Review: Gloucestershire and Somersetshire Maps

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 5 (May, 1915), pp. 426-428

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1779732>

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South Polar Times first drew attention to Sir Ernest Shackleton's power of literary arrangement and vivid description, so the production of the *Adelie Blizzard* which kept up the spirits of the winter party in Commonwealth Bay, brought to light the exceptional literary gift of Dr. A. L. McLean, who has seen the volumes through the press, and by his revision has secured that degree of homogeneity without which the work of a group of authors, different in their powers of expression and in the range of their vocabulary, would inevitably have become disjointed and displeasing.

Dr. McLean's foreword gives a fair sample of his command of language and an insight into his poetic outlook on the ideals of modern exploration, while many fine pieces of word-painting throughout the narrative testify to his appreciation of the imaginative aspects of the play of light and colour in Antarctic scenery.

The maps on various scales which set out the cruises of the *Aurora* and the tracks of the sledge parties reflect the greatest credit on Mr. A. J. Hodgeman, the cartographer of the expedition. The photographic illustrations have never been surpassed either in technical perfection or artistic grouping; the only regret which they inspire is, that as usual the shape of the photographic plates too frequently involved the printing of two pictures on one page, giving somewhat the effect of two paintings in one frame. The photographic work shows that Mr. J. F. Hurley, the official photographer of the expedition, is a master of his art, and the description of the difficulties under which he usually worked shows how cleverly he learned to adapt his methods to his difficult environment. The reproduction of photographs in natural colours is extraordinarily successful. The publisher has given a worthy setting to this unique assemblage of scientific, literary and artistic work, enshrining as it does a story of daring adventure and heroic endurance saddened by tragedy, second only to that of the Scott expedition, and relieved by a fresh and light-hearted humour which makes the reader proud to belong to an Empire the most distant states of which produce such sons.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND SOMERSETSHIRE MAPS.

'A Descriptive Catalogue of the Printed Maps of Gloucestershire, 1577-1911, with Biographical Notes.' (*Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* for 1912, vol. 35.) Pp. 238, and 12 *plates*. [Bristol, 1913.]

'A Descriptive List of the Printed Maps of Somersetshire, 1575-1914.' Pp. xii. + 231, and 16 *plates*. Taunton: published by the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. 1914. 10s.

By Thomas Chubb, of the Map Room, British Museum.

THESE catalogues of the maps of two of our English counties continue the work of the author in this department of cartographical research commenced

in 1911, by the publication of his catalogue of the maps of Wiltshire (*Geographical Journal*, vol. 39, p. 472 (May, 1912)), itself following the catalogues of the maps of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire published by Sir H. G. Fordham in 1907 and 1908 respectively. Including the publications of Mr. William Harrison on the county maps of Lancashire and Cheshire, detailed catalogues of the maps of the following English counties have now been given to the public: Hertfordshire (1907) and supplement (1914); Lancashire (1908); Cambridgeshire (1908); Cheshire (1908); Wiltshire (1911); Gloucestershire (1913); and Somersetshire (1914). The form and method of this class of cartographical studies are now, therefore, well established, and substantially all the sources of information have received general investigation. The reviewer has thus little to criticize in the lists now under notice, which incorporate all the latest results of research, and have reduced such work, by comparison of various tentative methods found in the earlier efforts to systematize the descriptive cataloguing of maps to, probably, its final form.

The second of these two catalogues has a rather clearer general appearance than that given by the types and arrangement used in the earlier one, although the actual differences between them are small. In such matters, however, very trifling alterations in the spacing, arrangement, and variety of types go for a good deal in the ultimate result, and the author is to be congratulated on having, in the Somersetshire catalogue, avoided certain small defects which appear on the face of the Gloucestershire volume. The former may now probably be taken as a satisfactory model for cataloguing the maps of the remainder of the English and Welsh counties which, as time goes on and interest is aroused locally on a sufficient scale to justify the work of compilation, will, it is hoped, be attempted.

Both these volumes are illustrated by a series of plates of facsimile reductions or full-sized reproductions of the earlier maps of the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, admirably selected to illustrate the gradual development of the cartographical art from the time of Saxton onwards. These illustrations will do more to bring home to students, as well as to general readers, the variety and interest of the subject of historical cartography than any descriptive text, and they are alone well worth the price of either volume.

The author prefixes to each volume a short introduction, reviewing the history of English cartography, which both cover, necessarily, the same ground. It may be noticed that the description itinerary and map ascribed to "Richard of Cirencester," and referred to on page 5 of the introduction to the Gloucester catalogue, was a forgery. The whole was, indeed, a most ingenious deception, and held the field as a piece of real history from its appearance in 1757 until as late as 1866-67, when the then librarian of the Royal Library at Windsor Castle, Mr. B. B. Woodward, investigated the case completely and fully exposed the original fraud. The matter, which is sufficiently curious, may be found shortly stated in the 'Dictionary of National Biography.' The author of the pseudo-itinerary, and of the map published with it, was a certain Charles Bertram, teacher of the English language at Copenhagen, where he pretended to have discovered the original manuscript alleged to belong to the end of the fourteenth century. He imposed on Stukeley. He has been described as "the cleverest and most successful literary impostor of modern times." Indeed, since its complete exposure, accepted by all competent authorities, Bertram's fraud has maintained sufficient vitality to obtain re-publication as authentic in 1872, in Bohn's Antiquarian Library, and even to appear now again in perennial vigour.

The notice of the efforts of the Society of Arts to promote the survey and engraving of large-scale county maps by the awarding of premiums, to which public attention has also recently been drawn by Sir H. T. Wood, in his articles on the early work of that Society (*Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, vol. 60, p. 268 (January, 1912)), found in the introduction to the Somerset catalogue, is particularly interesting and original. A large number of important county maps were published, and premiums and medals were awarded between 1759 and the beginning of the nineteenth century. Some of these maps have now become very scarce, though most of them are well known to cartographers.

The very important geological map of England and Wales, and those of individual counties, surveyed and coloured by William Smith and published by John Cary early in the nineteenth century, which mark the commencement of systematic geological cartography, appear to have had some connection also with the encouragement of such work by the offer by the same Society in 1802 of three gold medals for geological maps of England, Ireland, and Scotland respectively, though these particular maps do not seem to have been ever actually produced.

The tabular index to the maps, arranged under the names of authors, engravers, and publishers, to be found at the end of each catalogue, giving the date of publication, short title, and dimensions of each map, and the title of the work in which it is found, follows the form adopted by the author in the index to his Wiltshire list, and is a very valuable addition to these catalogues, enabling the inquirer to readily identify any map of which he is in search.

The whole subject of method, as applied to the cataloguing of maps, is illustrated by Mr. Chubb's studies, and from this point of view alone, the works under notice are worthy of careful examination. At the same time they are of great interest to the general student of the history of the cartographical art, and especially to those who follow Richard Gough in the great foundation laid by him for our knowledge of British topography, and are a considerable and satisfactory contribution to British cartography also.

H. G. F.

'Place-names of South-West Yorkshire.' By A. Goodall. (Cambridge: University Press. 1913. Pp. vii., 314. 7s. 6d. net.) 'The Place-names of Sussex.' By R. G. Roberts. (Cambridge: University Press. 1914. Pp. xxxii., 210. 10s.) When the many difficulties, both theoretical and practical, of the study of English place-names are taken into account, it must be acknowledged that much praiseworthy and valuable work has been done in this field of recent years, and the Cambridge Press, through its Archaeological and Ethnological Series and other channels, deserves high commendation for its efforts. So also do such students as the authors of the volumes now under notice, who have clearly brought profound knowledge and minute care to bear upon their tasks. Mr. Roberts carries us straight *in medias res*; his book is not one which can be taken up without preparation; Mr. Goodall, however, provides an explanatory historical introduction of a simpler sort, and his explanations of individual names are furnished in a form more intelligible to the general reader.

'The Survey Gazetteer of the British Isles.' Edited by J. G. Bartholomew. (Edinburgh: Bartholomew. 1914. *Maps*.) This is in great measure a new work, so much revision upon previous editions has been necessitated. It is very full and compact, and has been clearly compiled from most recent sources with great care. The work is of use not for facts of the present only; an appendix deals with the ethnology of geographical names, furnishing an alphabetical