Greetings and welcome to the Winter edition of M aplines. We have an interesting mix of articles for you this time. BCS’s Historical Military Mapping SIG supported a fascinating lecture marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. Peter Jolly describes two excellent publications on Cartography – BCS’s Cartography and introduction and ESRU’s Cartography which he writes as ‘Little and Large’, a report of the recent UK Mapping Festival with details of the BCS award winners and our traditional photo collage of the event; Abdullah Al-Sayari continues his descriptions of his travels across the Arabian peninsula in Saudi Arabia; Alex Kent has penned a message about the importance of volunteering and its joys and benefits. On that subject, we are still on the lookout for willing souls who would like to join the editorial team here at M aplines. Please contact me if this is of interest. And finally, I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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Advising in M aplines

Consider the Society’s magazine a shop window to promote your company, event, course or publication to the mapping community.

To submit editorial, contact the Editors: maphines.editors@gmail.com

For display advertising, contact Sharon Robson: sharon.robson@geomares.co.uk or +44 (0)1438 352617

All photography and illustrations in this issue have been provided to the Society’s magazine and are responsible for assuring that they have permission to use images and content. Please add credits/acknowledgements as appropriate.

If you would like to sponsor a M aplines Quiz please contact the Editors for more information.

A Message from the President

I was good to see many of you at our conference day back in September or on one of the other days of the Mapping Festival. While pages 12-13 carry a full report on the event, I need to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Paul Naylor and his team in the Programme Committee who put together a truly interesting and enlightening programme of talks and workshops on the Wednesday. My thanks also to those who represented the Society on our exhibition stand.

As I mentioned in my recent bulletin, our thoughts are already moving on to 2019. Firstly, can I thank those who’ve given us their thoughts on the success or otherwise of this year’s experiment in joining the wider festival. Secondly, we’ve been wondering whether there are any of you out there who have experience in event organisation and would be interested in forming a team to put on next year’s event. There’s a lot of pressure on the small number of volunteers in the Programme Committee, so if that’s something you’ve got skills and experience in, then we’d love to hear from you – do contact either Paul or me on this.

On that thought, it’s worth remembering that engaging with the planning and running of our conference is only one of the opportunities for professional development that can be taken up within the Society; just to think of a few that are relevant at the moment:

• Volunteering within our Restless Earth programme for schools: our new coordinator – Jennifer Johnston – has established interest in this and has a number of events in hand, but we rely on volunteers to put on these valuable sessions.

• There still open to join the editorial team for M aplines

• Council – If you’re interested in an active role in shaping the functioning and direction of our Society, then you might want to consider joining Council or one of our Committees

• And, thinking of next year’s conference: it’s not just the talks and workshops that are of value for professional development, but also access to the network of cartographic expertise provided by the Society and its members.

Beyond this, BCS is the UK member of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) – which aside from its biennial conference also supports numerous competitions covering virtually the whole gamut of cartography, specialising in areas such as design, geoinformation management, usability, history and art. You can find details of them all on the Commissions’ page on their website (www.icaci.org).

As you will have read in our last edition, Ann Sutherland who had been convenor of the Map Curators’ Group for many years sadly died in June. I’d like to introduce the group’s new convenor, Paula Williams. She is currently a curator at the National Library of Scotland with particular responsibility for Map, Mountaineering and Polar Collections and has had long involvement with the MCG.

Richard Carpenter, BCS President

You will see details of the 2018 award winners elsewhere in this edition, but it may already be time for you to start thinking about entering for 2019. Full details of the awards and their criteria are of course on our website, and information on closing dates and details of how to enter will be available early next year. The coming year will also feature the biannual Barbara Petchenik children’s map competition run by the ICA. This is open to children up to the age of 15 and for 2019, submissions must be on the theme “We love maps”. Further information is on the ICA website, though please note that entries for each country are through national bodies and full details will be on our website soon.

Our recent AGM saw a major change to the line-up of Officers of the Society with the retirement after ten years in post of our Hon. Treasurer, Jim Nichol. Thanks again to him for his support and work over the past decade.

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The views expressed in M aphines are those of the Editors and Contributors and not necessarily those of the BCS.

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Publishers: Geomares Publishing UK Ltd

Units A2 Minderhall Court, High Street, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 3BG, UK

www.geomares.nl

Printing: The Manson Group, St Albans

Contents

The Magazine of the British Cartographic Society (Registered Charity No. 240034)

Volume 33, 3rd Issue – Winter 2018

Maplines Regulars

p.07 Admin Report

p.19 UKCC Report

Also in this Issue...:

p.08 Little and Large

p.13 The Times Atlas Review

p.18 Volunteering for the BCS

HMM Seminar

A report from the Historical Military Mapping Seminar held on 7 November 2018.

UK Mapping Festival

For the first time, the BCS Annual Conference was held under the guise of the UKMF.

Journey’s End

Abdullah Al-Sayari concludes his epic journey across Saudi Arabia.

UK Mapping Festival Awards

A round up of all the winners from the BCS Awards held during UKMF.

ICA History of Cartography

Nick Millea reports on the 7th International Symposium on the History of Cartography.

Winter 2018 / Maplines • 3
Supported by the Historical Military Mapping Group of the BCS, the Defence Surveyors’ Association held a seminar at the Gurkha Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester on Wednesday 7 November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. The seminar was held in the Library and lunch was served in the McDonald Gallery.

The first presentation was by Professor Robin Marshall of Manchester University and was on William Lawrence Bragg. The youngest ever winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915, Bragg is forever associated with the development of Sound Ranging in the First World War. After the war, he was appointed Professor of Physics in Manchester where he remained until 1937. A file of his correspondence with other Sound Rangers dating from 1915-1919, misfiled inside a file of lesser importance, has recently come to light. The names of the correspondents in the letters read like a roll of honour of Sound Ranging and Surveying: Tucker, Lucien Bull, Winterbotham, Jack, Marsden, Gott, Bazzoni, Russell, and Gray, to mention a few. They formed the subject of a book which was published in September 2018, and also of this presentation. They illustrate every human mental state that the war produced: professionalism, stoicism, numbness, determination, impatience, realism and the ecstasy of the 1918 autumn advance that drove the Germans back and forced them to surrender.

The second presentation was by Colonel Mike Nolan of the DSA and was about Survey in the American Expeditionary Force in France 1917-1919. The Americans joined the First World War late and unprepared, but they learned quickly on the job. The presentation looked at the work of the 29th Engineers Battalion, US Army, which was based at Langres in Champagne-Marne, near Chaumont.

The third presentation was to have been by Dr Peter Chasseaud FRGS, the Founder Convener of the HMMG. Unfortunately, he was unwell so we did not get to hear about the state of the British Army’s Survey organisation on the Western Front in 1918 and how it met the challenges of closer liaison with allies, the major German offensives in the spring and summer, the battles of the Hundred Days and the advance to victory. In Peter’s absence, James Ptain of the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory and the DSA stepped in to fill the breach to tell us about the brave new world of Geospatial Intelligence.

The fourth presentation was by Dr John Peaty FRGS FRHistS of the Defence Geographic Centre, the Convener of the HMMG. This presentation examined the work of Commonwealth surveyors and mapmakers (building on the foundations laid in the First World War) for the battles of First Alamein, Alam Halfa and Second Alamein in the Western Desert of Egypt in the Second World War, July-November 1942. In particular, it examined “goings” maps which aided the movement of armour (especially a false one which is claimed to have deceived Rommel during Alam Halfa), “block-plots” (which aided counter-battery artillery fire before and during Second Alamein) and aerial photography for survey (about which the air force and army disagreed and over which Montgomery, Coningham, Tedder and Alexander fell out in the aftermath).

This was an excellent and well-attended day. In the evocative surroundings of the Gurkha Museum, a minute’s silence was observed, fascinating papers were heard, interesting discussions had, and a superb Nepalese curry enjoyed.

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Speakers giving their presentations to an enthused crowd.

Delegates enjoying the presentations.
Book Review

Over the last few years there have been two exceptional publications about cartography. The first ‘Little’ being the pocket size ‘Cartography: an introduction’ written by Mary Spence and Giles Darke. This booklet not only described the elements that allowed the user to make a good map, but also provided excellent examples. At a very reasonable price of just £5 and the fact that you could just pop it in your pocket it, appealed not only to cartographers but also many who were just interested in maps.

As a result, some 3,500 copies have been sold – there may still be a few left on the shelf. One of the remaining copies has just found a good home. There are five permanent members of staff in the Bodleian Library Map Room, one of whom is Mike Athanson whose title is Deputy Map Librarian and Geospatial Data Specialist. Mike also teaches GIS and helps students make maps associated with project work. The other day Mike asked if I had any books on cartography that he could give to one of his students – the answer was simple, a copy of ‘Little’ and I also gave him my spare copy of A-Z GIS which was produced by Esri Press in 2006.

This brings me neatly on to ‘Large’, an A-Z about mapmaking produced by Esri’s Ken Field and colleagues who are based in Redlands, California. This recently published tome entitled, quite simply, ‘Cartography’ has some 550 pages and is indeed a weighty document. The front cover is intriguing, and, at first sight, it looks like a selection of small maps, well it is sort of – take a look. Ken begins by saying that designing a map is not a linear project, rather, the task should be considered as a whole.

Moreover, as we are all aware, good design is the key to getting the relevant information across to the customer in a way that is clear and easily understood. So, bearing this in mind, for ease of reference, the book is organised alphabetically and each of the topics is given its own double page spread. On the left-hand side there are 2 columns, the larger text describes the topic and the smaller text provides further information and background to that specific subject matter. On the right-hand side, opposite, there are maps, diagrams etc to illustrate the topic under consideration. It is indeed an excellent reference book designed to help anyone who wishes to make a good map.

To quote Christopher Wesson (The Bulletin of the SoC), "What Kenneth Field has created here is a brilliant reference book on behalf of our field of cartography. Finally! A book that truly represents cartography in 2018."

By Peter Jolly

Admin Report

Membership
Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership for 2018. And of course, a big welcome to our new members.

New Members
The new members include:
- David Grzybowski
- Daniele Dapiaggi
- Peter Howorth
- Jonathan Bee
- Gabriel Bakos
- Nathan Oakes
- Georgios Anastasiou
- Pinelopi Kapetanaki
- Martin Penney

Student Members
- Sarah Goodwin
- Yu Ching Cheng
- Johannes Lienm
- Isabel Williams
- Rosie Gawthrop

Corporate Members
52 Stairs Studio Inc

Please note: The subscription year is from 1 January to 31 December.

Renewal / Joining Methods
• Through the website:
  www.cartography.org.uk

(continued)
**UK Mapping Festival 2018**

The BCS Annual Conference came to London for the first time this September under the guise of the UK Mapping Festival 2018 (UKMF18). In order to bring the event to the capital and broaden the events appeal to a wider audience, the traditional two-day format was expanded in an ambitious attempt to take the message that ‘Maps Matter’ to the wider geospatial community.

Working in partnership with the Society of Cartographers (SoC), Association of Geographic Information (AGI) and the British Association of Remote Sensing Companies (BARSC) the organising committee arranged a three-day conference at the ILEC conference centre in West London as the capital piece of a broader event.

The plan was to have a six-day programme extending from Sunday through to Friday with events around the capital organised by a wide range of partners. Some of this happened, but probably not to the extent that was hoped when the event was originally conceived. Never-the-less, UKMF18 was a bold attempt to really extend the message about mapping and the role of the BCS to a wider audience.

**Three One-Day Conferences**

The conference day was a series of talks, with some great key note speakers heading the programme, supported by parallel workshops. Not surprisingly, the audience each day was quite different and ranged from professionals active in their field through to students and those with a general interest in the world of mapping.

Nearly 400 people attended the conferences and they were treated to a fantastic array of speakers, demonstrations and interactive sessions. Contributors joined UKMF18 from the US, Australia and Europe to make it a truly international event.

As part of the organising committee, it would be wrong to pick any one talk for praise, so thanks go to everyone who agreed to speak, put together great presentations, kept on time and made the whole event educational, entertaining and as one delegate commented ‘well worth the day out of the office’!

**Exhibition and Activity Zone**

The main body of the ILEC conference hall was given over to an exhibition and map-based activity zone. Several of the BCS corporate members took stands and supported the overall event with product demonstrations, others had posters telling attendees about what they could offer. In the end nearly 300 people dropped in to see the exhibition.

The centre of the exhibition area was dominated by one of the new mapping trucks used by 135 Squadron Royal Engineers to support deployments of military operations. It was a major feat to get the 15-ton vehicle in and out of the venue, and despite some minor damage to a door on the way out, the vehicle was definitely one of the hits of the show.

However, probably of equal interest was the Batak game run by the army. With prizes to be won the competition was fierce. Thanks to everyone from 135 Squadron for their support and involvement.

The exhibition and activity zone were also mapped by Aligned Assets who produced an Augmented Reality (AR) App of the ILEC, which could be downloaded and viewed on attendees’ phones. It was a great introduction to the way this emerging technology might be utilised in the future.

**Exhibition hall hosting corporate members’ stands.**

The other activities that drew significant involvement were the colouring map and graffiti wall. The first was an extract from an Ordnance Survey map base of London, printed in black and white and available for anyone to colour in as they wished. Many people spent a lot of time colouring in parts of London and it is clear why colouring books have made something of a comeback in recent years. It wasn’t finished and maybe we will use it again at other events to get a completed map.

The graffiti wall drew an equally attentive stream of people, each keen to add notes, thoughts or doodles to an outline of London. Clearly this was a therapeutic release for pent up ‘mappers’ of all backgrounds, all keen to make a mark! Again, look for this at other events, there is still plenty of room for more contributions.

History of the UK in 20 Maps

A part of the activity zone was given over to a series of activity tents aimed at kids, all set up by Alice Gadyen and Mini Mapmakers. The range of map related things to do was great but, unfortunately, we got our timing a bit wrong. It was the first week back to school for many kids, so we didn’t manage to generate the support for a planned ‘after school club’. However, Alice created a ‘goodie bag’ and over 120 were taken by grateful parents who thought their kids would be interested. So not a wasted effort, in fact something BCS should consider doing more of as part of its overall charitable aims.

The other two activities that drew attention were the colouring map and graffiti wall. The first was an extract from an Ordnance Survey map base of London, printed in black and white and available for anyone to colour in as they wished. Many people spent a lot of time shading in parts of London and it is clear why colouring books have made something of a comeback in recent years. It wasn’t finished and maybe we will use it again at other events to get a completed map.

The graffiti wall drew an equally attentive stream of people, each keen to add notes, thoughts or doodles to an outline of London. Clearly this was a therapeutic release for pent up ‘mappers’ of all backgrounds, all keen to make a mark! Again, look for this at other events, there is still plenty of room for more contributions.

History of the UK in 20 Maps

A part of the activity zone was given over to 20 A1 display boards, each of which showed a map which was used as a pointer to a key part of UK history. The display boards were put together with the help and support of the Anni Taylor and Cambridge University Map Library who provided scans of the selected maps. The maps (some well-known, many not) were great examples of historical cartography in the UK. The selection was a very personal one, but the maps were a real compliment to the text produced by Chris Coing. Many thanks for the efforts that went into compiling it all.

The display boards have been kept and will be used for other appropriate occasions, but if any one was interested in borrowing them, contact the BCS Admin team.

There was a plan to do the history of the 21st century in 20 air photos as a booklet to be given away during UKMF18. Our enthusiasm ran away with us and we did not have time to complete it, however, the images and text are available if anyone wants to take up the idea.

**History of the UK display boards.**

**UK Mapping Festival**

Maps are Everywhere

As part of the promotion for UKMF18, we ran a very active twitter campaign and encouraged people to send us photos of unusual maps they found in public places. Of course there were prizes available and we had many really interesting and innovative contributions, from maps engraved in walls, printed on gin bottles, glazed on tiles, built as 3D models and many, many more. You can see examples scattered throughout the page!

You may also have seen the character we created to help the promotion of the event. It was named through a twitter poll as Charlie Maplin. Check out the animated version linked to some of the entries that was turned into a YouTube video.

**Other Events as Well**

Outside of the conference, several events took place including a meeting of GeoMob and a Missing Maps workshop for people to spend an evening after work creating map data for use by relief agencies.

The BCS and SoC held their annual awards dinner which took...
idea at a mapping conference! The organising committee would have liked to have run more events, but we ran out of time and resources to organise things. Note for next time – need more volunteers!

And the Future? This was no doubt an extremely ambitious venture. The whole event tried to embrace the full range of the geospatial industry as it applied to everyone from professionals through to enthusiasts, young and old alike. Some of it worked very well, other things less so and there was some criticism of the organisation (e.g. the website and online booking, which was deserved) and of the range of events.

The number of people who came along overall was much greater than BCS would achieve at their normal annual conference, but never-the-less, it was down on what the organisers were hoping for. Whether that was cost, content or promotion, or just because it was something new, we are still trying to understand. The partners were generally pleased with the results and it was a significant collaborative effort to have put the whole event together in just 10 months. Of course, you can’t please all the people all the time and the event needed more volunteers to step up and take an active role in the organisation.

Commercially, the event didn’t make any money. It was not intended to but there is a significant commercial risk to running such an ambitious package of events, especially where the partners are charities or not-for-profit organisations. It would be great to do something similar in the future, but it would need solid financial underpinning from a key sponsor, but most importantly, it would take more than 12 months to organise!

Other than that, everyone we spoke to was having a good time. You can’t really fail where maps are involved!

large amounts of information, and beautiful bird drawings add to the overall effect. Rich in fascinating content, with the theme always prominent and easy to understand. Interesting to read, easy to understand, beautiful to look at.


Ordnance Survey Survey Award For excellence in the application of Ordnance Survey data.

Judges’ Comments: The judges report that there were no winning entries this year, however they concluded that one entry deserved acknowledgement and awarded with commended.

Commended: Contour Coasters and City Coasters by Mick Ashworth.

The Esri UK New Mappmaker Award It is intended to encourage and show good cartographic practice by new mappmakers. No Entries for 2018.

Ian Mumford Award For excellence in original cartographic research undertaken by university or college students.

Judges’ Comments: No award was made this year.

Henry Johns Award Awarded for the best outstanding paper published in The Cartographic Journal as judged by the international editorial board.

Winner: “Experiments to Distribute and Parallelize Map Generalization Processes” (Volume 54, Number 4, by Eric Janota, Thiamneau Touya, Justin Berli, Imran Lokhat and Nicolas Regnauld.

Judges’ Comments: An excellent contribution to the realm of automatic generalisation that aims to address the more practical issues surrounding this highly contextual process and achieves some promising results.

UK Mapping Festival
It is a joy to open yet another edition of this superb atlas with a beautifully redesigned introductory section and updated atlas section. Whilst the 14th edition had a predominantly black cover design, this 15th edition has gone in the opposite direction and is now largely white and slightly minimalist.

The way the introductory section has been handled gives a very contemporary feel. No more dense layouts with serif fonts and boxes to contain the articles. Instead we are given elegant, light sans serif typography with plenty of white space. The text comes in the form of essays by various experts on the differing topics which includes Planets, Tectonics, Oceans, Climate and Energy. The design of the graphics in this section continues the clear open theme with no boxes, clean and light typography. The effect of all this is to make you want to read these essays and dwell on the detail of these beautiful visuals. This is no longer a section of the Atlas that you skip over to get to the maps. My favourite graphic is the diagram of our solar system which contains the orbits of the planets, asteroids and comets and yet retains a satisfying clarity.

The graphic in the section on Migration deserves a special mention. This bold design clearly indicates the complexity of human migration both forced and voluntary. The graphic itself is an innovative way of making this tangled picture more understandable.

Two spreads near the end of the introductory section on Physical and Human features are also worth mentioning for their clarity and beauty. In the Physical features section, the ten highest mountains, the ten largest islands, the nine largest lakes and the nine longest rivers are depicted with a clarity that makes this section most pleasing.

A change from previous editions puts the map index at the back of the book on the endpaper and the preceding page. The front endpaper now has a simple line rendering of the world map which establishes the theme of simplicity right from the start of the book.

As always, this atlas comes with what the Map Room blog called “the most ridiculously massive – but functional – bookmark I’ve ever seen”. This contains the legend to the atlas section.

Whilst retaining their classic cartographic treatment, the atlas pages also reflect the simple clear approach of the earlier pages. The peripheral typography is the same clear san serif typeface and the map frames have been simplified to give a less cluttered appearance.

All in all, this new edition’s design is the most radical for a while and makes for a superb atlas both in contents and look. This is a must have for all desktop travellers out there and also for those that actually step outside to explore the world. For anyone who is interested in our world, this atlas is strongly recommended.

By Martin Lubikowski, ML Design
mldesign@btconnect.com
D esert mapmaker Abdullah Al-Sayari tells Maplines about his travels along the ancient caravan route between Hail and Taima, when he reaches Hufrat Laqt.

Our journey brought us to AL Mahajah where we camped for the night.

In the morning, we would be visiting Hufrat Laqt, where we were looking forward to seeing the ancient rock drawings and inscriptions, some of which date from 7,000 years ago.

With the help of our guide Khaled Al-Dakhl, we carefully prepared for the last stage of our trip, checking supplies, charging camera batteries and cleaning lenses in anticipation of the many photographs we would be taking.

Early in the morning we set off westward, our destination just 15km away according to GPS. However, it turned into a 20km trek that took us more than an hour and a half, such was the difficulty of the drive. The route took us through a challenging terrain of granitic rocks interspersed with sand dunes which forced us to zigzag continually.

Eventually we reached our destination, an oval basin of approximately 600 metres in length and 300 metres wide running east-west. After rain, it forms a seasonal lake, and since there are few wells in this region, it has long been an important watering hole for any caravans or travellers passing through this inhospitable land.

On the western extremity of the basin stands a huge, reddish-black granite rock about 150 metres long and six metres high. Over the ages, it has been eroded into its present rounded outline by the harsh climate, and it acts as a natural dam, directing any rainfall from the surrounding hills into the depression.

The lake can reach a depth of up to two metres – indeed, Charles Huber, a famous German explorer, recorded enjoying a swim here in 1884 – but unfortunately when we visited, it was dry.

On the east side of this gigantic rock and fronting the lake is the rock. Before long I heard one of our group shout that he had found an inscription from Huber.

Another discovered carvings from yet another renowned traveler, Julius Euting, a French explorer also from the late nineteenth century.

We also discovered ancient rock inscriptions from pre-Islamic times depicting hunting with dogs, engravings of horses and beautiful carvings of camels.

In short, we had come across a 150-metre-long mural, spanning approximately 7,000 years’ worth of travellers’ tales and containing many thousands of different images and writings. Not only is it one of the largest historical records anywhere on earth, it is possibly one of the longest chronicles of man’s activities.

This place is one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited in my entire life and left a profound impression on me and my companions.

Absorbing all the natural beauty, and surrounded by the inscriptions, it was very easy to imagine life here thousands of years ago. I could almost see caravans and convoys pausing here to recover from their travels, watering their camels and filling their goatskins.

Hufrat Laqt truly is a breathtaking place with a magical atmosphere. There couldn’t be a more appropriate place to end this account of my journey along the ancient route between Hail and Taima.

It really is a beautiful, beguiling region, and I hope that I have been able to convey even a fraction of the wonder of the place.

By Abdullah Al-Sayari
7th International Symposium on the History of Cartography

By Nick Milla

ack in October 2016, at the previous iteration of this event in Dubrovnik, I was approached by Imre Demhardt, Chair of the International Cartographic Association’s Commission for the History of Cartography, who asked: “If you like what we do over the next few days, would Oxford consider being our next host city in 2018?” The rest, as they say, is history.

67 delegates from seventeen countries gathered at the Bodleian’s Weston Library for the ICA’s 7th Symposium on the History of Cartography, held 13-15 September 2018, joining forces with the ICA’s Commission on Topographic Mapping to deliver an event with the overriding theme of ‘Mapping Empires: colonial cartographies of land and sea’.

Welcoming our guests in the Divinity School.

Eating our second morning, the symposium opened with a welcome from Imre, who placed our event in its context within the ICA, as did Alex, who also promoted the Springer-published conference proceedings which will be a direct result of this gathering. I gave an introduction to Oxford, then Bodley’s Librarian, Richard Ovenden, completed the opening addresses by placing maps and the conference into a Bodleian context.

There were eight sessions of papers delivered over the next three days, covering ‘The Americas’, two on ‘The Far East’, ‘Africa’, ‘Mapping the World’, ‘India’, ‘Mapmakers’, and ‘Middle East’. As well as international contributions, UK papers featured offerings on an unbuilt Central American canal, 1790-1838 by Sophie Brockmann (De Montfort University); Elizabeth Chant (University College London) on Spanish cartography of Patagonia in the late 18th century; Peter Collier (formerly University of Portsmouth) on the work of the Royal Engineer Colonial Survey sections; Rose Mitchell (The National Archives) on international boundaries, looking at records held at TNA; Peter Vujakovic (Canterbury Christ Church University) on the concept of “spectacle” in archival cartography; and the prospect of Arlington, venue for the next of these conferences.

The final afternoon featured a special locally-focused paper ‘Red star to red lion: the Soviet military mapping of Oxford’ delivered by John Davies and Alex Kent, authors of ‘The red atlas’, a book which appeared in every delegate’s conference bag – the bags were sponsored by the book’s publisher, University of Chicago Press. A fascinating way to end the academic part of the conference. The organisers offered our concluding remarks, and the prospect of Arlington, Texas was aired as the possible venue for the next of these events in 2020.

When we weren’t assembled in the Library, there were gatherings across the road at the King’s Arms for lunch each day, and on the first evening, we all walked over to Christ Church for a reception and map exhibition.

Thanks go to Christ Church Librarian Steven Archer who hosted our visit, along with Judith Curthoys and Cristina Neagu who helped set the event up, and to the BCS’s Peter Jolly who provided a historical background to Christ Church before we entered the library. A most pleasant evening was enjoyed by all, with maps and atlases on display in a glorious historical setting, and the evening suitably lubricated with generous helpings of prosecco.

The final afternoon featured a couple of city walking tours in glorious sunshine led by Malcolm Graham (former Oxfordshire Local Studies Librarian) who took his group on a historic tour of Oxford, whilst Mark Davies, who had given a poster presentation the previous day, took his party on an Oxford canal and river towpath walk. The pace continued relentlessly with the conference dinner at Brasserie Blanc in the suburb of Jericho that evening. One highlight being the delivery of a pre-ordered three-course meal to a delegate who failed to show, which was then “redistributed” around the table to appreciative colleagues.

Sunday saw a final hardy group of twenty undertaking the post-conference visit to Blenheim Palace where we were treated to a tour of the palace interior, followed by an exhibition of some maps from Blenheim hosted by Alex Frost, Blenheim’s first ever professional archivist, in the splendid Spencer Churchill Room. To round things off, lunch had been booked in the Indian Room – perfect for the theme of the conference, as we were surrounded by colourful murals depicting life in 19th-century India. Delegates were then let loose to explore the grounds, and the event came to a sunny end.

Overall thanks must also be extended to the Bodleian’s Debbie Hall, Peter Hawksworth and Peter Jolly for their nimble control of the conference during the post-paper question sessions; and to Stuart Ackland for running two impromptu Library tours.

Roll on Arlington 2020!

By Nick Milla

How had it been? Here are few impressions from those who attended:

“The thank you for the warm and wonderful hospitality! This conference was great and very informative.”

“I learned new things and made the acquaintance of several new and promising scholars!”

“What a fantastic conference! It really has been one of the best - if not, THE best - conferences I have ever been to. It was an excellent programme and a good variety of topics and speakers. Blenheim was the icing on the cake”.

“A great conference, well organised, with a buzz and lots of useful interactions going on all around”.

“It was a great event and I left feeling intellectually energised”.

“A fantastic conference. I say, is history. I have some wonderful papers, got some great feedback on mine and got to meet some more of my history of cartography heroes!”
Why Volunteer for the BCS?

There are many reasons! Volunteering offers us the chance to give something back to the community and to make a difference. It’s an opportunity to learn new skills and to broaden our experience. It is challenging, rewarding and varied – and you never know where it might take you.

Societies like the BCS exist because its members believe that there is more to be gained by doing things together. Being part of something bigger not only gives us access to innovation and new skills that makes us more resilient in an ever-changing field, but sharing a common profession or interest gives us a greater sense of belonging and purpose – and it’s a great way to make new friends!

But, let’s face it, while we want to enjoy benefits of membership, there is more to be gained by their people and teamwork skills.

Meet Like-minded People

One of the best things about the BCS is its incredibly broad range of individuals and organisations who all enjoy maps! Attending one of our events (like the Annual Symposium or a SIG workshop) is a great way to meet like-minded people, but it’s no comparison to sharing the challenges and rewards with other volunteers of different ages, backgrounds and from all over the

UK to help run the BCS. It’s a great way to build your professional and personal networks as well as feeling valued and part of a team.

Make a Positive Difference

The BCS aims to promote the art, science and technology of cartography. There are many ways that you can help. This includes helping to run Restless Earth, our excellent workshop for schools, or participating in conferences and workshops, contributing to or editing our excellent range of publications, developing the website and our suite of online resources, and promoting the work of the Society through social media. Maps change the way we see the world, so why not bring some new ideas? Help to build and shape a community that pursues excellence by nurturing creativity and responsibility.

Enhance your Career Prospects

Getting involved with the BCS can help you to learn and apply new knowledge, skills and experience. You may find that there are opportunities in the BCS that will help you to develop your technical and/or managerial expertise, for example, that may not be possible in your current job or situation. By participating in the work of the Society you plug into a professional community and can strengthen your CV. But there are other benefits of volunteering too.

A 2013 survey by UnitedHealth Group and the Optum Institute found that 96% of respondents found that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life and 87% said that volunteering had helped their career by developing their people and teamwork skills.

Even a Small Contribution can make a Big Difference

Any society relies on its members for it to function, since there are many functions that society requires its members to run! Of course, some roles require more time and commitment than others, but you can contribute to taking the Society forward in many ways, such as joining Council and leading the Society, marketing the BCS stand at an event (for which the BCS will pay your travel and subsistence expenses), helping us to develop online cartographic resources, hosting a workshop, or allowing/sharing the Society’s Facebook page. The opportunities are varied and flexible and by working together, we can do so much more.

Dr Alexander J. Kent, Immediate Past President

UKCC Call for Contributions

Preparations for ICC2019 in Tokyo next July continue to build. By the time you read this, the call for papers will have closed, and a number of international proceedings will be underway. Even if you don’t plan to attend the conference, there are still ways to become involved in the UK’s participation in international cartography. The focus of this column is to seek your contributions in two ways: the quadrennial report on maps, cartographic skills, and the international map exhibition. There is also a call for your help in promoting the Petchenik Children’s Mapping Competition.

UK National Report

Every four years, each member nation of the ICA is required to submit a report about the cartographic activity in their country. For some time, the UK report has been enjoyed the Everyeven Year reward. This time it will be part of the conference, and we normally also exhibit contributions at the exhibition. So, does the report mean we have an accessible, ongoing record of cartographic activity in the UK. However, such a national report is only as good as the contributions we receive, so the more that participate the better. Typically, the content is divided into different areas of cartographic activity, such as national mapping organisation, education, mapping societies and map libraries. The biggest section covers commercial cartographic activity, and this is where most members can help us. If you are part of a cartographic business, please take a little time to submit an entry about your organisation or encourage others to do so. Typical entries are 600-800 words reflecting on the activity of the organisation over the past four years (2015-18). Entries can also be accompanied by a logo and two or three contact, or other illustration. The maximum size for an illustration is 170mm wide by 130mm high, but other illustrations are welcome. It could be a reduced rendition of a whole map, or an extract at approximately the correct scale to show detail and provides an excellent opportunity to promote your organisation and your products. In the past, examples, the last national report was published in The Cartographic Journal for 2015, Vol.52, No.3.

We need the contributions by early January. We will also be emailing corporate members and posting here on our cartographic lists to seek contributions and providing more details, but if you any questions please contact me at david.forrest@glasgow.ac.uk.

International Map Exhibition

A second opportunity for organisations and individual to promote their activities is to submit contributions to the International Cartographic Association’s Petchenik Children’s Mapping Competition. The call is already out for contributions to the biennial children’s map competition. The theme for this year is “We Love Maps”, which is very flexible. Entries are invited in four age categories: under 6-8; 9-12; and 13-15. Entries must be a flat map, no more than A3 in size, and can be produced by an individual or group of up to three children. Entries must be accompanied by a form detailing the author and parent permission to allow the map to be reproduced. Further details of the requirements and copies of the entry forms can be downloaded from the ICA website: https://iaci.org/petchenik/. Please encourage your children’s local school, or youth groups to participate.

Entries must be via the national organiser (the BCS), and not directly to the ICA. Please send submissions for the Petchenik Competition to: c/o David Forrest, School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ no later than 1 April 2019. For more information, please contact either Jim Goldsmith, the BCS Awards officer, at Jim.Goldsmith@os.uk, or me.

By David Forrest
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Deadline: 21 Jan 2019

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