Notes on Collection and Research

Scottish Place-Names : 30 Fintry

W. F. H. NICOLAISEN

When we discussed the relationship between Angles and Celts in Southern Scotland, in an earlier number of this journal (Nicolaisen 1964), the elements *caer* and *tref* were chosen to illustrate the distribution of Cumbric (= *p*-Celtic) settlement names in the area (*op. cit.* 148–53). For the first of these—in the meaning 'fort, (fortified) hamlet'—the distributional pattern is quite in order in view of what we know about British settlement in the Scottish south: they practically keep below the Fourth-Clyde line, with only one probable example in Fife and a doubtful one in Angus. Not so *tref* in the sense of 'village'—it apparently occurs in the north as well as in the South where it has an altogether more westerly scatter than *caer* (*op. cit.*: 149 and 151). If looked more closely into, however, a slightly more complex picture emerges; for *tref*, when used as a first element as in Tranent ELO, Traquair PEB, Terregles KCB, and Torquhan MLO, conforms without exception to the expected pattern, but when occurring as the second part of a compound name—as in Fintry STL, Niddry WLO, and Rattray PER—it seemingly presents us with a considerable number of examples in the north-east, in addition to those in the south. If this is so, the question arises what one calls the linguistic affinity of such a geographical distribution. Before attempting an answer to this question, it is essential that we should briefly look again at the material which is more or less comprehensively listed by Watson (1926: 362–5). In this connection it will be necessary to check and, if required, correct and augment the early spellings in the light of the sources themselves and of new comments. For our purposes we shall divide the names into groups according to whether the first element is of 'British' or Gaelic origin.

(*a*) Names with 'British' first elements:

Cantray, Gaelic *Cantra* INV (with Cantraydoune NAI, Gaelic *Cantra an Dùin*, *Cantradoun* 1468 RMS), possibly from **canto-treb-* 'white settlement'; Menstrie CLA (*Mestryn* 1261 CDS; *Mestreth* 1263, *Mestry* 1315, Menstry 1392 RMS), probably *maes-dref* 'plain-settlement'; Niddry WLO (*Nudreff* 1370 RMS, *Nudry* 1392 HMC, *Nidre c* 1542 Balcarres Papers), Niddrie MLO (*Nudreth* 1140 Dunf.Reg., *Nodrif* 1166–1214 Holy.Lib., *Noderyf* 1264–6 ER, *Nudreff* 1296 CDS), Longniddry ELO (*Nodref*, *Langnodryf* 1315–21, *Loungnudrethe* 1380–81 RMS, *in Langnudre* [de *Langnodryffe*] Robert I RMS App. 2), all probably from *newydd* 'new', although obviously influenced by

the Gaelic cognate of the same word, *nodha*; Ochiltree AYR (*Uchiltrie* 1406, *Wchiltrie* David II RMS), Ochiltree WIG (*Uchiltre* 1506 RMS), Ochiltree WLO (*Ockiltre* 1211–14, *Ouchiltre* 1282 St.A.Lib., *Uchiltre* 1382 ER) all clearly corresponding to Welsh *Ucheldref* 'high settlement'; Soutra MLO (*Soltre* 1153–65 Midl.Chrs., *Soltra* 1458–9 RMS, *Sowtre* 1473 ADA), according to Dixon (1947:190) from Welsh *sulw tref* 'steading of the wide view'; Trostrie KCB (*Trostaree* 1456 ER, *Trostre* 1527 MS), Troustrie FIF (apparently no early record), from *traws tref* 'thwart settlement'.

(*b*) Names with Gaelic first elements:

Capledrae FIF (*Capildray* late 12 *c.* St.A.Lib.), possibly from Gaelic *capull* 'horse'; Clentry FIF (*Easter and Wester Clintrayes* 1653 Retours), (?) Clenterty BNF, Clinterty ABD (one in Newhills: *villa de Clentrethi*, *le Crag de Clentrethy*, [?] *Clenterret* 1316 Abdn.Reg., *Clyntreys* 1367 A.B. Coll., *de duabus Clynteys* [sic], *de Clyntreys*, *apud Clyntre* 1368, *de duabus Clyntres* 1372, *de Clintreis* 1329–71 RMS, *litil Clyntree* 1381, *Clentre* 1382, *Clyntree* 1430 Abdn.Reg., *Bishopis-Clintertie* 1649 Retours; one in Aberdour: *Clintertie* 1556 A.B.Ill.), probably from Gaelic *claon* 'sloping, squint', although Alexander (1954:215) suggests a synonymous *claointe* with *-erie* as the termination of a stream-name; Fintry STL (*Fyntrif* 1225, *Fyntryf* 1225–70, *Fyntre* 1464 RMS), Fintray ABD (*Fyntrach* 1175 Abdn.Reg., *Fintreth* 1180 Lind.Cart., 1490 A.B.Coll.), Fintry ABD (*Meikle Fyntra* 1375 A.B.Ill.), Fintry ANG from Gaelic *fionn* 'white'; Fortree, Fortry ABD (there are several others on record with early spellings such as *Fortre* 1540 RMS), Fortrie (2), Fortry BNF (example spellings, *Fortre*, *Fortrie* RMS David II), according to Watson (1926:365) apparently a Gaelic form of Welsh *gor-dref* 'big stead', but Alexander (1952:60) maintains that 'the charters use *fortre* as a quasi-legal word of the feudal time; which indicates Norman-French fort, or fortress'; Moray MOR, Gaelic *Moireabh* (*Murebe* 1032, *Muireb* 1085, *Moreb* 1130 all Annals of Ulster), from Gaelic **Moirthreabh*<Early Celtic **mori-treb-*'sea-settlement'

(*c*) Names in which the first element could be either 'British 'or Gaelic:

Rattray PER (*Rotrefe* 1291, *Rettref* 1296, *Rothtref* 1305 CDS), Rattray ABD (*Rettre* 1170 Abdn.Reg., *Retref* 1274 Vet.Mon., *Ratreff* 1460 RMS), Rattra KCB, either from Welsh *rath* or Gaelic *ràth* 'a circular fort'.

(*d*) Doubtful names:

Coulaghailtro ARG (*Coulgalgreif* 1511 RMS); Muchtre ARG (so 1554 RMS, 1619 Retours), now apparently lost. Watson (1926:365) considers that 'if these are genuine instances of *tref*, the term must have come to Kintyre from Ayrshire'. Halltree MLO (*Haltre* 1483 ADA, *Haltrie* 1587 Laing Chrs., *Holltree* 1654 Bleau). Dixon (1947:284) suggests a hybrid name consisting of OE *heald* or ON.*hallr* and *tref*. If correct, this would be a remarkable formation.

The first fact which clearly emerges from this survey is that our linguistic groupings roughly correspond to geographical divisions which means that the material is not as homogeneous as it first appears to be. No example in the area in which *tref* occurs as a second element, shows a Gaelic first part unless the three Niddries in the Lothians with their *No-* forms can be said to exhibit at least traces of one. On the other hand, British first elements—with the exception of the rather poorly documented Cantray on the Inverness-Nairn border—only sporadically cross the Forth-Clyde line to the north, leaving the field to Gaelic first parts. As far as these are concerned, their number would be more than halved if Alexander's interpretation of the various instances of Fortree (Fortrie) and Clinterty in the region of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire is correct. Although we have in this context assigned them to class (*b*), they should perhaps rather have been labelled 'doubtful' and listed under (*d*). Nevertheless, the Fintry-type name does exist, suggesting a translation of the first element from *p*-Celtic into Gaelic. The assumption, however tempting, of the Gaelic cognate *treabh*, being the second part of these names is rather ruled out because of the scarcity of this word as a place-name element in Ireland (it also seems to be totally absent elsewhere in Scotland), and for semantic reasons (see Watson 1926:357 and Nicolaisen 1964:150). Part-translation must be the explanation for our names, as seems to be proved by the RMS entry 'terras et baroniam de Cantres vulgo vocat. Fintries in parochia de Kingeduard' (1634, similar in 1625) which makes it very likely that the original name was something like **can-dref-*<**canto-treb-* 'white settlement' (Watson 1926:364). Similarly, most 'Pictish' *Pit-* names in the same area have Gaelic second elements, again suggesting part-translation for some of them, although the majority of them may have been coined in a Pictish-Gaelic bilingual period in the ninth and tenth centuries (Nicolaisen 1968:147). The Fintry-type name may, of course, also have come into being under similar conditions.

Whatever the correct explanation in each individual case, the fact remains that *tref* was used as a second element in place-names in the Scottish east and north-east, from Fife to Moray (or even Nairn), largely in the same region in which *Pit-* names occur. Whereas Watson had no hesitation in classing such names as 'British' because for him 'Pictish' was simply a continuation of 'British' to the north, anyone who sees 'Pictish' as a separate *p*-Celtic language with Gaulish affinities—and this is certainly now the prevailing view, mainly because of Jackson's cogent arguments (1955)—must come to the conclusion that *tref* was Pictish as well as British in our region, especially when considering the Gaulish tribal name *Atrebati* 'settlers'. Perhaps the reason why it does not occur as a first element in the Pictish area is that Pictish *Pit-* was usefully and satisfactorily fulfilling the same function while, to the best of our knowledge, not occurring as the second part of a compound and therefore leaving the field to *tref*.

This cannot be the place in which to examine the whole tricky question of the position of Pictish with regard to the other *p*-Celtic languages, particularly Cumbric British, but Fintry, Rattray and similar names serve as a useful reminder that, in addition to features which make it a separate *p*-Celtic dialect, Pictish—not unexpectedly—

possesses a number of aspects, certainly on the lexical side but possibly also on the phonological level, which link it closely with British. Sometimes these links are with the Cumbric area as well as with Wales, as for instance in the place-name elements *tref*, *pren*, *llanerch*, *pant*, *coed*, and others. Sometimes they are with Wales only; of this category *aber* and *pert* would be good examples. However, even if one accepts this re-appraisal and the argument that the differences between Pictish and British have perhaps been overstressed, the terminological problem still remains: Are names of the Fintry-Rattray type, are Keith BNF and Primrose FIF Pictish or British? Perhaps a compromise answer must be the solution for the time being, and we may avoid the thornier problems of demarcation by calling them British-Pictish or Picto-Brittonic. These problems will, however, have to be tackled some time in the not too distant future. May it suffice just now that our onomastic question has drawn attention to them again.

NOTE

The county abbreviations are those used by the Scottish Place-Name Survey and listed in *Scottish Studies* 10:225. Source abbreviations follow in general the 'List of Abbreviated Titles of the Printed Sources of Scottish History to 1560', printed as a Supplement to the *Scottish Historial Review* 42, 2 (October 1963).

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An Old Estate Plan of Auchindrain, Mid-Argyll

HORACE FAIRHURST

A museum of farming life in Western Scotland has recently been opened provisionally in the deserted settlement at Auchindrain on the roadside five miles south of Inveraray. Conservation of the old buildings, some of which date to the eighteenth century, and reconditioning of the site as a whole is bound to be a slow and costly task before the attractive museum which its sponsors visualise can come into being. Several of the buildings have been opened to visitors partly because of the intense interest of local people who have most generously contributed old furniture, implements, craft tools and costumes, and partly to attract badly needed finance.

Attention has already been drawn in *Scottish Studies* (1963 :230) to the characteristics and lay-out of the settlement, in a paper with a large-scale part-plan. Since then, the Duke of Argyll has discovered at Inveraray castle an old estate plan which throws more light on the township. His Grace has kindly consented to the reproduction of the plan (Plate VII) and to the publication of the particulars given in the appendix.

The plan is contained with others in a half-bound folder measuring 19 by 13½ in. and entitled 'Plans and Farms etc. on the Inveraray Estate'. There is an annotation by the present Duke: 'Plans handed to Humphrey Graham by Campbell of Sonachan in January 1810'. Fifteen sheets have been bound together in the folder and there are three others which are loose. All have been mounted on linen, but appear to have suffered from damp and are stained and mildewed. Reproduction is difficult as Plate VII only too clearly indicates. All the plans cover areas on Loch Fyne side near Inveraray, except for one on Loch Awe; a catalogue is appended to this note.

Several of the plans have neither formal title, scale, date, nor a north-point. The name of the surveyor is given on only three and in each case is that of George Langlands, with the date 1789. The style and method of presentation differ rather markedly and three or four draughtsmen may well have been employed. Some are very plain working plans for the factor, others are much more elaborate. Some of the larger-scale examples even show the rigs into which the arable must still have been divided. One of the more ornate is 'IX. Plan of the Powny Park', dating to 1792: eight of the Duke's workmen were to be housed in neat semi-detached cottages carefully spaced out. Each pair is shown in façade in colour, white with blue (slate?) roofs. There is one central door, with a single chimney in the middle of the roof directly above; on either side is a single window but at each end there is a little compartment with a small door, either under a lean-to roof against a gable end, or just possibly within a hip-end to the structure.

The Auchindrain plan is a very plain record without title, scale, north-point, surveyor's name or date; parts of three separate sheets have been pieced together indicating that they have been re-arranged for the present binding. Relief is shown by

PLATE VII A photograph of part of the estate plan of Auchindrain, Mid-Argyll, attributed to George Langlands, c. 1789. The geometrical pattern in heavy lining represents a suggested reorganisation

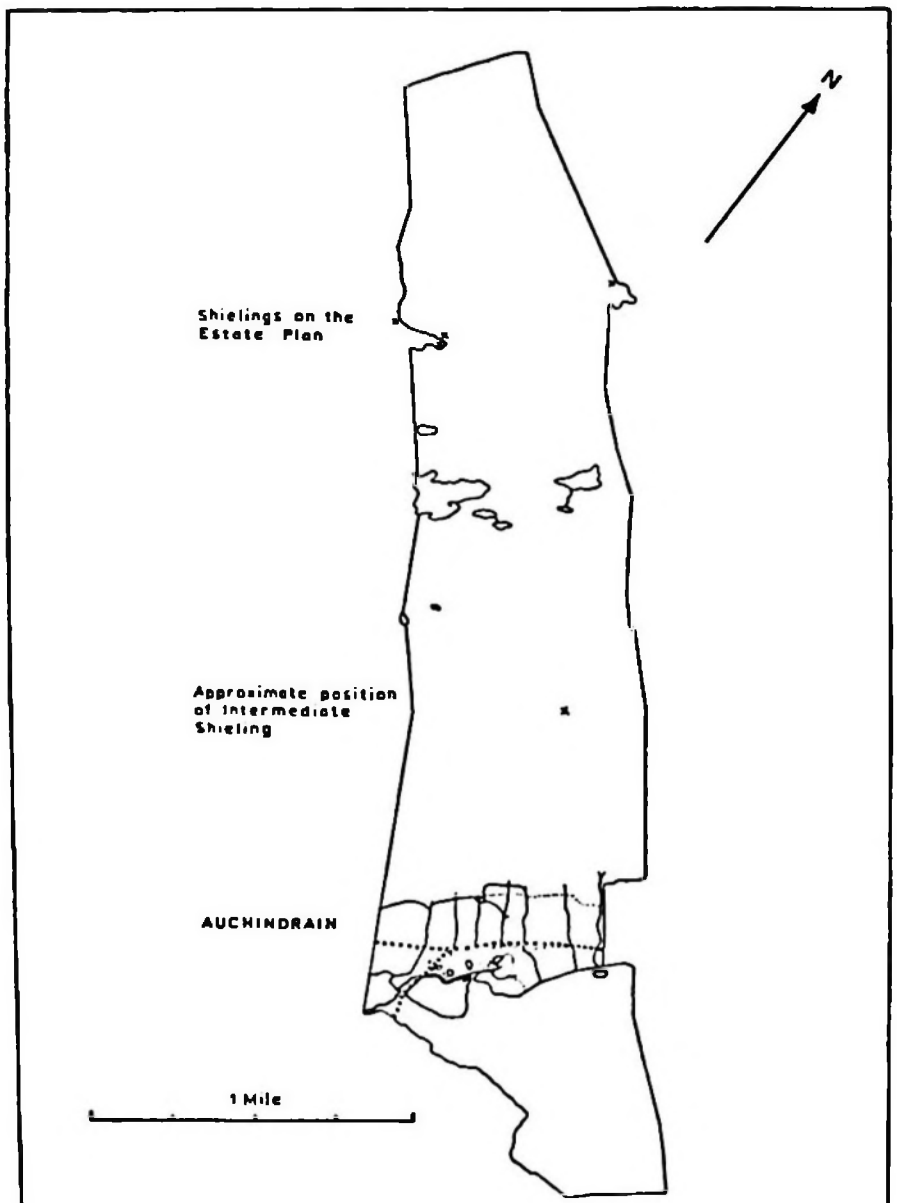

FIG. 1 The boundaries of the whole Auchindrain township drawn from the estate plan of *c.* 1789.

parallel brush strokes suggestive of hachures, but often drawn obliquely to the slope. This characteristic occurs on the plans by George Langlands, and it may be assumed from the style generally that Auchindrain was probably surveyed by him in 1789 or thereabouts. The plan now measures 45 by 18 in. and portrays the whole area of the township (Fig. 1). The scale is approximately 1:5,400 ($11\frac{3}{4}$ in. to the statute mile) and was presumably intended as 1 in. to 6 chains; other plans in the folder indicate a chain of 74 ft., eighty of which made up a Scotch mile of 5,920 ft.

The hill shading was not a very successful method of showing the local relief, though it must be emphasised that the series of NE–SW ridges comprising Mid-Argyll forms a complicated landscape. The settlement of Auchindrain itself lies about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles inland to the west of Loch Fyne from which it is separated by a rocky hill mass. The lands of the township are shown as commencing on this detached hill, crossing the lowland around the settlement itself and then stretching in an elongated fashion for three miles to the north west, up to the watershed with Loch Awe at a height of 1,600 ft. (Fig. 2). Apart from the relief, drainage and boundaries, the only other features of interest within the long north westerly area of rough grazing are the shieling sites.

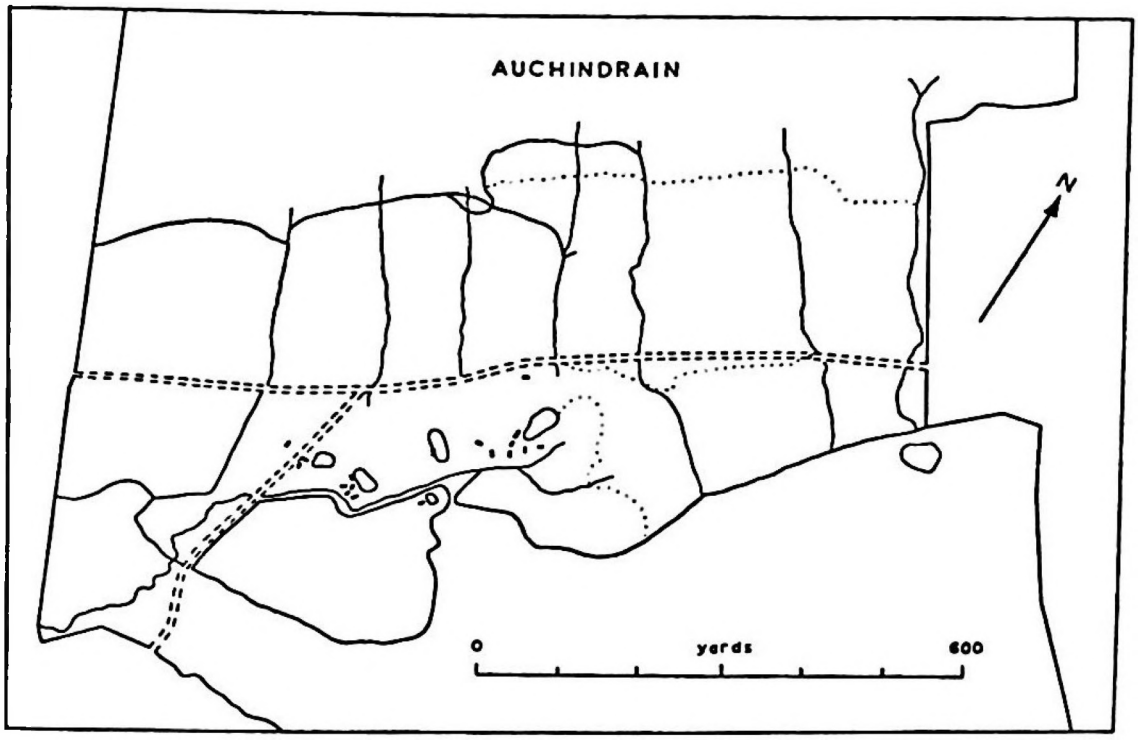

FIG. 2 A tracing (reduced) of the same area as Plate VII to show the old settlement pattern with the proposed geometrical pattern omitted.

Turning first to the old arable lands of the township in the lowland traversed by the main road, the most obvious feature on the plan is a geometrical pattern superimposed in red ink, which stands out very prominently in Plate VII. This makes clear the main purpose of the survey which was to plan the reorganisation of the old group farm of Auchindrain. Some twenty-four separate fields of between 4 and 12 acres each were envisaged and the tenants were to be housed anew in twelve buildings which are shown provisionally in black, arranged on three sides of a square with the open end away from the main road. Neither the little village nor the field boundaries ever materialised for the modern wire fences bear no relation to the part of the plan outlined in red.

Fortunately, the arrangement of houses and field boundaries existing at that time was also portrayed in faint black ink, which has been traced and emphasised in Fig. 2. These old field boundaries in the form of dykes and small burns, are still largely visible on the ground and in fact are marked on the present 6 in. Ordnance Survey of Argyllshire Sheet CXL, N.E. When the museum at Auchindrain is fully established, it would be possible to indicate with precision this ancient field pattern. Here is yet another factor in appreciating the value of the site, for so often old fields have been largely obliterated during 'improvements' in the nineteenth century.

The building pattern is difficult to interpret owing to the very small scale. In a general comparison with the 6 in. O.S. Sheet, it is clear that the buildings of the late eighteenth century occupied much the same position as the structures of today. But, most significantly, they are often differently orientated or slightly different in position, and also the outlines of the stackyards or kailyards do not quite correspond. With reference to the part-plan already published (*Scottish Studies* 1963 : 230), even the house D cannot be placed with any degree of certainty, though it seems to be the oldest on the site and has several exceptional features. The writer has previously suggested that these old dry-stone

buildings fell rapidly into disrepair and it must have been easier to build afresh with the old stones, rather than to patch and mend (Fairhurst: 1967). Further to the west near the new car-park in the area of the museum which was not covered in the published plan the correspondence with the estate plan may be closer, though the existing structures are ruinous; limitations of scale become only too obvious, however, when precise identifications are needed.

A recent attempt to visit the shieling sites shown on the plan proved fruitless owing to sheer distance. After crossing three mountainous ridges over rocky, or wet, or deep heathery ground, we came only just within sight of the nearest group down in a wide valley strewn with lochans. What became abundantly clear, however, was the accuracy of the old surveyors in plotting the burns and lochans, and there is no doubt that the shielings would indeed be located on the sites as plotted, at the full distance of some three and a half hours' walk from the parent settlement. (NN 010060 and NN 016066.)

On the way, at a burn junction in the first of the NE–SW valleys to be traversed (NN 028046), attention was attracted by a very green patch of moor to the ruins of four widely spaced shieling huts not shown on the plan. They consisted of flat stony mounds about 12 ft. in diameter. The oval symbol used for shielings on the plan suggests that rounded structures could also be expected at the outlying sites. These seasonal shelters were normally built with low, dry-stone walls with perhaps a superstructure of turf and sticks. Rounded examples do not seem uncommon in central Argyll, though the writer personally is more familiar with a rectangular form measuring about 16 by 6 ft. internally.

The intermediate station could represent a stopping place to the main shielings further out on the moor, but the absence of any indication on the plan rather suggests an old site long abandoned. What is also puzzling is the very considerable and difficult journey involved to reach the outer shielings; the 'summer pastures' may be, and often are, at no great distance beyond the head-dyke from the main settlement. At least it is possible to appreciate the dedication to their work of the surveyors of these days who so meticulously plotted the hill burns and shielings in this difficult country.

APPENDIX

Catalogue of the 'Plans of farms, etc. on Inveraray Estate'

I Plan of the Farm of Craleckan with a Village intended to be built also divided into Crofts as a Fishing Station. Scale given as 4 chains to 1 in. corrected in pencil to 6.
II Plan of the Farm of Creleckan with a Village, also Crofts. Scale 3 chains to 1 in. This is an entirely different arrangement from I.
III No title, covers Auchindrain.
IV No title, covers Killian and Clunaric. Scale 6 chains to 1 in.
V No title, covers Achintibert and Pennymore. Scale (in pencil 4 chains to 1 in.).
VI No title, covers Kilbride and Dalkennan.
VII No title, covers Achinbreck to Dalkennan Point. A linear scale at 4 chains to 1 in.

VIII No title, covers Achinbreck to Dalkennan Point (also numbered 9). A linear scale at 2 chains to 1 in. Indicates individual rigs.

IX Plan of the Powny Park for eight of His Grace's Workmen to live upon with a Grassing Park adjoining, 1792. Key and land use tables in acres. Linear scale of chains 74 feet each, 1 chain to ¾ in. Sketches of the houses.

X No title, covers Lower Kinchregan to Stuckaguy. Scale (in pencil 8 chains to 1 in.).

XI Glenaray and Glenshira No. 13. No scale.

XII No title, covers Drumalea to Sranmore. Scale (in pencil 8 chains to 1 in.).

XIII No title, covers Bocaird to Aucurrach. No scale.

XIV No title, covers Achnagoul. Scale 4 chains to 1 in. This is a suggested reorganisation only.

XV Survey of part of Glenaray belonging to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, taken in October 1789 by George Langlands. Covers Ballantyne. Key. Scale 10 chains to 1 in. A finely drawn and elaborate plan.

(Loose) XVI Survey of part of Glenaray belonging to His Grace the Duke of Argyll. Taken in September 1789 by George Langlands. This covers Tullich. Linear scale of chains 74 ft. each—8 to 1 in.
Annotated 'This is the Plan I received here in 1792 when I took charge as Chamberlain of Argyll from the late Mr. Campbell of Sonachan.'

Humy Graham
Inveraray 20th Jany., 1810.

(Loose) XVII Plan of Cra-leckan and Braleckan. Scale 6 chains to 1 in.

(Loose) XVIII Plan of Blargour by Loch Awe Side belonging to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, by George Langlands, 1789. Linear scale of 6 chains to 1 in.

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A Note on Timothy Pont's Survey of Scotland

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One of the most important groups of graphic manuscripts in Scotland is the Pont/Gordon set of manuscript maps, now housed in the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. Though known and well maintained for some considerable time, little has been made of these maps by historians, geographers or others likely to be interested in the Scottish landscape. Even less has been done in analysis of their content or their form by those concerned with the evolution of cartography in Scotland. C. G. Cash prepared

his authoritative papers on the manuscripts as far back as 1901 and 1907 and since then, little additional information has come to light.

Considerably more information has been produced on Timothy Pont and his father, Robert Pont, as ministers of the early reformed church in Scotland, than on Pont's career as a map maker. The Fasti volumes (Scott 1915–1928) tell about ministers, not about cartographers. To some extent too, Dr Hutchison Cockburn's account of Pont (1951) reflects his ministerial background while, nevertheless, reproducing two excellent half-tone illustrations of the manuscript covering areas in the vicinity of Dunblane.

Something more about how Pont made his survey might be discovered as a result of a closer study of the manuscripts than has as yet been made. What instrumentation, for example, was employed is not known. A clue to this may lie in the discovery of the astrolabe belonging to Robert Gordon of Straloch, Pont's collaborator and editor. This instrument has been described (Royal Scottish Geographical Society 1936 and Hutchieson 1948) and is now lodged in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

Details, such as those mentioned above, have emerged since Cash wrote his articles in *The Scottish Geographical Magazine*. The purpose of this note is to draw attention to another recently found item of interest in connection with the work of Pont. In January 1968, following the author's enquiry for information about Pont's student days and his possible training for his later work, Miss Young of the Map Room and Miss Yeo of the Manuscript Department at the National Library of Scotland, uncovered what appears to be a previously unrecorded document relating to Timothy Pont. The text of this document is reproduced here by courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Adv. MS. 19.1.24, f. 33.

Be it kend till all men quhome it efferis And speciallie to the inhabitants of Orkney and Shetland me Mr Jhon Lyndesey Person of Menmo^{r} [Parson of Menmuir] and ane of the Senators of [our] Soverane Lords colledge of Justice and master of visiting the mineralles of his hienes Realme appointed be act of parliament to have maid constitute and ordened my lovit Master Timothie Pont my Commissioner depute in that parte Geving and committing to him my full powar and Commission the visit the mynes and Mineralles or appearing of finding out of Mineralles within the bounds of the said Cuntries of Orkney and Schetland and to trye the Metalles therof and report unto me the proof and exemplers therof. And to confer with the Lords and Masters of the grund wher the same may be fund anent reasonable conditiones (—the saidis metals may—ocht and put to profit) according to the said Act of parliament (—to report to me—and particulars heirof). Chairging all our soverane Lords lieges in his Majesties name not to mak anie stay, stop or impediment to the said Master Timothie in searching out of the said Mineralles and mettalles, wer it Ore of gold, sylver, copper, brasse, lead, or any other kynd of mettall that can be fund within the saids bounds, bot to assist him therinto as loyall service to his Maiestie. Halding and for to hald firme and stable all things to be done be the said Mr Timothie concerning the premisses and not to come in the contrarie be this my Commission. To the whilk subscrived with my Hand my signet is affixed.

Passages in round brackets are marginal additions by Lord Menmuir. Endorsed in Menmuir's hand 'Copie of my commission given to Timothie pont anent the metals of orkney'. Miss Yeo has made the above transcription and also kindly supplied the following note.

'In January 1597/8, Menmuir resigned the office of the secretary of state because of ill-health, and in February of the same year he resigned his position as a Senator of the College of Justice. He died in September 1598. He was appointed Master of the Metals for life in 1592, but I have not been able to find any reference to him resigning that post as well.'

It would appear that this document refers to the period in Pont's life about which little is known. The only date on his survey manuscript, that of 1596 on the manuscript of Clydesdale, suggests that he was actively engaged in map-making at least some of the time in this period. This note is only intended to draw attention to this new document, not to attempt to interpret it. It seems clear, however, that more work needs to be done on the Pont/Gordon manuscripts and on the lives of the men who made them. Such questions, for instance, as 'Why did Pont make his survey?' and 'How did Pont make his survey?' deserve detailed investigation. Sixty years ago Cash initiated the enquiry. Modern historians, geographers and cartographers, backed by the advanced techniques of research, supplied with the latest scientific aids and supported by the resources of today's well-equipped archival institutions may be expected to carry his work forward.

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Logaidh Longsach

ALAN BRUFORD

This story was recorded from Angus Henderson, Tobermory, Mull, on 26 January 1967. Mr Henderson, whose family have been blacksmiths in Tobermory for several generations, heard the story from his father.

Bha rìgh ann an Éirinn bho chionn fhada ris an abradh ad Logaidh Longsach, agus chan fhacaig duine riamh e gun a' chlogaid mhór seo air a cheann, agus 's fhearr dhomh innseadh a nis a' riason a bh' air a sin; 'se gu robh dà chluas eich air, no dà chluas capaill mar a tha 'naigheachd ag innseadh fhathast. Well, bhiodh . . . dar a bhiodh e 'feum 'fhalt fhaotainn air a ghearradh 's air thoirt dheth, bha duine sònruicht' aige fhéin air a thaghadh a sin, agus bha an duine sin air a mharbhadh: chan fhaiceadh duine tuillidh e, eagal agus gur innseadh e gu robh dà chluas capaill air.

Ach bha'n duine bha seo, chaich esan a thaghadh, agus fhios aige na bha tachairt; 's bha bean is teaghlach òg aige. Agus dar a rinn e'n obair, thug e dheth a' falt, far Logaidh Longsach, 's chaich e sin air a ghlùn 's dh'iarr e air a bheatha—gu robh bean 's teaghlach òg aige, 's dé thachradh dhaibhsan? 'S, well, dh'aontaich a' rìgh mu dheireadh, ach gu rachadh e air a mhionnan nach innseadh e do dhuine rud 'sa' bith a chualaig e no chunnaic e seo. 'S rinn, thug e 'mhionnan nach . . . agus fhuair e as.

Dh'fhoighnich a bhean dha: 'Dé thachair?'

'Och, cha do thachair dad.'

'Nach inns thu dhomh?'

'Chan inns, tha mi air mo mhionnan nach inns mi do dhuine 'sa' bith.'

'S bha seo cur dragh mór air. Cha robh e faighinn cadal, 's cha robh e deanadh obair, cha b'urrainn dha 'dhianadh, 's dh'fheumadh seo bhith air innseadh. Ach mu dheireadh chaich e mach dha'n choilleadh. Agus thainic e craobh mhór sheilich ann a sin, agus dh'inns e ann a sin da'n chraobh: 'Dà chluas capaill air Logaidh Longsach! Dà chluas capaill air Logaidh Longsach!' Agus bha e ceart gu leòr a sin. Chaich e gu obair air ais 's bha e faighinn cadal 'san oidhche, 's chuile rud a sin.

Ach bliadhnachan as a dhéidh sin bha féill mhór aig Logaidh Longsach. Bha chuile rìgh eile bha'n Éirinn ri tighinn gun 'n fhéill a bha seo, na 'n chuirim. Agus chaich iarraidh air chuile clàrsair a bha 'n Éirinn clàrsach ùr a dhianadh dha fhéin, air son a' latha mhór a bha seo. Agus rinn ad sin, agus dé bh'ann ach a' chraobh mhór ris an d'inns esan, sin agad a' chraobh as an dtug ad a' fiodh airson na clàrsaichean a dhianadh. Agus chaich an dianadh is bha ad deas is bha 'là 's bha'n . . . chuile rud a bh'ann—diubh 's ann an talla mhór a bha ad no mach, chan eil fhios 'am, ach co-dhiubh, chaich àite mór cur a suas da na rìoghran air fad, gu' suidhidh àsan ann a sin, 's bha Logaidh Longsach fhéin, bha e ri suidhe anns a' rìgh-chathair mhór ann a seo anns a' teas-mhiadhon aig a' chuile fear eile. Agus bha na clàrsairean mun cuairt ann a sin, 's cho

luath 's a thigeadh Logaidh Longsach, bha àdsan ri tòisinn air a' . . . cëol mór a chluich da'n rìgh. 'Bhith dé, chan eil fhios 'am dé am port a bha ad a' ciallachadh a bhith cluich idir, ach co-dhiubh bha ad ann a sin deas glan. Agus dar a thàinig Logaidh Longsach, thàinig e 'sa' fhradhrac, thòisich àsan air na clàrsaichean, agus an aon-rud a b'urrainn dhaibhsan fhaotainn as na clàrsaichean, 'se: 'Dà chluas capaill air Logaidh Longsach! Dà chluas capaill air Logaidh Longsach!' Chan eil fhios 'am co-dhiubh, chaich beir . . . breith air an duine dh'inns, ach tha'n naigheachd agam a' crìochnachadh ann a sin fhéin.

Translation

Long ago there was a king in Ireland who was called Logaidh Longsach. Nobody had ever seen him without this great helmet on his head. I'd better tell you now the reason for that—he had horse's ears (or mare's ears as the story still goes). Well, he used . . . when he needed his hair cut and trimmed, one of his men used to be chosen for the purpose, and this man would be killed: no one would ever see him again, for fear that he might let it out that he had horse's ears.

But there was this man, he happened to be chosen, and he knew what used to go on: and he had a wife and young children. So when he had finished the work, had cut his hair—Logaidh Longsach that is—then he went down on his knees and begged for his life, [saying] that he had a wife and young children, and what was to become of them? Well, the king gave in in the end, so long as he would take an oath not to tell anyone anything he had seen or heard there. He did that, he swore not to, and they let him go.

His wife asked him what had happened.

'Oh, nothing.'

'Won't you tell me?'

'No, I'm on my oath not to tell anyone at all.'

This kept on worrying him badly. He got no sleep and he wasn't working, he wasn't able to, and [the secret] had to be let out. But in the end he went out to the woods. He saw a big willow tree there, and at that he told the tree: 'Logaidh Longsach has horse's ears! Logaidh Longsach has horse's ears!' He was all right after that. He went back to work and he got to sleep at nights and everything then.

But years later Logaidh Longsach held a great jubilee. Every other king in Ireland was to come to this celebration, this banquet. They got every harper in Ireland to make himself a new harp for this great holiday. So they did, and what should it be but the big tree he had told [his secret] to, that was the tree they took the wood from to make the harps. They were made, they were finished and the day came and the . . . everything was there—whether it was in a big hall they were or in the open I don't know, but anyway there was a big place put up for all the kings, for them to sit in, and Logaidh Longsach was to sit in a great throne there in the middle of all the rest of them. And the harpers were close by, and as soon as Logaidh Longsach arrived they were to start playing

solemn music for the king. Whatever it was, I don't know what tune they were meant to be playing at all, but anyway they were all present and correct. And when Logaidh Longsach arrived, when he came in sight, they struck up with their harps, and the only thing they could get out of the harps was: 'Logaidh Longsach has horse's ears! Logaidh Longsach has horse's ears!' I don't know though whether the man who had told [the secret] was caught: my story finishes at that point.

The story is obviously a version of the anecdote about Labhraidh Loingseach in Keating's *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* (Dinneen 1908:172–4; Bergin 1912:1–2; see also Dillon 1946:7–10 for the original source). Ultimately it must be an Irish adaptation of the story of Midas and his ass's ears. The closeness of this version to the Irish is shown by the persistence of the word *capall*, which normally means a mare in Scotland, but was a common word for a horse in Keating's time and is now the normal word for one in Ireland. The story may have reached Scotland either in manuscript form—there are two manuscripts in the National Library of Scotland with incomplete copies of Keating's history—or orally, for this particular story is well-known in Irish oral tradition: 101 versions are listed under AT 782 in *The Types of the Irish Folktale*. In this version there are several additions and changes to Keating's story. In the original the ears were presumably covered by hair: the helmet is a storyteller's addition, to make the picture clearer. In Keating it is the barber's widowed mother who begs for his life; the secret actually makes him ill, and he tells it on the directions of a druid. The band of harpers and the feast are entirely new, and much more dramatic than Keating's single harper: whoever added these details to the story was a first-rate storyteller.

I have written the story as I heard it, only suppressing one or two momentary hesitations and changes of direction in Angus Henderson's fast and fluent narration. I have left inconsistencies such as *thainic* (the usual form in Islay) beside *chunnaic*. Some forms such as the palatalised *n* of the article in *rinn e'n obair* could not be expressed properly without phonetics: the *s* following the long nasalised vowel in *inns* (*innis*) varied between the usual slender form (ĩ:ʃ) and a broad one (ĩ:s), and the same happened in *innseadh*. Lenition sometimes was hard to detect, and what I have written *fhradhrac* actually sounds like *fadhrac*. In *ceol* the *e* was at least as clear as the *o*.

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Two More Stories from Atholl: Addenda

ALAN BRUFORD

Since the publication of these stories in *Scottish Studies* 10:162–70 several facts have come to my notice which should be put on record, as they substantially affect the comparative notes.

An Giullan Maol Carrach is in general less close to AT 570, as originally suggested, than to the newly numbered type AT 1316, 'Rabbit Thought to be a Cow'. This appears to be a comic tale about a simpleton from the summary, but a study by Warren E. Roberts ('The Sheep Herder and the Rabbits', *Journal of the Folklore Institute* 3:43–50) has now shown that the hero usually succeeds in driving in the rabbits. He refers to a version in Chambers' *Popular Rhymes of Scotland* (1826:274) and also to the early parallel in the Welsh romance of *Peredur* (which in its turn is connected with other versions of the Perceval story and presumably with the youthful feats of Fionn and Cú Chulainn.) A note by James T. Bratcher in the same journal (4:138) adds an Armenian variant which may be as early. There are 15 versions of AT 1316 in the Irish catalogue. However, the use of the whistle in our version, though the wild animals are evidently driven in by fleetness of foot, and the mysterious princess at the end, do suggest some connection with AT 570, where the rabbit-herding is an imposed task performed by magic—altogether more *märchenhaft*.

Theirig dàn' a bhaintighearn' has at least one Scots parallel in Peter Buchan's *Ancient Scottish Tales* (*Transactions of the Buchan Field Club* 9:151–4) which I overlooked through confusing its title, *The History of Mr. Greenwood*, with that of *Green Sleeves*. The setting 'in the Western Isles' might suggest a Gaelic origin as with many tales in Buchan's collection; the names of Greenwood for the suitor and Gregory for the lady's father may be Buchan's own addition. The rhyme (spoken by an unseen voice), however, is much like that in *Mr. Fox*: 'O, dear lady Maisry, be not so bold,/Lest your warm heart blood soon turn as cold.' The lady's story is verified by the hand (cut off and thrown to the dog apparently just for food) and swatches cut from the dead women's dresses: as usual it is told as a dream. Mr Greenwood has only one servant. Though longer, this version probably preserves less of the story than the Gaelic, apart from the rhyme.

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