



Sheetlines

The journal of
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

“Lough Dan, County Wicklow”

George du Noyer

Sheetlines, 92 (December 2011), pp.41

Stable URL:

<http://www.charlescloseociety.org/files/Issue92page41.pdf>

*This article is provided for personal, non-commercial use only.
Please contact the Society regarding any other use of this work.*

Published by
THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps
www.CharlesCloseSociety.org

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.

Kieran Wade, the man who shows Russians the way!

John L Cruickshank

When you cancelled your newspapers and went on holiday in August you may have missed something. In the August issue of the well-known Dublin newspaper *Hauua zazema* (*Our Newspaper*) is an article in Russian, whose title translates as 'The man who shows us the way'. It was written by Svetlana Repina on the basis of an interview with Kieran Wade, a cartographer at the Ordnance Survey of Ireland.¹ What to me is notable about the article is not what Kieran Wade is reported to have said (which strikes me as mostly what you might expect a modern computer-based cartographer to say, even if his very brief account of the history of the OSI owes as much to Republican myth as to J H Andrews), but the interviewer's comments and questions.

While the Russian public are generally thought to be unaccustomed to possession of maps, far less their use, Repina describes always keeping maps of Dublin and of Ireland in her car and that losing them would be like losing a hand! After discussing maps for tourism and large-scale mapping for farmers and as legal records, they then discuss mapping for the Irish police which Wade describes as a specialised part of the work of the OSI. He comments however that the Garda no longer use paper maps. They and the other emergency services need more up to date data in electronic form.

Accompanying the article are a picture of a framed modern reproduction of the 1869 Blanchardstown (Dublin) 25-inch plan and a photograph of Kieran Wade at a computer workstation with an unrecognisable map on the screen and an equally unrecognisable aerial photograph on the wall behind him.

The infomercial finishes (of course) with a recommendation that readers should visit the OSI website (www.osi.ie) 'when they have a free moment', and should buy the maps.

Is Phoenix Park alone in marketing its products and services to Russian-speakers, or have Southampton and Belfast also been developing a Russian-language customer base?

Opposite page: *George Victor du Noyer (1817-1869) was employed by the Geological Survey of Ireland from 1847. He painted a series of watercolours illustrating features of Irish landscape. This view of Lough Dan, County Wicklow is one of many preserved in the GSI archive, seen by the group from CCS who visited GSI in Dublin in July.*

Other examples may be viewed at:

www.gsi.ie/Programmes/Heritage+and+Planning/Archives/Du+Noyer+Collection.htm

Reproduced by kind permission of Geological Survey of Ireland

¹ Svetlana Repina, 'Chelovek, kotoryi ukazivaet nam put (The man who shows us the way)', *Nasha gazeta* (Dublin) 30 [402], (3 August 2011), p 5. I am grateful to Damian O'Neill for drawing this article to my attention.



Slough Dam. Co. Wicklow

S. V