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Wyke, Terry; Robson, Brian & Dodge, Martin, *Manchester: mapping the city*. Edinburgh: Berliin, 2018. 256p, maps, plans, photos, tables. Hbk. £30.00. ISBN 978-1-78027-530-7.

‘The purpose of this volume is to invite readers to use their eyes and imagination to look at a selection of the published and manuscript maps and plans of the rich and extensive cartography of Manchester, ranging from the eighteenth century to the present day’. This aim, from the Introduction to this book, is more than realised, as you would expect from this triumvirate of writers, all experts in their field. Terry Wyke is Honorary Research Fellow at Manchester Metropolitan University, one of the founder-editors of the *Manchester Region History Review*, and has written and published extensively on the history of the Manchester area. Brian Robson is Emeritus Professor at Manchester University and has published extensively on urban regeneration. In 1983 he founded the Centre for Urban Policy Studies; now retired, he researches a long-held interest in historic urban cartography. Martin Dodge, Senior Lecturer in Geography at Manchester University, currently researches on Manchester and has curated a number of high-profile public exhibitions about the city.

Most of the maps come from the city’s various and varied collections – Chetham’s Library, Manchester Libraries and Archives, and the University of Manchester Library, whose map collection numbers in excess of 150,000 items including a significant collection of maps relating to Manchester and the surrounding area, together with items from the authors’ own collections, and those of other local individuals and organisations – while some are from further afield: the National Library of Scotland, the British Library, the Government Art Collection, and The National Archives are credited sources.

The book is the first history of the city region as seen through the eyes of its cartographers and their maps, including street maps, land surveys, engineering plans and, especially revealing, bird’s eye views. Some of these have never previously been published and some are quite rare. There are no formal chapters, but each of the fifty-plus sections is headed by a year and a pertinent phrase describing the significance of that year in cartographic terms. In the Introduction, the authors had made the point that the town’s earliest published maps only dated from the second quarter of the eighteenth century and that ‘it was not until the 1790s that accurate large-scale maps were published’. Earlier plans of the town seem not to have survived, including the one that John Dee commissioned from Christopher Saxton in 1596, but ‘there are still faint hopes that [it] may turn up one day’. The Introduction is itself a succinct account of the history and development of the map-making of the town, illustrations ranging from H. F. James’s *Plan of Market Street... showing the new line of street 21 yards wide* published in 1822: ‘it is clear how narrow the original street was at its western end where it entered the town centre’, to a ‘Rough sleeper’ map from 2014, and ‘*Manchester 3d Render Satellite View*’ (2016).

In each section the basic pattern is the same: a brief historical note putting each map in its

historical setting, a discussion of the selected map, its purpose, how it differs from its predecessors – and its principal advantages – and shortcomings! The first significant date is 1728 and the last one is 2016. The map in question in 1728 is *The South West prospect of Manchester* by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, with its descriptive phrase or sub-title ‘Eighteenth-century panoramic views’. This map gives the first panoramic view of the town, as seen from the Salford side of the River Irwell. Its major features and drawbacks are discussed, and contrasted with those of Robert Whitworth, whose map of 1734, similarly titled, is also shown. ‘He provided a far more detailed view than the Bucks’ engraved on two rather than a single plate. His map gave ‘a sharper sense of the built-up area of the town and its urban frontier ... Some 25 sites and buildings are identified compared to only six in the Bucks’s ... The Irwell, of course, is prominent, but whereas the Bucks suggest that it was essentially for recreation and pleasure, Whitworth shows it more as an artery of trade, which helps to explain why the chain across the river by the Spaw House is absent’. These two maps were not superseded until 1802, when William Marshall Craig’s *View of Manchester from Mount Pleasant* appeared but this map is neither illustrated nor indexed.

‘The town’s first authentic street map’ is the sub-title for 1746, and refers to R. Casson and J. Berry’s *A plan of the town of Manchester & Salford*, the third edition of which was published in that year. This also included a small, unattributed plan, purporting to be of Manchester and Salford about 1650. Casson & Berry’s map was originally published in 1741 and is by an unknown surveyor. There was a second edition in 1745 and it eventually ran to five editions by 1755. As with the other sections in this book it begins with an enlargement of part of the map under discussion, the map as a whole being reproduced within the section at a much smaller scale.

We see the contrast between urban and rural Manchester in the earliest extant plans in the leases and rent rolls of the Hulme Charity’s lands in Manchester, the leases dating from the early 1750s. *James Hilton’s messuage, near the Shude Hill* dating from 1753, shows that farming remained an integral part of the urban economy. Roger Bradshaw and John Smith were neighbours of Hilton’s and each occupied properties fronted by gardens, ‘another feature of the townscape that was to become a rarity as industrialisation took hold’. This can be seen from the Charity’s map *Roger Bradshaw’s tenement, Shude Hill* (c.1753), while an extract from the Charity’s map of *[The] Boar’s Head near Hyde’s Cross*, also c.1753, shows the substantial four-storey building: ‘urban growth saw inns become important as commercial centres and meeting places’. Similarly, older established families such as the Mosleys and the Levers began to develop their lands as the process of industrialisation gained momentum, but one of the larger housing schemes was undertaken by the Byrom family, who owned land around St. John’s Church, off Quay Street. ‘Following Edward Byrom’s death in 1773, the family fortune passed to his daughters, Ann (who married the barrister Henry Atherton) and Eleanora. Development of the estate continued, centred around the handsome church of St. John’s which Edward had built in the late 1760s’. T. Townley’s *A Plan of lands in Manchester the property of Henry Atherton Esq. & Miss Byrom* (1788) shows the plans to develop a high-class residential district around St. John’s church.

Fifty years after the map by Casson and Berry, the 1790s saw the publication of two accurate large-scale maps, by Charles Laurent (1793) and William Green in the following year. Due

to the influence of Charles Roeder, a German-born merchant in late Victorian and Edwardian Manchester (and, incidentally, a prominent member of our Society), these maps have been steeped in controversy, Roeder being of the view that Laurent's map was a copy of Green's; in other words, he accused Laurent of plagiarism¹. The story of the 'striking similarities' and 'telling differences' between the maps is well told, but, 'the arguments about plagiarism could be considered simply diversionary. Both maps are splendid portraits of the rapidly growing town at a critical juncture in its growth ... Both maps are fascinating artefacts, with masses of detail of the urban transformation that was being brought about by industrialisation'.

A number of events in the history of Manchester are recorded in these maps: its growth from the late eighteenth century as its wealth, and its physical presence, increased as it grew rich on the profits from the cotton trade; the rise and fall of its various trade cycles in the Victorian period; and its current on-going post-industrialisation transformation. Events as varied as the Peterloo Massacre; its various transport revolutions: the Bridgewater Canal and the Castlefield Basin, the coming of the railway and the growth in air travel, the Ship Canal and the expansion of the Trafford Park Estate; popular culture as defined by MediaCity and Belle Vue theme park; and sport, to name but a few, have all left their mark on the cartographic record of the Manchester region. Comparisons become possible: taking Castlefield, for example, we can see its rise, decline and fall from its establishment in the 1780s (p. 13), through its hey-day (the Goad fire insurance plan, 1889, p. 106-7), to its current manifestation as a heritage theme park (1986, p. 227, et seq.).

Then there is the series of specialist maps: slums, the Arndale, Salford Quays and MediaCity, the IRA bomb, air pollution and smoke control, and much more. For example, there is a fascinating section (1972a) on 'Soviet mapping: a view from the East', in which Manchester is on four sheets, mapped in 1972 and published in Leningrad in 1975 at a scale of 1:25,000, and while the Ordnance Survey say that the maps simply copy their date, they show details not recorded on OS maps. 'The detail is impressive ... the map is a striking achievement and a testament to the ingenuity of the Soviet cartographers'. In complete contrast, this is followed (1972b) by 'Hulme Crescents and after', in which 'the three phases of Hulme's building footprint' are shown: nineteenth century bye-law housing (150 dwellings), 1970s' comprehensive developments (37 dwellings), and 1990s' redevelopment (75-87 dwellings). Of more popular interest, particularly to members here in the North West, will be the section '1976: mapping the most famous street in Manchester', illustrated by David F. Smith's *Bird's-eye sketch map of the fictional town of Weatherfield*, otherwise known as Coronation Street. From which it appears that Weatherfield supported Manchester United: one railway arch carries graffiti proclaiming 'Champions of Europe', while elsewhere 'Reds rule' and 'Reds' have been daubed on walls. You will have to explore the book for yourself to fully appreciate the many other excellent sections and interesting illustrations.

In 2016 Alan Kidd and Terry Wyke published their illustrated history of Manchester, physically an equally sumptuous book. Under 'maps' in its index were references to eight maps or their publisher, but the maps of Bacon, Pigot (1838)² and Tinker seem to be omitted from this new book; I did wonder whether their discussion of these maps was the catalyst for the present book? Also, three items in their 'Further Reading' (pp. 406-416), by Charles Roeder (p. 407), Martin Dodge & R. Brook, eds. (p. 414), and Brian Robson and others (p.

415) I would have thought merited inclusion in the 'Further Reading' list in the new book. The book itself, as I have hinted above, is a tribute to the art of the typographer and the printer. Well-bound and clearly printed, by PNB, Latvia, with excellent colour rendition in the maps, it is a joy to behold and to use, and notwithstanding the (minor) criticisms alluded to, it is well worth its asking price.

Morris Garratt

Notes

1. Roeder, C., 'Maps and views of Manchester', *TLCAS*, 21 (1903), 152-171
2. Annoyingly the frontispiece to the book under review is part of Pigot's *A plan of Manchester and Salford ...* (1838) but there are no references to it in the text or in the Index, but see 'Further Reading', p. 249!