

'MAPPING THE HUNTS'

A Carto-Bibliography of Primarily Fox but some Stag & Hare Hunt Maps of the United Kingdom & Ireland.

Primarily this research commenced as a record and description of Hunt Maps in my own collection, augmented by locations in Major Public Libraries & Archives, with some Private collections where notified, later it developed to sources across the country. These maps are mostly 'working or carrying' copies but odd ones are used as illustrations within books or magazines. Researches stemmed initially from an earlier interest in the issues of the G & J Cary 65 sheet 'Map of England & Wales with part of Scotland' on a scale of 1/2" to 1 mile, which is the base map used for many individual and series of hunt maps, later many fine e.g. Ordnance Survey, [and some less so] hunt maps were found based on alternative sources. This listing is 'a work in progress' and as such will be subject to continuous updating as more maps or states are discovered, any errors, additions [preferably with illustration if possible] notified will be appreciated.

Researching & recording Hunting Maps proved to be a much greater challenge than that for the normal county map Carto-Bibliography for a number of reasons-

- 1) The names of Hunts changed radically from the mid 1800s onwards, it was not uncommon for the New Master when taking over the responsibilities of a particular hunt to name the hunt after him/herself. This in itself can be very disconcerting when searching for a particular later state of a hunt map which might exist under another name.
- 2) Hunt boundaries frequently cross one or more county/or even country borders in the case of the England/Wales/Scotland border hunts.
- 3) Some changes can often challenge ones geographical knowledge, particularly if the area map under study doesn't contain any major well known Town/s. It follows that in such cases attempting to date a map by its railways then requires a time consuming side research to identify a particular line, or use alternative methods, such as the name of the Master and/or Huntsman if this appears on the map or associated Index.
- 4) Many Hunt maps appeared as part of a series, in which case it made sense to sometimes pursue and record these maps in their own series history rather than their place in the more general chronological history, this necessitated a format that was particular to that form of production.
- 5) The Hunt boundaries frequently changed as an area was either extended or restricted, this sometimes caused 'loans' of a small area or areas to a adjacent hunt/s, or even the splitting of the whole area into two new Hunts or even the amalgamation into one large Hunt.

Hunt Map Background

The background to the large scale productions of hunt maps in the UK can be traced primarily to their appearance in country magazines in the early 1840s e.g. 'The Sporting Magazine' and in books like 'HUNTING REMINISCENCES by Nimrod, soon to be followed by the Hobson/Walker series of Hunting Atlas's of 1849 -1895. Later the more practical forms of folding pocket/waistcoat maps seem to have taken precedence. There are very few earlier examples of a single hunt, the earliest in any collection so far found dates from 1805. Apart from the Nobility and Gentry, hunting attracted a large number of Military personnel as it was considered the ideal training field for the Regimental Officer cadre, or Naval Officer going out on voyages of discovery, teaching them how to 'read' the lie of the land by eye which was later put to more practical use in their military careers with the 'sketching' of terrain or identifying coastlines from maps/charts. Read Sheldrake and W King in Non Series maps for lessons in reading/indications of the importance attached to hunting.

NB. "Hunting men made splendid officers. The sport had developed their initiative, confidence in themselves, and the power of quick grasp on situations. Map reading and the use of ground came easy to them." and "Before going to the meet consult a good large scale map. They can be got of most hunts with names of fixtures and coverts shown clearly." J.Mackillip in 'On Hunting - Letters to Young Sportsmen.' written soon after WW 1.

The major period of Hunt mapping is long past, and there is a strong trend away from any serious production of specific hunt mapping, except perhaps where local opportunity is taken for advertising nearby businesses

and services in 'booklet' type publications, in this case the map is often a O.S. sourced unattractive lithographic production. The 'Ban the Hunt' furore of the 1990s/early 2000s, the disruption caused, and later legislation resulted in some Hunts amalgamating rather than disappear altogether, other Hunts attempted to change the attitudes of Society by adjusting how they hunt, between the two extremes were a lot of normal people who disagreed with each others point of view and failed to reach a sensible compromise, resulting in hunting legislation which satisfies neither side. There is an earlier mention of a Parliamentary Bill published to Abolish Hunting & Coursing in the 1848-49 Season [succeeded for Hare Coursing] Such contentiousness is not new to hunting, it has existed in different forms throughout the 1800s/1900s, Landowners who disagreed with hunting even then, would ban the Hunt from their land, and disputes between MFHs over the boundaries of hunts, obviously some country was more suitable for hunting than others. In the case of mapping most hunts now avail themselves of standard OS. folding maps eliminating the necessity for production of any new purely Hunt Map, so noting their previous traditional 18th/19th century map history is important if only for record purposes.

NB.The present Hunt Ban came into force February 19th 2005

Number of Hunt Packs and number of potential maps.

In 1906 There were 225 packs of Fox & Staghounds, 10 packs of Draghounds and about 215 [or 189 depending which source one uses] packs of Harriers and Beagles. In 1931 there were 401 packs of Foxhounds [Source- The Foxhunter's Yearbook 1931-2]. As at the 1995-6 U.K. Season there were -191 Fox Hunts, 77 Beagle Packs,16 Harrier Packs,4 Deer Packs and 9 Bassett Packs left in the UK. [Source- Countryside Alliance information sheet]. Otter Hunts ended when the otter was given protected status in 1978 and hunting them in any form was banned, no examples of Otter Hunt territory/area maps have been seen, as these were all foot hunts they were very local and a map was probably unnecessary. Additionally, as a light aside, information via Crufts Dog Show in 2011 of the existence in Devon of a working 'Pack of Sealyham Terriers' operated by an enterprising dog breeder, this pack goes out at the request of the Farming Community to catch or scare out 'vermin' [Rats,Mice,Moles,Mink.Squirrel, Rabbits, Birds,] whatever causes damage to livestock or crops.

Hunt map sources are mainly based on -

- 1) The commissioning of Original Surveys [scarce]. This would have been prohibitively expensive read Belvior Hunt by W.King 1806, 'Map of the Badsworth Hunt....' by J.Walker & H.Clarkson. 1826, Bramham Hunt in North Yorkshire by J.F.Masser & Sons 1874. The Walker & Clarkson 1826 in particular will stand comparison with any A.Bryant or C & J Greenwood multi sheet County Survey.
- 2) Existing topographical map series/atlas's [Cary, Walker Brothers, Ordnance Survey, Bartholomews, Geographia, Stanford.&c.
- 3) Non series topographical maps [e.g. H.Davies, Hearder & Sons, A.Walker, Bacon & Houlston,.....
- 4) Non series topographical maps their hunting relationship of which we would remain ignorant of, if not for the maps label on folding,dissected,boxed maps [e.g.W.Kings Hunting Map c1804-6 or later of Leicester, G.Pawley's Gentleman Hunter...of Oxford 1805]
- 5) Specialist Magazine maps [The Foxhound, Pittmans Sporting Life Dower maps,The Field,&c.,
- 6) There is a further more opportunistic group of maps that simply add Hunting to their general title or description, not with any particular practical use in the field or library. e.g. Pattisons Whisky Advertising maps are an illustration of this type.
- 7) Alternatively some map publishers added information specifically to aid the Hunting gentleman, e.g.'Fox Coverts' as detailed on A Bryants large scale maps see Appendix 8. in conjunction with the very detailed terrain of these maps they should be taken as on a par with Kings 1804-6 map of Rutland even though Bryant did not claim them to be a Hunting Map.

When considering the Hunt maps on a small scale i.e. those of 3,4 or 5 miles/1" [Magazine sourced maps or greater such as the Pattisons] their use in the field had to be minimal unless the user was very familiar with the territory being hunted. There are two main forms of hunt map, 'proper' and the 'quasi or incidental'. Proper maps are those specifically designed and produced for individual hunts e.g. the O.S. only ever produced one 'proper' hunt map, that for The Cotswold Hunt 1903[and one later re-issue], all others were

simply standard maps with a colour outline for the hunt boundary. A third more doubtful map is one with a spurious title claiming it to be a Hunting map when this is purely an aid to sales.

For specifics of particular maps mentioned above read the 'Descriptive Listings' file/s.

Any text in light blue [other than water on OS maps] e.g. 'CAPT SPICER' informs the reader of some form of change or amendment to the previous copy and might be a addition, deletion, or even a change of font from lower to uppercase or visa versa.

NOTE- Information sources, Abbreviations, Map sources &c., are all contained in the Appendices file

Finally it would be remiss of me if I didn't record my sincere thanks to all who aided me, by providing information, original maps, map sources and general assistance whilst I was compiling this Carto-bibliography of Hunting Maps. The Librarians, Curators, Record Officers & Keepers of National and County sources, Book & Map Dealers and Collectors. In particular I would like to thank the British Library Map Library [Tom Harper] and Keith Ovenden of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office, the source of many of the examples recorded. To Alan Yates, Derek Deadman and Kevin Steele in particular, friends who gave unstinting help on many occasions, my great appreciation. Finally and not least Tony Nicholls my 'computerman' without whom non of this would have been possible.

Tony Burgess