

Thumbnail sketches on one-inch map covers from 1945

Part 4. Sketch maps on the first post-war Scottish Popular covers

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The previous parts of this series of articles dealt with the development of the cover sketches of the New Popular Edition and the Seventh Series one-inch maps.¹ The first set of Scottish Popular cover sketches were studied for this report. The intriguing changes for the later sketches will be described subsequently.

Introduction

Location sketches on the covers of series sheets had a long pedigree in England and Wales but for Scotland their use had lapsed. For the post-war reissue of one-inch Scottish Popular maps with the National Grid in a new cover, H96.1b, the feature was revived.² The sketches measure approximately 37 x 26.5mm, in landscape or portrait format as appropriate, and are drawn, as for the New Popular and Seventh Series, at a scale of 1:1,200,000. For a non-standard larger sheet size such as 72, Glasgow, the scale is reduced.

Whereas the sketch maps on the New Popular Edition were of four basic types, only the two later formats were used on Scottish Populars. They have a two-box frame and place names in Caslon or Times lettering, respectively. The sketch maps show the same range of features as those on the New Popular Edition covers.

The sketches referred to as ‘Caslon’ (Figure 1) have ‘Glasgow’ in Founders Type Old Roman capitals, with all other large settlements such as Paisley italicised, including even Edinburgh. Smaller settlements are in Old Roman sentence case, with rivers and lochs in italics.³ ‘Times’ sketches (see Figure 2) follow an analogous pattern using Monotype Times Roman typeface.

As in the case of the New Popular Edition which was being issued concurrently, the place name typeface was changed from Caslon to Times as the series was issued, giving Scotland a geographical split into three zones (see Figure 3). Study of the dates of issue of the sheets, their magnetic variations and their print references reveals a complex situation.

Zone 1, sheets 59 to 92

The first covers on sheets in this zone have Caslon sketches. The first cover variant, KA-S3.1,1 is only found in this zone but a few of the sheets here have only been seen in later group 3 covers.⁴ Zone 1 sheets have the pre-July 1946 style of print code with ‘Cr’ showing they were printed in Crabwood, Southampton, except for sheets 60, 66 and 72 which have ‘Ch’ – they were printed in Chessington.⁵ The magnetic variations on these sheets range from

¹ Part 1, Sheetlines 78, 38-42. Part 2, Sheetlines 79, 10-16. Part 3, Sheetlines 80, 47-52.

² For cover classification by Roger Hellyer, see John Paddy Browne, *Map cover art*, Ordnance Survey, 1990, 132.

³ *Specimens of type*, Ordnance Survey, Chessington, 1947.

⁴ For a description of Scottish Popular cover variants see *Sheetlines* 84, 33-41.

⁵ For an explanation of the codes, see Richard Oliver, *Sheetlines* 83, 27-34.

January 1945 (sheet 72 only) to June 1946 (sheets 63 and 82). Similarly, the dates of issue from the OS listings range from August 1945 (sheet 72) to July 1946 (sheet 63).⁶

The sheets of zone 1 with stylistically uniform cover sketches were issued as a discrete chronological group, not overlapping any others – satisfyingly orderly.

Zone 2, sheets 27 to 31 and 38 to 40

The KA-S3 covers on sheets in this zone also have Caslon sketches. The sheets have ‘unique numbers’, showing they were printed from January 1947 on, except sheets 39 and 40 which have the abbreviated style of the earlier code with no indication of the printing works, viz ‘5046’ (i.e. 5,000 copies in 1946). This style of print code was used from July to December 1946. The magnetic variations on these sheets range from June 1946 (sheet 39 only) to June 1947. The dates of issue range from November 1946 (sheets 39 and 40) to June 1947. They were printed and issued after zone 1 was complete.

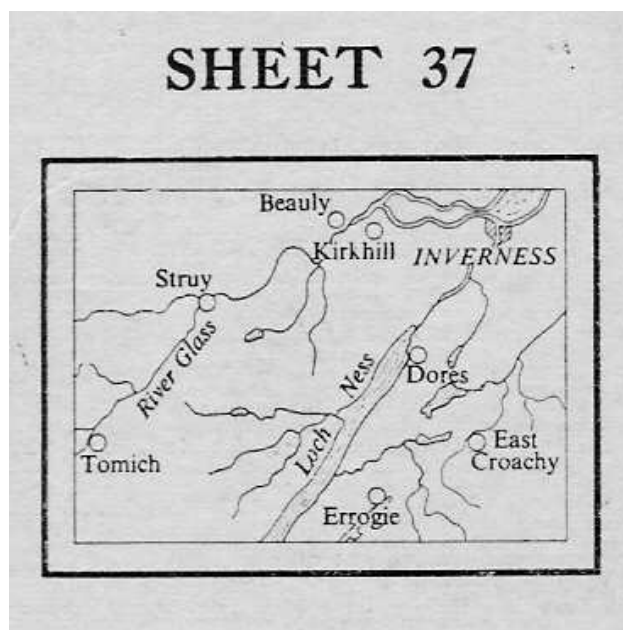


Figure 1: The Caslon sketch for sheet 72, Glasgow, in zone 1

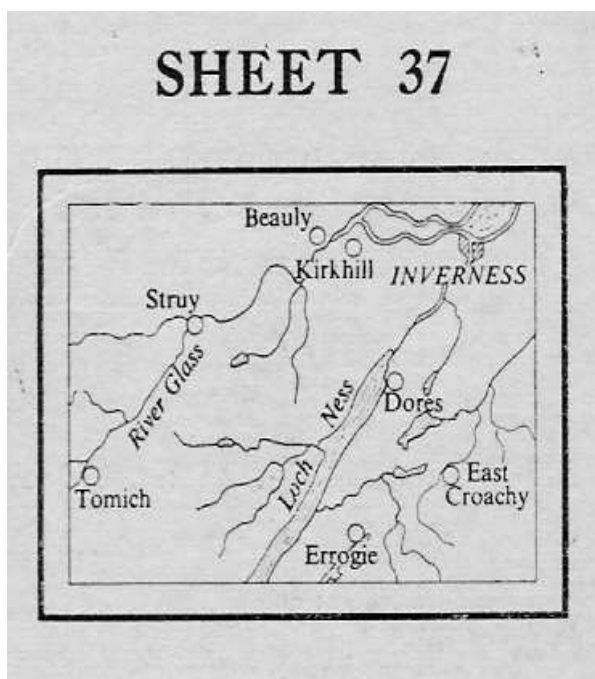


Figure 2: The Times sketch for sheet 37, Inverness, in zone 3

Zone 3

The KA-S3 covers in this zone (all the rest of the series) have Times place names on the sketches. Sheets 44, 57 and 58 have pre-July 1946 Crabwood print codes, showing they were printed before any of the sheets in zone 2; they were issued in July 1946. The decision to change from Caslon to Times font on the sketches was clearly made some time before that - before any of the zone 2 maps with Caslon sketches had been issued. The magnetic variations on zone 3 sheets range from January 1946 (sheet 58) to January 1948. The dates of issue are July 1946 (the Crabwood sheets 44, 57 and 58 as above), August 1946 (sheets 45 and 51) and October 1946 (sheet 50), then from March 1947 through to April 1948.

Six sheets of zone 3 were therefore published before the first sheets of zone 2. It can be inferred that the sketches for all zone 2 covers

⁶ Dates of issue are taken from Richard Oliver, *A guide to the Ordnance Survey one-inch Popular Edition of Scotland*, London, Charles Close Society, 2000, 24-41.

were prepared well in advance of need when the eventual chronological pattern of issue of the sheets could only be surmised. It could be that at one stage the plan was to issue zone 2 sheets then zone 3 afterwards.

<i>Magnetic variation date range</i>	<i>Publication date range</i>
Zone 1 January 1945 – June 1946	August 1945 – July 1946
Zone 2 June 1946 – June 1947	November 1946 – June 1947
Zone 3 January 1946 – January 1948	July 1946 – April 1948

The edition was completely issued by April 1948, with all sheets to be found in group KA-S3 covers, most of zone 1 in the first variant KA-S3.1,1 and the rest of Scotland in subsequent cover variants up to KA-S3.4,4. Each sheet is naturally to be found in later covers, printed as its stock situation in paper, cloth or dissected format necessitated. Group 3 covers have the sheet number line in block capitals ‘SHEET XX’ using Founders Type Old Style.

Insets patent or covert

The accompanying table indicates which sheet insets are shown on the sketch. It can be seen that the inset of an inhabited or recently-inhabited island is shown but that of a skerry (Scottish Gaelic – sgeir) is more likely to be excluded.⁷

Sheet	Inset	Shown	Not shown
2	Ve Skerries		✓
3	Foula	✓	
4	Fair Isle	✓	
6	Sule Skerry Stack Skerry		✓ ✓
8	Sula Sgeir Rona Flannan Isles		✓ ✓ ✓
13	Gasker		✓
22	St Kilda archipelago	✓	
34	Oigh-sgeir	✓*	

* Inset omitted on later (third) version of this sketch

Oddities

Where the aspect ratio of a sheet is non-standard, for example sheets 24 and 69, the coastline is distorted to fit the standard sketch map box, instead of the sketch map box being changed to suit the map. A misrepresentation results (see figure 4, where the Scottish Popular sketch for Islay is shown alongside the Seventh Series version). This problem could have been avoided if a sketch had been made to New Popular dimensions using equipment in use concurrently.

⁷ A skerry is defined as a small rocky island not suitable for habitation

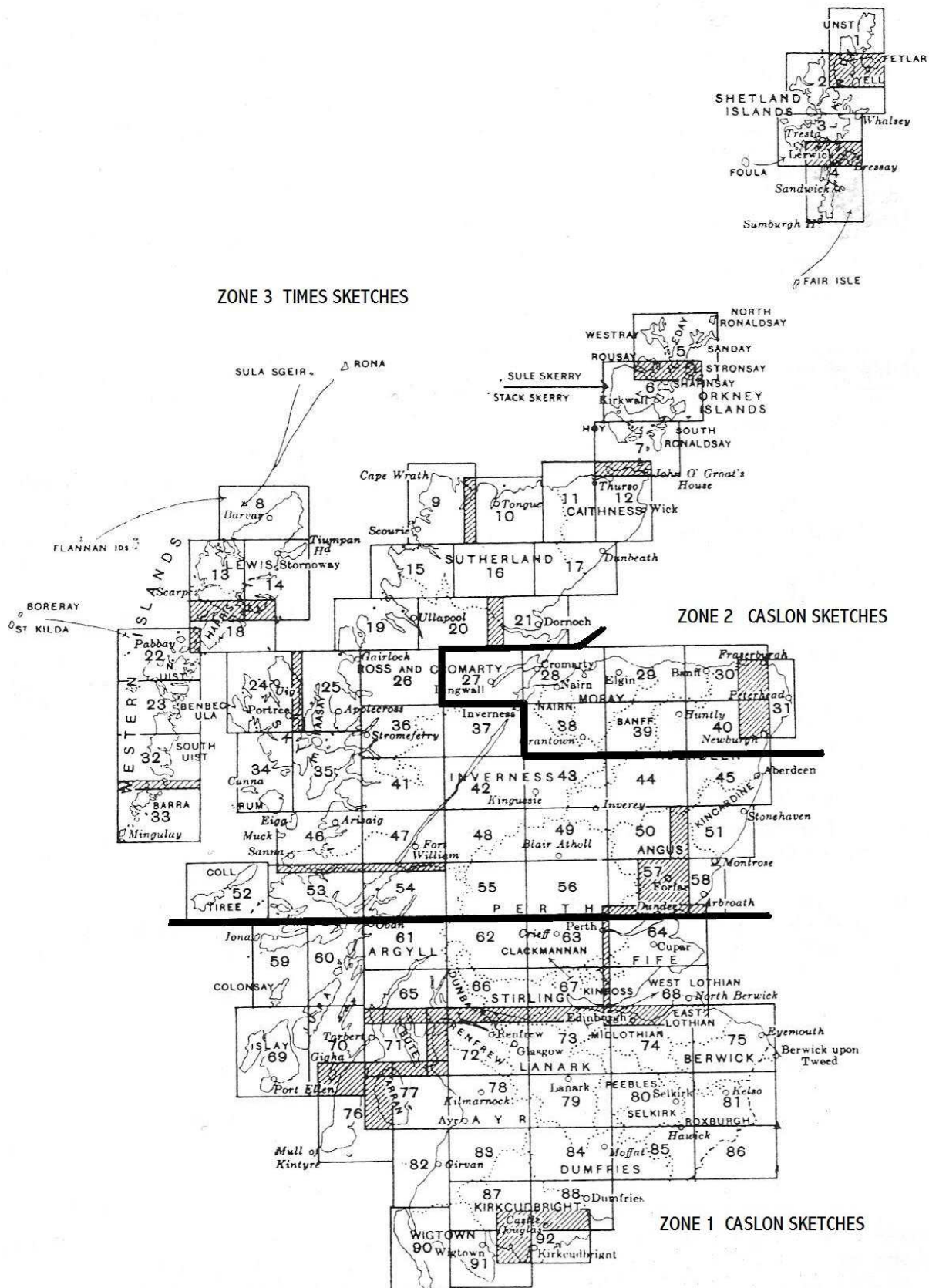


Figure 3: The distribution of Caslon and Times sketches on group KA-S3 covers. Index diagram adapted from Roger Hellyer, 'Ordnance Survey small-scale maps indexes: 1801-1998', Kerry: David Archer, 1999, by courtesy of the publisher

A few toponym errors were noted – ‘Port Errol’ for Port Erroll on sketch 31, Peterhead and ‘Ardvasar’ for Ardavasar on sketch 35, Sound of Sleat, which also has a reduced water-lining effect, like the first attempt at the sketch for the adjacent sheet 34, The Cuillins, Rhum and Canna. These blips were corrected subsequently, as will be reported in a later article in this series. Sketch 79, Lanark, has ‘Blythe Br.’ for Blyth Bridge, a rogue spelling which was retained on the later Times sketch.

Sketch 58, Arbroath & Montrose with its unlabelled location ring was not revised. The place was presumably Friockheim, a name, conflating Gaelic and German words, meaning ‘heather home’, so its omission on a cover sketch issued in 1946 may be of interest to readers with a speculative mindset. An unusual feature appears on sketch 25, Benbecula, where ‘North Uist’ is printed in the margin between the inner and outer boxes. Sketch 52, Coll & Tiree, has no named settlements. There were some quite obscure places featured on the first sketches; many were removed from the limelight on revision. Sic transit gloria mundi.

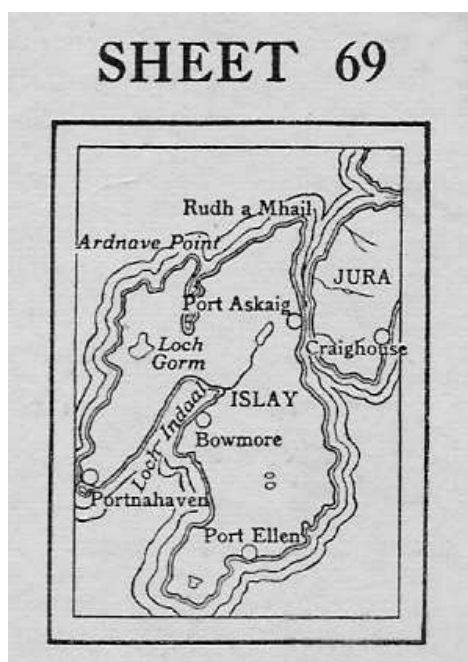


Figure 4a: The distorted Caslon sketch for sheet 69, Islay

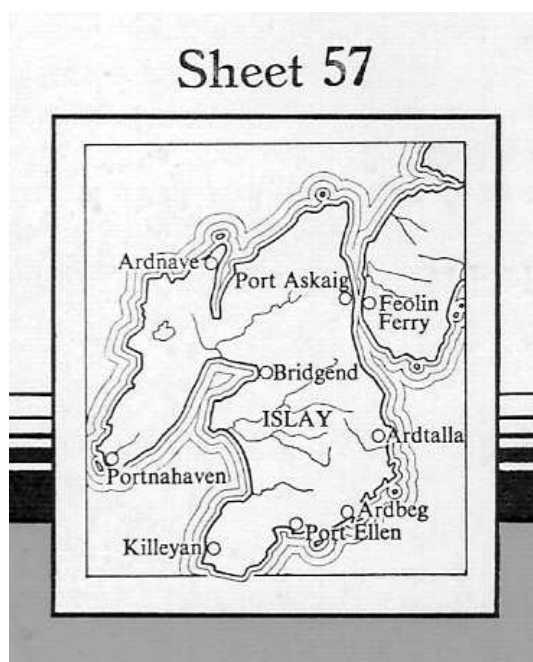


Figure 4b: The Seventh Series sketch for sheet 57, Islay

Acknowledgements

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