

At this point in time as our President John C. Bartholomew retires after six years in office, it is surely appropriate to cover in *GeogScot* one of the most remarkable family connections with a learned Society - that of the Bartholomews and the RSGS.

It all may be said to have begun with John George Bartholomew (1860 - 1920) who in 1884 as a young man was one of those who set about the creation of a Scottish Geographical Society. The son of John Bartholomew, Junior, (1831 - 1893) principal of the already distinguished Edinburgh firm of cartographers and map makers, John George was obviously imbued with "adventure in maps" and hence geography at an early age.

Edinburgh, in the 19th century, was at the centre of map and atlas production in Britain and up-to-the-minute information was essential in an era when world exploration was pro-



This photograph, taken 1890 or 1891, from left to right is of John Bartholomew, Junior, John Bartholomew and John George Bartholomew.

ceeding at such a rate. Even within Britain, from day to day the mileage of the rail network was changing and hence a matter of note in local newspapers within Scotland. The rapidly established and related activities of what after 1885 became the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, namely lectures and the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, relied upon a flow of explorers through Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee and submissions from corresponding members overseas describing the latest developments. Each issue of SGM is a testimony to the initiative and industry of the Bartholomew's, Geographical Institute in producing map after map containing information not previously available in print.

John, Junior, in due course served on the Council of the Society while John George, John (1890 - 1962) and John C (1923 onwards) served in unbroken succession as Honorary Secretaries of the Society, each over extended periods. John, who was appointed cartographer to George V served as President 1950-54.

One small but significant item which illustrates the relationship between maps and adventure is the delightful map drawn in September 1887 by John George as a 9th birthday present for Winifred Cox (1878 - 1905). Robert Cox, M.P., of Gorgie, Edinburgh, had leased Rossdhu House, Luss, on the banks of Loch Lomond, for four years. John George made the house his headquarters while undertaking some survey work in the area, possibly as part of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's, *Atlas of Scotland* published in 1895.

The Bartholomews

And

The R S G S

On 15th August 1887 an "exploratory picnic" as it was called by Winifred's brother Harold was held. Where better place for such a venture than an uninhabited and un-named island. After all *Treasure Island* had first appeared in book form only four years earlier, and the cartography for the map of TL had been done by Bartholomews. A full explanation of the events of the day is given on a scroll forming part of the map made by John George and given to Winifred to celebrate her birthday.

The text reads as follows:

"An expedition landed on the above island, formally took possession of it and named it 'St Winifred's' in honour of Miss Winifred Julia Cox who was one of the party. They then buried in the ground a sealed bottle containing a signed and stamped documentary account of the proceedings, also some of the coins of the Realm, a piece of Mrs Silva White's Wedding Cake and a Cigarette. A cairn of stones was then erected to mark the spot"

In the use of the "f" for a second "s" in Miss, John George implied elements of an ancient map as betokens an "expedition" and obviously fully entered into the fun of that day. The fun was to last however as in Bartholomew's Half Inch Maps of the area, the island continued to be called St Winifred's rather than follow O.S. usage. Even today can there be any better way of introducing a young person to the lasting joy of a spirit of



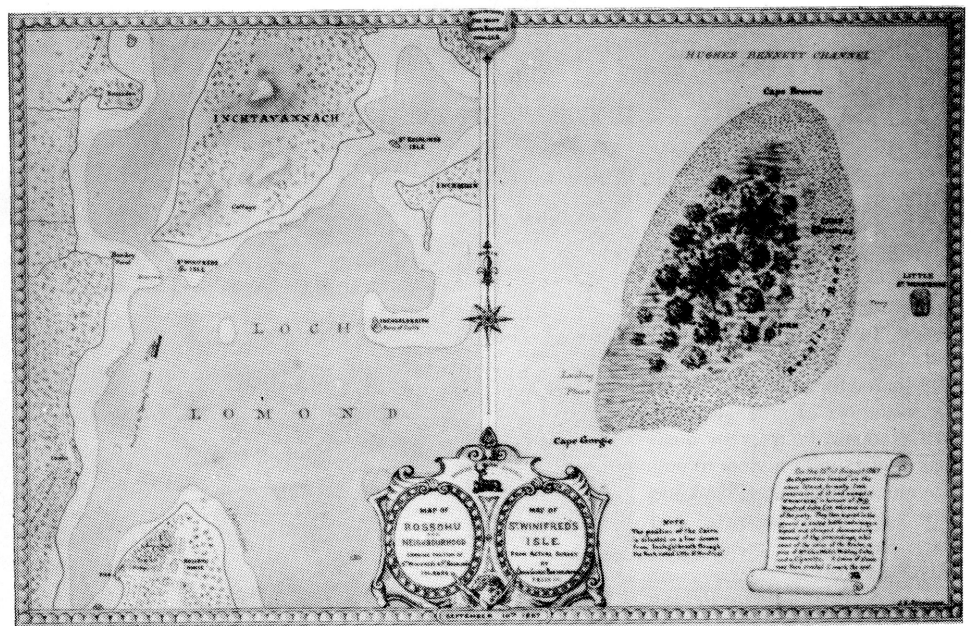
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His recent back-packing venture in the Patagonian Andes is testimony that John C., our retiring President, has much of that spirit and several RSGS Centres have enjoyed his lecture based on it. There is no doubt that as a Fellow and Vice-President elect John C. will continue the Bartholomew connection with the Society, a connection which has been of such value not only to the Society but to geography in Scotland and beyond.

Historians may care to note that Mrs Silva White was the wife of the first Secretary of the Society, that the small steam pinace shown making her way towards the strait between St Winifred's Isle and the mainland was called "Spunky" and that Rosalind was Winifred's sister.

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John George Bartholomew's map reduced to approximately half size. The original is in the possession of Mr John C. Bartholomew and was presented to him in memory of his Grandfather by his Father for Christmas 1949.