



SOV'T HAMPTONIA
Comitatus p'ter Insulas
Fov'g'tor et G'ov'or
que sunt partes eundem
comitatus cum suis vicijs
quibusdam h'ic pagis
S'cto et p'missio
Vicia descripta

SOV'THAMPTONIA
Comitatus p'ter Causitum
Winet'rum habet Oppidum
notum et pagis et villas 241

Christophorus Saxton descripsit

**THE ANCIENT MAPS OF GREAT BRITAIN :
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HAMPSHIRE.**

Presidential Address delivered by COL. SIR CHARLES CLOSE,
K.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S., at the Annual General Meeting, 1930.

We learn from Strabo that, about the time of Alexander, one Pytheas of Marseilles undertook a voyage to Britain. His original account of this adventurous journey has not come down to us ; but the fragments of his story have been the subject of much discussion and criticism. Sir Clements Markham called him the Discoverer of Britain, and we may safely say that there were probably no maps of this country in the ancient world before his time. Travellers' tales have been tacked on to him, notably the story that when he reached Thule (Orkneys) he found that there was there " no longer either solid land nor sea nor air, but a sort of mixture of these which could neither be travelled over nor sailed through."¹

Ptolemy, A.D. 150. :

But the first certainly known maps of Britain are those associated with the great name of Ptolemy, who flourished at Alexandria and died sometime about the middle of the second century of our era. His work on Geography remained for more than fourteen hundred years " the " geography of learned people, in much the same way as " Euclid," who had taught at Alexandria four hundred years before Ptolemy, remained the standard, unchanged text-book of geometry for more than two thousand years. Ptolemy in his Geography described how to construct maps, gave a list of the latitudes and longitudes of important places in all the countries known to him, and illustrated his writing with actual maps. We do not know how far correctly the maps that have come down to us as his maps have suffered alteration in the course of time, but his tabular material can still be made use of, and in 1883, H. Bradley² constructed a map of Britain from that material. That authority says that the portion of Ptolemy's Geography relating to Britain has been for three centuries the subject of elaborate discussion amongst antiquaries and that the identifications are far from being unanimous.

¹ *The Geography of Ptolemy Elucidated.* T. G. Rylands. University Press, Dublin, 1893.

² *Ptolemy's Geography of the British Isles.* H. Bradley, 1883. Also *Archæologia*, vol. xlviii, 1885.

The most curious feature of Ptolemy's map of Great Britain, as it has come down to us, is that Scotland, instead of forming a northward prolongation of England, is turned through a right-angle, and stretches east. General Roy, who founded the Ordnance Survey, had the theory that Ptolemy had been given a map of Britain, but that Scotland had been torn off, and that Ptolemy pinned it on in the wrong way. Bradley has the more likely theory that Ptolemy had before him three separate maps, one of England and Wales, as we now call them, one of Scotland, and one of Ireland, that these maps were without meridians or parallels, and that Ptolemy made his mistake simply from want of the correct information.

The maps of Ptolemy remained in manuscript for centuries, being copied and re-copied, until at last, in 1475, the first printed edition was issued at Vicenza. We then have an edition of 1478 printed at Rome and one of the same year printed at Florence, and this Florence edition is accompanied by a few new maps, "*Tabulae Novellae*." These maps are engraved and are the first *printed* modern maps; they are of Italy, France, Spain, and Palestine. Then there are editions of 1482 and 1486 printed at Ulm, from blocks, not engraved. Then a Rome edition of 1490; another Rome edition of 1508, and so on. More than fifty editions were printed between 1475 and 1730.

Now, dealing first with Britain as it appeared on the old maps, and not on the *tabulae novellae*, we find the Isle of Wight shown as Vectis on the 1478 edition and Portsmouth appearing as Magnus Portus. In the Ulm editions of 1482-86, Venta appears. In the 1490 edition of Rome, there are Vectis Insula, Magnus Portus, Vente, Alaunius Fl.; the same in the edition of 1508. Mr. Bradley states that "Ptolemy has placed Venta exactly in its true position relatively to the Great Harbour." It may be as well to mention that there is a Novus Portus which has been identified with Hastings, and a river Trisanton which was thought by Bradley to be the Arun, of which the old name was Tarant. Although there are not many names, and although some of them are not easy to identify, the south coast of England is fairly well depicted, and was, no doubt, better known to the Romans than the rest of the coast of this country.

Now, turning to the new maps, we find on the new map of France, in the 1478 edition, part of the south of England, and there appears Antona (Southampton). But here we come to mediæval and renaissance maps, and we can take leave of Ptolemy and the ancients.

Matthew Paris, A.D. 1250.

The surviving mediæval maps of Britain are few in number and are, of course, in manuscript. The oldest which have come

down to us are four variants of the map of Great Britain by Matthew Paris, and these are dated as about A.D. 1250. The British Museum authorities have laid all students under an obligation by printing excellent reproductions of these four maps, accompanied by a memoir.¹ This publication was issued on the occasion of the International Geographical Congress which took place at Cambridge in 1928. Of the four manuscripts, three are now in the British Museum and one is in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. These maps were all drawn in the scriptorium of St. Alban's Abbey, under the supervision of Matthew Paris, who died in 1259. These are the first detailed maps known to exist of this country. Mr. Herbert Poole and Mr. J. P. Gilson, who edit the publication, remark that each of the four maps contains a certain amount of unique material. They point out that more than one hand has supplied the names, and that it is possible that the information was derived from the reports of visitors or travelling monks. Altogether, on the four maps there are some 250 place names. Map D is less perfect than the others, and the editors point out a delightful remark of the old scribe: "*Si pagina pateretur hec totalis insula longior esse deberet.*" If there had been room on the paper the island should have been longer. They note also that in inserting one group of names the scribe followed some instructions written in the margin: "*A dextris Douere Sorham; Seford, Peuenese, Rie, Winchelase, Rumeneie,*" in order to squeeze in the names he had to carry Shoreham much too far to the west, even beyond Beaulieu.

As to Hampshire names, we find Beuli, Portesmues (Potem), Suhātun, Hamhtune, Suhant, Vecta, Wintonia, Witon, just these five, Beaulieu, Portsmouth, Southampton, Vectis, and Winchester. The names are in many cases much misplaced. Lewes appears to the north of Southampton, Devon to the north of Dorset, and Shoreham to the west of Beaulieu, and so on. But still, it is the beginning of English cartography.

Bodleian Map, A.D. 1300.

We now come to a very remarkable map, namely, the Map of Great Britain, which is now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. This is on a single skin about 48 inches by 22 inches. It is drawn in colours; red for the towns and roads, blue for the sea and rivers, black outline, and black or red for the names. As far north as Hadrian's Wall it is surprisingly accurate in comparison with the maps of Matthew Paris. It is so good that it is not absurd to talk about its scale, which, for the part representing England, may be stated to be about 17½ miles to one inch. An

¹ *Four Maps of Great Britain Designed by Matthew Paris.* Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, 1928.

interesting feature is that distances in miles are written along the roads between the various towns; these distances are often rounded off and appear as xx, x, xv, and so on. These distances give us the means of determining the length of the English mile which was in use at the date of construction of the map. I have taken 21 measurements on a modern map, and compared these with the distances given on the old map, and find that the mile on the old map is equivalent to about 1.3 statute mile. Sir Flinders Petrie, nearly 50 years ago, obtained the value of 1.265.

The Bodleian Map was reproduced at the Ordnance Survey Office at Southampton in 1870, and the reproduction was accompanied by a descriptive account by Mr. Bassevi Sanders, of H.M. Record Office. From internal evidence, he put the date as about the year A.D. 1300, that is some fifty years later than the Matthew Paris maps. Sir Flinders Petrie thinks that the distances were rewritten before the sixteenth century. But it owes nothing to the older maps; it is in every way superior, and, as far as we know at present, it remained the best map of this country for more than two centuries. Another reproduction, to a smaller scale, was published by the same office in 1875.

The Hampshire names on the Bodleian Map are: Hampton, Wynchester, Basyngstok, Alton, Farnhm, Walthm, Portsmouth, Havant, Petrefeld, Witchurch, Nova Foresta, Wyght, Newport, Casbrok. The map has all the appearance of being intended for use. Is it unreasonable to suppose that it might have been constructed for the King's use on his journeys?

Portolan Chart, 1330.

Let us now see how this country was represented on the foreign maps of the fourteenth century. The principal maps of this and the next century "are, with few exceptions, Italian or Catalan, and all but one or two are included in the well-known catalogue of Konrad Kretschmer." *Die Italienischen Portolane des Mittelalters*. Berlin. 1909.

A portolano is a book of sailing directions, and, following Mr. Hinks's suggestion, we may call the type of chart that has survived, a Portolan Chart.¹ Mr. Hinks states that there are eight known portolan charts of the fourteenth century or earlier; and, under his supervision, there has been reproduced, for the Royal Geographical Society, a copy in colours, to full scale, of the Portolan Chart of Angellino de Dalorto, in the collection of Prince Corsini at Florence. The date of the Chart is 1325 or 1330.

The original chart is drawn on a single sheepskin, 42 inches by 26 inches. The better mapped region is that in the

¹ *The Portolan Chart of Angellino de Dalorto*. Royal Geographical Society, London, 1929. With a note by Arthur R. Hinks, F.R.S., Secretary R.G.S.

neighbourhood of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and, as might have been expected, the north and north-west of Europe is inaccurate, but the north coast of France and the south coast of England are not so bad, the same applies to the south coast of Ireland. The scale is very small; for the south of England about a hundred miles to the inch. About 25 names are given along this coast, but, unfortunately, the reproduction is not clear just there, though I think that one can distinguish Antona and Portsmouth. The north coast of Scotland and that country generally are curiously bad, and the map compares unfavourably with the Bodleian map that we have just been considering, though it is not so fantastically in error as the maps of Ptolemy. For his material for the south of England and Ireland and the north of France, Angellino de Dalorto must have used some good local maps, and the coasts of the English Channel are in some respects better than on the Bodleian map, and must have been really useful to sailors.

British Museum Map, A.D. 1534.

For about two hundred years, that is, until about the year 1534, there are, I believe, no maps of Great Britain or of England known to have been drawn. That is not the same thing as saying that no such maps were drawn; but none appears to have survived. It is certainly a most curious thing that there should be this gap, which includes the busy reign of Henry VII and a great part of the reign of Henry VIII. For the year mentioned, or thereabouts, there is a map of the British Isles, on one sheet, in the British Museum. The size of the sheet is 25 inches by 18 inches, and the scale about 50 miles to the inch. There is a reproduction of it in the German magazine, *Globus*, for 8th July, 1909; the reproduction, which is on the scale of three-fifths of the original, is accompanied by an excellent analysis by Walter Reinhard, who gives reasons for the assigned date from internal evidence. The map is in manuscript and is painted in water colours.

Generally speaking, the map shows an advance in comparison with the Bodleian map; in the case of Scotland, a great advance. Even in the south the topography has improved. In this county we find the following names, for the most part well placed; Wigh, Newport, Casbrok; Andevor, Basigstoke, Witchirch, Wichestr, Rumsay, Hanton, Alisforde, Porchestr, Portismouth, Nova Forest, Bewdlay. There is an island called Mandwode to the west of "Seleseey" Island; on the Bodleian map, which is 234 years older, there is the same island to the west of Seleseey, called Manwd. (See Note at end). Mr. Heawood, of the Royal Geographical Society, called my attention to this map, which is certainly of great interest. I should have mentioned

that the latitudes and longitudes are marked along the margins, with varying exactness. Latitude 51° goes through the middle of the Isle of Wight; it should be $50^{\circ}-45^{\circ}$. The extreme north of Scotland is put in latitude 61° ; it should be $58^{\circ}-40^{\circ}$. The south coast of England is made to cover 8 degrees of longitude, which is a little too much.

Munster's Map, A.D. 1540.

For the next map of Britain we must go back to Ptolemy. An edition of Ptolemy was printed at Basle in 1540. The editor was Sebastian Münster, professor of Hebrew in the University and an eminent geographer. This edition contains, as others did, "*Tabulae Novellae*"—new maps—and the new map of this country is a considerable improvement on the new maps of Britain in the previous editions of Ptolemy. In the preparation of the map Münster got his information from Englishmen. He says: "*Angli quoque et Poloni sua suppeditarunt regna.*" The scale of the map is about 40 miles to the inch. Generally speaking, the map is inferior to the old Bodleian map, and greatly inferior to the 1534 map.

The names in this part of the country that appear on the map are:—Vught, Nuport, Hamtō. Winchester and Portsmouth are not marked. A poor thing, but an improvement on earlier Ptolemies.

We are now getting to the end of the story of the ancient maps of Britain and are coming to the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth, when map-making received a great development, and large detailed maps first appeared. But a few words must be said about the remaining maps of the old period. Mr. Sprent, who is in charge of the Map Department of the British Museum, says of this period:¹ "In 1546 a much finer map of Great Britain [finer than Münster's map of Britain in his 1540 edition of Ptolemy], by George Lily, an Englishman, had been produced in Rome, and had been followed by others based on this, while Mercator himself had published a map of the British Isles in 1564 . . . but there was no British Atlas, there were no county maps, and the first printed map of England, by Humphrey Lluyd of Denbigh, though drawn in 1568, was not produced until 1573, when it appeared in the first supplement to the *Theatrum of Ortelius*."

Lily's Map, A.D. 1546.

The next on our list, then, is the map of George Lily, "*Britanniae insulae quae nunc Angliae et Scotiae regna continent cum Hibernia adiacente nova descriptio*," 1546. "Believed to

¹ In the introduction to *The Printed Maps in the Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland*. Thomas Chubb. The Homeland Association, Ltd., 1927.

be the first printed map of the British Isles apart from those in Ptolemy's Atlas George Lily was a son of William Lily, the grammarian and chaplain to Cardinal Pole."

The scale is about 30 miles to the inch. The map was engraved and printed in Rome. The outline of Scotland is a great improvement on that of previous maps. In the legend, amongst other things, we find, "*Lupos non habet Anglia, Scotia permultos.*" The map, generally, represents a step in advance. It was reproduced, to a reduced scale, by the British Museum, in 1928.¹

The Hampshire names are :—Vectis Insula, Albrok, Neuport : Portsmouth, Hamtona, Wintonia, Andouer, Basingstok, Alton, Odiham, Fordingbridge.

Mercator's Map, A.D. 1564.

The last of the general maps of Britain is a map by Mercator, of which only one copy is known to exist (in Germany). The scale of the map is about 16 miles to the inch. Mercator gives a scale of English miles which works out to about 14.3 miles to the inch. Mercator's English mile was about 2,084 yards. The map has more names than any of those before described ; in the Isle of Wight alone there are 18, including "Wippig" and the Nedels. On the mainland of Hampshire there are 30 names, all the chief towns, and villages such as Alforde, Ramsey. Then there is that mysterious place Manhoed, no doubt the same as Manwode, only this time it is not shown as an island, but is part of the mainland, lying between Selsey Island and Hallyng. I have examined the Ordnance one-inch of 1810 and the latest Ordnance one-inch of 1926 and find that there is no Manwode or Manhoed. (See Note at end).

I have said that only one copy is known to exist ; but are there not in some of the old houses of England other copies ? This map is, again, a better map than any of its predecessors, and is well worth study. It has been photographed, and a photographic copy exists at the Royal Geographical Society.

I may, perhaps, fitly close this brief account of the ancient maps of Great Britain by a note about the man, who, more than any other, was responsible for the introduction into this country of a vastly improved kind of cartography, based on new and original field-work ; I mean Christopher Saxton, of Dunningley. In 1928 the late Sir George Fordham published a little account of Saxton which contains all that we know about the man himself.²

¹ *Six Early Printed Maps.* Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, London, 1928.

² *Christopher Saxton of Dunningley, his Life and Work.* Sir George Fordham. Reprinted from the Thoresby Society's Miscellanea, vol. xxviii. John Whitehead & Son, Ltd., Leeds.

Saxton's Atlas of England and Wales, 1579.

Saxton was born about 1542, probably at Wakefield. He died at Dunningley, a hamlet lying between Leeds and Wakefield, about 1611, and was buried at West Ardsley. Nothing remains of his grave, "and there are now no early monuments, tombstones, or other records of this parish in existence." His patron was Thomas Seckford, Master of Requests, and with his approval and probably at his instigation, Saxton, in 1570, commenced no less a task than the survey of each county of England and Wales. This he completed in nine years. He worked under official authority, but the earliest document authorizing him to do the work that has been found, is a "Placart," dated 11th March, 1575. On the 10th July, 1576, an "open letter" is addressed to all Justices of peace, mayors and others within the several Shieres of Wales, and directs that "the said Justices shall be aiding and assisting unto him to see him conducted unto any towre Castle highe place or hill to view that countrey and that he may be accompanied with ii or iii honest men such as do best know the cuntrey for the better accomplishment of that service." On the 22nd July, 1577, a licence was issued to him for the exclusive publication of his maps for ten years. And so from time to time he had authority "to cause the platts and descriptions to be well and fayre ingraven in plates of copper and to be after impressed and stamped out of the same as well to the comoditie of our subjectes as to all others that shall have pleasure to see and puse the same."

Saxton's general map of England is dated 1579, but it will be more interesting to turn at once to his map of Hampshire, one of the series of county maps which compose his great Atlas of England and Wales. The date of this map of "Southamptonia" is 1575; it is engraved and is coloured by hand. He gives a scale—*scala miliarum*—each mile being 0.325 inches long. But the mile then in use was certainly not our mile of 1,760 yards. Measurements seem to show that, so far as Hampshire map is concerned, the mile was about 1.216 of the modern mile, or 2,140 yards. The average value of Saxton's mile, derived from all his county maps, is about 1.31 statute mile.

We have now got clean out of the misty region of conjecture, of picturesque and absurd errors, and we have arrived at our first English example of accurate cartography, though, of course, Saxton's work differs a good deal from what we are accustomed to. There are no roads shown, and the hills are drawn in profile. But the work is beautifully executed, the streams and rivers are carefully surveyed, and there is an abundance of names.

For further information about the later maps of Hampshire, the enquirer may be referred to Mr. Heywood Sumner's account

of "The Old Maps of Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire," in the *Proceedings of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society* for November, 1918, which gives a brief, but good, account of the maps from Saxton's time onward. To Mr. Heywood Sumner's account should be added a recent discovery, John Norden's *Hampshire*, in one sheet, of which one copy is known to exist. The date, according to Mr. Heawood, is about 1595. Those interested should also be advised to study Mr. Thomas Chubb's great bibliography, *The Printed Maps in the Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland*, published in 1927.

Let me conclude by quoting some lines on Saxton, believed to have been written by Dr. John Favour, Vicar of Halifax; these lines come at the end of what was intended for an epitaph, and were written sometime about 1611. They were printed with the rest of the manuscript by Sir George Fordham, in 1928.

"If yu for Saxton seeke, behold his grave,
Yet h'is not here, he is in greater grace,
The prince, ye nobles, gentils, learned haue,
Dayned him in court, in house, in study place,
Ther seeke for Saxton's name, ther is it fownd,
His earthly part is only in this ground,
His flesh in earth, his fame on earth is still
His soule at rest in heaven, attends God's will."

NOTE ON "MANHOOD" OR "MANWODE."

Mr. O. G. S. Crawford has drawn my attention to the description of MANHOOD HUNDRED in the Sussex volume of the English Place-Name Society, Part I, page 79. It is there explained that this Hundred, the earliest spelling of which was Manwuda, 1170, was a liberty of the Bishop of Chichester. "The original name was probably mæne-wudu, 'common-wood,' and must have been the name of the meeting-place rather than of the district. Such a name would be specially suitable for a hundred meeting-place."