



Duncan Street 1911-1995



EDINBURGH GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE

JOHN GEORGE BARTHOLOMEW LLD (1860-1920)

Geographer and Cartographer Royal
 Fourth Generation in a line of Mapmakers from 1797
 Founder of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1884



This institute, built in 1910, was designed by Dr John George Bartholomew to house his firm's expanding map printing and publishing operations. It incorporates the Palladian portico (1824) from Falcon Hall, the family residence in Morningside. From 1919, as JOHN BARTHOLOMEW & SON LTD, two further generations of the family and a loyal staff continued to develop the traditions and high standards of the company until 1987, when the family involvement ceased.

With the support of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and the generosity of private donors, this plaque commemorates the immense contribution of the Bartholomew family to world cartography for nearly 200 years.

Unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal, a Vice President of the Society
 11th July 1997



The Drawing Office



EDINBURGH GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE,

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW & CO.,

Park Road

1889-1911

THE BARTHOLOMEW MAPMAKERS

1797

I : GEORGE - (1784-1871) Engraver

The Scottish Enlightenment brought about a sudden increase in publication of scientific, technical and other books needing high quality illustration for which steel engraving was the best medium. George Bartholomew was the first direct ancestor of the present Edinburgh family to enter the engraving trade. Apprenticed in 1797 to Daniel Lizars, the well known engraver (at 'The Backstairs', behind Parliament House) George thus succeeded to the tradition handed down from Andrew Bell, and before him from Richard Cooper, and his predecessors of the graver.

Following experience in botanical illustration, he turned his skills to map-engraving, notably identified with Lothian's Plans of **Edinburgh** (1825) and of **Leith** for **Wood's Town Atlas** (1828).



W. H. LIZARS

Engraver and Copper Plate Printer
3 St. James Square, Edinburgh

1826

II : JOHN (Senior) - (1805-1861) Map Engraver



On his father's advice, John chose his independent status as a map-engraver, after completing his apprenticeship with William H. Lizars in April 1826. He worked from home, but many of his works for Lizars are only identifiable from his surviving work-books, until he realised that his reputation as an industrious young engraver would be enhanced if he displayed his name as advertisement to his craftsmanship. Besides Lizars, other regular customers included A. & C. Black, Blackie, Blackwood, Chambers, Collins and W. & A. K. Johnston. He also engraved town plans: **GPO Directory Plan of Edinburgh** (1832), and world atlases: **Lizars'- Edinburgh General Atlas** (1835), and **Black's General Atlas** (1846).

Residences at east end of New Town:
59 York Place 4 East St. James St.

1859

III : JOHN (Junior) - (1831-1893) Geographer & Map Engraver, FRGS

Having trained as a geographer with his father, John Jr. gained the romance and potential of map-making he installed 3 new steam presses in extended premises at North Bridge for lithographic printing of multi-copies in colour. He also travelled to North America to create new business, thus widening his reputation for accurate and painstaking cartography. His major works included: Black's **Tourist Map of Scotland** (4 mls./in.) (1862) Fullarton's **Royal Illustrated Atlas** (1863) **6-Inch Directory Plan of Edinburgh** (1868) **District Maps of Scotland** (2 mls./in.) (1876) Baddeley's **Lake District Guide** (1880) First layer-coloured map **Edinburgh, Large City Plan** (15 ins./mile)



JOHN BARTHOLOMEW
(17 Brown Square) 4A North
31 Chambers Street (Carr

1888

Bi-centenary of Six Generations

97

IV : JOHN GEORGE - (1860-1920) Geographer & Cartographer Royal
LLD, FRSE, RGS Victoria Medal, Hon. Sec. RSGS (1884-1920)

John George joined his father in the early 1880's while studying at Edinburgh University, succeeding him in 1888 (age 28), when the business was moved to shared premises in partnership with Thomas Nelson at Park Road. He named his office 'The Edinburgh Geographical Institute', and shaped the future of the firm with foresight and boldness. He issued a wide range of unique and remarkable productions, and the business prospered with its rising status. John George's sense of colour harmony was appreciated in the innovative layer colouring of the 'Reduced O.S.' **Half-Inch Map of Great Britain**, and by the scientific works which he produced in collaboration with academic colleagues:

- The Survey Atlas of Scotland** (1895)
- Geological Map of Scotland** (1893)
- Physical Atlas: Meteorology** (1899), **Zoogeography** (1911)
- Bathymetrical Survey of Scottish Fresh-Water Lochs** (1907)
- Chronological Map of Edinburgh** (1919)



1889

Edinburgh Geographical Inst.
Park Road

1911

Duncan St.

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW & CO.

V : JOHN (1890-1962) Geographer and Cartographer Royal
CBE, MC, MA, LLD, FRSE, FRSGS, RGS Founder's Medal, Hon. Sec./President RSGS (1920-54)



His years of study in Leipzig, Paris and Edinburgh were followed by distinguished war service, but not without lasting damage to his health. He inherited the task of completing and updating, for post-war changes, his father's edition of **The Times Survey Atlas** (1922). He subsequently designed and edited a wide range of world reference atlases, regional maps and road maps. He took advantage of modern technical advances, and the installation of offset litho printing presses. He devised several innovative projections to show improved spatial relationships for air-age geography and modern geopolitics: 'Nordic', 'Atlantis', 'Regional', and the 'Lotus' projection for ocean distributions.

But, his ultimate task was to mastermind the 'Mid-Century Edition' of **The Times Atlas of the World** (5 volumes, 1955-60), which achieved pre-eminent status as a reference atlas, – a fitting memorial to a life of dedication.

1919

Edinburgh Geographical Institute, Duncan Street

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW & SON LTD.

VI : JOHN C. (1923-)
Cartographer MA, FRSE, FRSGS

PETER H. (1924-87)
Chairman MC, CA

ROBERT G. (1927-)
Production

After war service and Edinburgh studies, this generation had developed complementary skills, which enabled them on joining the firm in the early '50s to provide a strong support team for the 5-volume **Times Atlas**, leading to the subsequent production of its **Comprehensive** and **Concise** editions for a wider market. The conversion of the '**Half-Inch**' to the 1:100 000 **National Series** was an important design task, and the **Atlas of Europe** and **Family Atlas** were innovative productions. Under Peter's caring leadership, collaboration with 'Reader's Digest' in the **Great World Atlas** led to their eventual buy-out of the firm in 1980.



From left to right: Peter, Robert & John

Postscript: In 1985 control passed to 'News International', who were responsible for setting up the international publishing group of 'Harper Collins' incorporating Bartholomew. At this time the 'geographic information system' was developed to produce **The Times Concise Atlas** (7th Edition, 1995) from the digital database. In October 1995, the Edinburgh operation was moved to Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.

1987

97



Working Premises
1797-1859
enr. JB (Snr.)1832



1859-1889
enr. JB (Jnr.)1885



1889-1995
enr. JB (Jnr.)1868