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Review: English County Bibliographies

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On the *Coast of Ireland*, a re-survey of the Skerries (County Dublin), and of the entrance to Lough Carlingford, was carried out; as well as a new survey of Ballygerry bay and Rosslare harbour (County Wexford), including Greenore point and the banks to seaward.

The surveying ships in home waters have also carried out magnetic observations, both ashore and afloat, for Declination, Horizontal force, and Dip, at several places in the above localities. All surveying operations round the British isles were greatly impeded by bad weather.

On the *Coast of Newfoundland*, the survey of St. Margaret's bay was completed, together with the waters surrounding New Férolle point; and a large area northward of the Fogo islands.

On the *West Coast of Africa*, Cestos bay, on the Liberian coast, was surveyed.

On the *Coast of British Columbia*, northward of the Queen Charlotte islands, a large area of Dixon entrance, leading to Port Simpson, was surveyed; together with plans of Masset harbour, Virago sound, with Naden harbour, and Parry passage; all in Graham island, the northernmost of the Queen Charlotte group.

In the *Red Sea*, a survey was made of the locality and approaches to the petroleum wells of Gimsah; and, further south, of the approaches to Mahomet Ghul.

Extensive sounding was done off the *Southern Coast of Socotra*, in search for a reported rock; and Aden was connected with Cape Guardafui by meridian distance.

On the *Coast of Ceylon*, the coast survey was continued from Barbeyrn lighthouse to the southward and south-eastward, beyond Galle harbour; including large-scale plans of the latter port and its approaches. The coast outside Trincomali harbour was also surveyed.

The *approaches to Penang* have been re-sounded; and on the *Coast of British North Borneo*, a chart of Maruda bay nearly completed.

On the *Eastern Coast of Australia*, the approaches to Cairns harbour (Queensland) have been surveyed, and carried out to the 100-fathom line.

On the *Coast of China*, a survey completed of Challum bay; and of a large area between the mainland, and the outlying islets known as The Brothers and Lamock islands; also of Bias bay, and of the southern entrance to Mirs bay.

The Marine Survey of India for 1907 includes the completion of the eastern archipelago of the Andaman islands; a portion of the Arrakan coast of Burma, including Andrew bay; and a strip of the western coast of India, immediately southward of Bombay.

During the year the Hydrographic department has published 87 new charts; and 35 plates have been improved by the addition of 62 new plans; while 509 plates have received large corrections and additions; to the number of 8250.

The number of charts printed for the Government and the general public during the year amounted to 486,392; while 1922 Notices to Mariners have been issued.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

ENGLISH COUNTY BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

'Hertfordshire Maps. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Maps of the County, 1579-1900.' By Herbert George Fordham. Pp. xii., 182. 19 *Illustrations*. Hertford: Stephen Austin & Sons. 1907. 4s. 50 copies *privately printed*.

In 1901, Mr. Herbert George Fordham, of Odsey, the present chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council, began to publish in the *Transactions* of the Hert-

fordshire Natural History Society and Field Club, a descriptive catalogue of all maps of Hertfordshire from 1579 to 1900, which were to be found in public or in private libraries. So far as Hertfordshire is concerned, the requirements of the King's printer of 1626 have been amply satisfied, and the way is now clear for any other geographical enthusiast to make a similar list for any other county, English, Scottish, Irish, or Welsh.

Mr. Fordham gives bibliographical and biographical notes to each map entered, and there are copious indexes, giving the chief works of reference, an alphabetical list of titles of all atlases and maps, and of the names of all authors, engravers, and publishers. For a similar undertaking in English, we must go back as far as the year 1780, to Richard Gough's 'British Topography,' issued in two volumes, an excellent work, and the mainstay of every geographical curator. In France and Germany we find eminent geographical bibliographers, but nothing quite to equal the achievements of Mr. Fordham in a difficult and untrodden field. Geographical bibliography is, unfortunately, in England neglected by the Bibliographical Society, and there is no provision by the State for the uniform publication of classified bibliographies of maps. In America, when any political question arises, the Library of Congress publishes a special catalogue of maps in their map collection, and of books in their library.

In England, vast as the Empire is to-day, there exists no staff, nor any funds for this purpose, even at the British Museum, which, beyond question, contains the largest and the finest collection of atlases and maps in the whole world. The 'British Museum Catalogue of Printed Maps' was printed in 1885, a quarter of a century ago, but is sadly incomplete, and at times inaccurate. A second edition, recording the title, engraver, scale size, and publisher of each atlas and map, would be of the highest value to every library and geographical student throughout the civilized world. The 'Museum Catalogue of Manuscript Maps' has not advanced beyond volume 3, published in 1861, nearly half a century ago, and there is no alphabetical record of the manuscript maps acquired between 1861 and 1907, and there is actually no index of draughtsmen, artists, or places to volumes 1-3 (1844 to 1861). The Museum Catalogue of the maps, plans, and views which have strayed to the Department of Prints is not yet published, but, in any case, the collecting of printed maps by two departments of a national museum must be very costly to the poor tax-payer.

The British Museum will next year celebrate the 150th anniversary of its foundation. A printed catalogue of all its cartographical treasures would form a fitting memorial of an historical event which has conferred upon its promoters a claim to a more lasting and peaceful fame than they ever anticipated in those times of almost universal war, when the heroic struggles of General Wolfe had not yet culminated in the final glory of the heights of Abraham.

It is to be hoped that the success of Mr. Fordham in the almost untrodden paths of county bibliography will lead others to follow in his footsteps, and we shall look forward with equal pleasure, and we hope profit, to his exhaustive work on the maps of the county over whose council he so ably presides.

ASIA.

HIMALAYAN EXPLORATION.

'Ice-bound Heights of the Mustagh.' By Dr. and Mrs. Workman. London: A. Constable & Co. 1908. *Maps and Illustrations.* Price 10s. net.

On first opening this book the excellence and fulness of the illustration immediately strike the eye. The photographs, over 170 in number, and some of