other, used to tell this story from the war, through which history moves somewhere or other:

From a small Hungarian unit some where in the Alps a young lieutenant sent out a scouting party into the icy wastes. At once it began to snow, it snowed for two days and the party did not return. The lieutenant was in distress: he had sent his men to their deaths.

On the third day, however, the scouting party was back. Where had they been? How had they managed to find their way? Yes, the men explained, we certainly thought we were lost and awaited our end. When suddenly one of our lot found a map in his pocket. We felt reassured. We made a bivouac, waited for the snow to stop, and then with the map found the right direction. And here we are.

The lieutenant asked to see that remarkable map in order to study it. It wasn’t a map of the Alps but the Pyrenees.

Goodbye.

Miroslav Holub

Mike Parker is a map addict. Maps not only show the world, they help it turn. On an average day, we will consult some form of map a dozen times, often without even noticing: checking the A-Z, the road atlas or the Sat Nav, etc, etc. Maps are everywhere: they are a cipher for every area of human existence. At a stroke, they convey precise information about topology, layout, history, politics and power. They are the unsung heroes of life: Map Addict sings their song. Map Mixes wry observation with hard fact and considerable research, unearthings the offbeat, the unusual and the downright pedantic in a celebration of all things maps.

Notes from the Carto-Guru

MAPS AND PAGE LAYOUT

The map is usually only one element of a graphic. A good page layout will balance the map with any marginalia, text, photographs and other graphics and use empty spaces to good effect.

If it’s for printing, decide on the page format: landscape, portrait or square. ‘Brainstorm’ graphic ideas by sketching ‘thumbnails’ of how the elements might be laid out, using page outlines of the right proportion.

• Balance the elements for harmony. If it feels right, it is right.
• Balance the elements around the page’s optical centre, which is about 5% higher than the actual centre
• Leave a bigger margin at the bottom than at the top.
• Elements which are related — e.g., a scale bar and title — should be close to one another.
• Small, dark objects balance larger, light ones.
• Align page elements vertically and horizontally.

As a tip, try holding the page upside down and squint at it. If it looks right upside down, it will probably look right the right way up.

The Breathing Earth simulation

Breathing Earth is a real-time simulation which displays the CO2 emissions of every country in the World, as well as their birth and death rates.

www.breathingearth.net

The Lost Rivers of London #4

Walbrook: starting in Finsbury, flowing straight through the middle of the most ancient part of the city and into the Thames at Cannon Street Railway Bridge, this river’s name might derive from the fact that it flowed through or under the wall of Londinium, the Roman settlement on the site of present-day London. Legend has it that when London fell to the Saxons, these forced the original Celtic inhabitants to live on the east side of the river, while they lived on the west side of it — resulting in the still noticeable difference between London’s affluent West End and a more working class East End. Courtesy of www.strangemaps.wordpress.com

Omnium Gatherum

a miscellaneous collection of people or things
BCS Administration Report

New members:
The Society has pleasure in welcoming the following new members who have joined the Society since publication of the Spring 2009 edition of Maplines.

Corporate Members:
A&Z 1.1 Bt (Hungary), GeoEnable Ltd.

UK Members:
Mr D Cairns, Mr J L Carr, Mr P D Dooley, Mr A M Easingood, Miss J L Evans, Mr T Fendley, Mr R P Harrod, Mr W Headington, Mr A King, Mr J J Knox, Mr J Lytt, Mr J D Mattai, Mr M J Pennells, Mr A Roberts, Mr L Sewell, Mr R J Steele, Mr E Whitehouse.

Overseas Members:
Mr E Mac Gillavry (The Netherlands), Dr M P Woods (Australia), Mr L Sewell, Mr R I J Steele, Mr M J Pennells, Mr A Roberts, Mr W Headington, Mr A King, Mr T Fendley, Mr R P Harrod, Mr A King, Mr T Fendley, Mr R P Harrod, Mr A King, Mr T Fendley.

UK Associate Members:
Mr J M Bibby, Ms G A Crawley, Mr I E Evans, Miss J L Le Moine.

Overseas Associate Members:
Dr M P Woods (Australia).

Fellows:
At its meeting in June, Council was pleased to award Fellowship status to Mr C van Rooyen, FBCart.S and Fellows:
Mr I E Evans, Miss J L Le Moine.

Have you considered applying to become a Fellow of the British Cartographic Society? Visit our website or contact BCS Administration for further information; the address is given at the end of this report.

And finally....
This really is my last word. My term as Administrator comes to an end in September and when that time comes Council will have appointed someone to take my place. There will be a new face, a new name, a new address and a new telephone/fax number. The Administration contract allows for a two-month handover period but it may take the new Administrator a little longer to become fully conversant with all the quirky systems we have been using for the past eight years here at Atherton Towers. All I ask is for your patience and understanding during the transition.

As I write this report on the last day of June (such are the deadlines for Maplines) the sun is shining brightly, tennis is on the TV, the birds are singing and I feel the need for a gin and tonic coming on. My sincere best wishes to you all, and thanks for a wonderful eight years.

Now where’s the ice and lemon....

Calendar

2 – 4 September 2009
6th International Symposium on LBS & TeleCartography
Centre for Geospatial Science, University of Nottingham, UK.
For further information see www.lbs2009.org

2 - 4 September 2009
From Paper to Screen: Putting Maps on the Web
Three days of useful talks, demonstrations, visits, and other cartographic delights.
For more details and booking see www.cartography.org.uk/down-loads/MC_W_web.pdf

23 – 24 September 2009
AGI GeoCommunity Conference 2009
ReAligning the Value of Place. Residential conference and exhibition. The Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon, UK.
For further details please visit www.agi.org.uk

Better Mapping 2009

Following the success of Better Mapping 2008, the Association for Geographic Information (AGI) and the British Cartographic Society (BCS) are pleased to announce an additional four joint events to be held around the UK in October 2009.

This year the presentations will focus on theoretical ‘teaching’ supported by specific studies on issues relating to electronic delivery, effective mapping of statistics and local authority mapping. The ‘teaching’ sessions will look at issues such as basic principles, communication, clarity and accuracy, to be followed by case examples drawn from a variety of material covering topics such as selecting the correct information for maps plus design issues such as line styles, weights, colour and text.

For a draft programme of the event, further information and booking details, please visit the BCS website.
Roll on 2010...are you next?

This year’s BCS Award winners celebrated their victories at the 46th Symposium held at Newport Pagnell in June.

If you would like to enter the 2010 Awards, start planning now. Further details can be found on the BCS website www.cartography.org.uk

The BCS Award 2009 and Stanfords Award Winner

Collins GEO

*Collins Social Studies Atlas for Nigeria* and *Collins Keystart UK Atlas*

Presented to the entry judged to be the best from the three award winning entries presented this year from the:

- Stanfords Award, for Printed Mapping
- Avenza Award, for Electronic Mapping
- John C. Bartholomew Award, for Small Scale Mapping
- OS MasterMap Award, for ‘Better Mapping’

The Stanfords Award for Printed Mapping

**Winner**

Collins GEO
*Collins Social Studies Atlas of Nigeria* and *Collins Keystart UK Atlas*

The Ordnance Survey MasterMap Award 2009

**Winner**

Applied Information Group
*Legible London*

The John C. Bartholomew Award 2009

**Winner**

National Geographic Society
*National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World*

The Avenza Award for Electronic Mapping

**Commended**

Steer Davies Gleave
*Canary Wharf Route Planner*

**Commended**

Platts
*CD ROM North American Natural Gas System Atlas 2008-09*

Visit the BCS website at www.cartography.org.uk