CCS visits London, Glasgow and Edinburgh

The Society’s recent activities have included a ‘cartographic meander’ around the City of London and visits to see the map collections at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow and the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

John King led the City of London walk, pointing out many features of cartographic interest to be found along the way. John’s previous London meander was described in Sheetlines 109 and this latest walk will be similarly described in a future edition.

Three of the items encountered were (left from top) the Ordnance Survey map board opposite St Paul’s Cathedral, the Jubilee Walkway panoramic display in Southwark and the slate map of the Thames under Blackfriars Bridge (seen here with John King).

At Glasgow, archivist Dr Irene O’Brien arranged a display of maps and plans which illustrated the development of Glasgow and the surrounding area over time. The earliest maps showed Glasgow as a small town on the north bank of the Clyde and facing it on the other side of the river the village of Gorbals. Subsequent plans showed the development of the city and most notably, the westward spread with its familiar grid pattern of streets.

CCS member John Moore gave an account of the development of the River Clyde from shallow stream to its glory days as a major navigable waterway.
Above: John Moore (second from left) with Clyde charts.

At National Library of Scotland, map librarian Chris Fleet (right) spoke about the digitisation of their map collection to create an invaluable online map resource and, in passing, thanked CCS for linking to and promoting it.

The Library holds the extensive Bartholomew archive, which includes, as well as maps and papers, historic tools of the cartographers’ trade, such as copper and steel plates, lithographic stone and engraving tools, such as these gravers (lower right).

CCS member Paul Bishop gave a talk about his researches into the depiction of limekilns on Ordnance Survey maps.

[photos: John Davies]