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“Campbell Ballantyne 1932-2010”
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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.



Campbell Ballantyne 1932-2010

remembered by

Yo Hodson and David Milbank Challis

Campbell, who died suddenly at the age of 78 in his bed from ischemic heart disease in August 2010, was a good friend to the Charles Close Society. He was also a good friend to me, from the time that I began my association with Ordnance Survey in the late 1960s until the 1990s. From then on we were in touch regularly at Christmas, but did not manage to meet.

Campbell was one of the few remaining 'family' OS men; it was not uncommon, from the 1840s until about the 1960s, for grandfathers, fathers, and sons from the same family, to have taken up work with the Survey. Campbell's father had spent his whole working life at Ordnance Survey and so, too, did Campbell, until he took early retirement sometime in the 1980s. By that time the whole ethos of OS was changing – cartography was becoming very different with the advent of digitisation – and he felt, very keenly, that quality was being sacrificed at the altar of economy.

Campbell lived and breathed OS; his delight in finding that I shared so many of his views about the preservation of records meant that he was assiduous in saving from the bin a multitude of maps – experimental proofs, for example – and documents. On my regular trips to OS I would return home with a car full of bounty. All of this was stored in my stable until it went to Cambridge University Library and, in some instances, to the National Library of Scotland or the British Library. It was for this devotion to all matters concerning OS that Campbell was made the first Honorary Member of CCS (other than OS Director General) in 1991.

There was another side to Campbell: he was a talented DIY expert. I occasionally stayed at his Southampton home while using the OS library for a couple of days, and it was half constructed by him alone. As well as being something of a master builder, his garden was designed to attract birds and wildlife and his knowledge on these matters was amazingly extensive.

And, finally, I have to say that he was an excellent driver. I shall never forget the occasion when I had overrun my time at the OS library and was clearly going to miss my train back to London. Campbell decided he knew all the short cuts and would make it his business to deliver me to the station with minutes to spare. Nobody else could have accomplished this, and I still cover my eyes with my hands whenever I think of that journey which was accomplished at seemingly warp speed, yet all, I am sure, within the speed limits.

Yo Hodson

Throughout the design and production phases of the two editions of the *Londinium* map (a joint collaboration between the Ordnance Survey and the Museum of London) I was a regular visitor to the OS at Southampton and Campbell's office was my base; in fact he and I acted as the liaison team that produced the maps.

A *Londinium* map was originally an idea put forward by Alan Marles at OS and as I was head of design and publishing at the Museum of London, plus my considerable experience of dealing with OS during in the lengthy process of producing *Ordnance Survey maps: a descriptive manual*, I was tasked with bringing the radical concept to reality.

Campbell made the job a pleasure, he was the ideal person, he was an OS man through and through but with his feet firmly on the ground, and he was well aware of the organisation's 'limitations' and its tendency to act as a 'closed shop'. He 'opened doors', 'obtained inside information', 'cut through the bureaucracy', 'got things done', 'allowed me free run of the map library', and provided me with 'goodies!'. Nothing was too much trouble.

The two editions of the *Londinium* map fulfilled their brief and although not to the purists' taste, were very successful and that was in no small measure thanks to CB.

David Milbank Challis
