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978-1-107-45285-5 - Some Notable Surveyors & Map-Makers of the Sixteenth,
Seventeenth, & Eighteenth Centuries and their Work: A
Study in the History of Cartography

Sir Herbert George Fordham

Frontmatter

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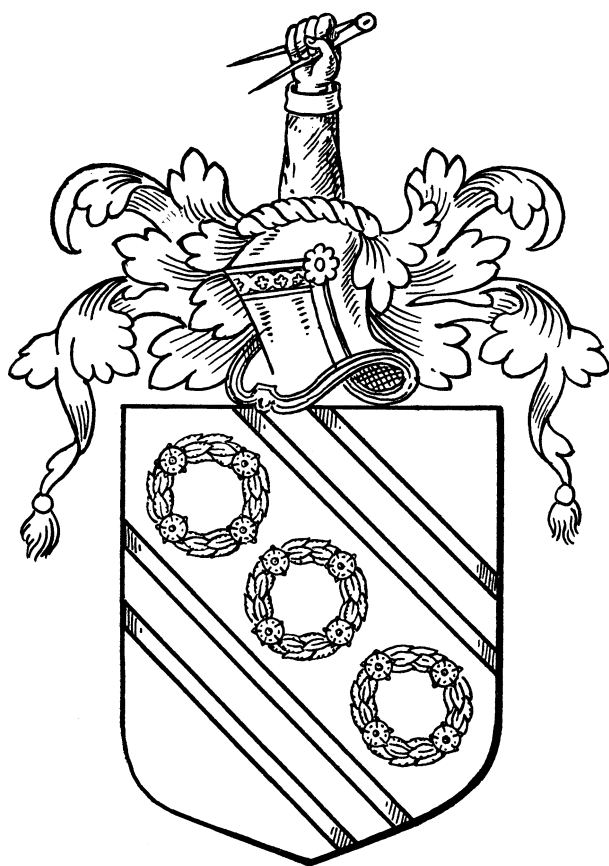
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*The Armorial Bearings of CHRISTOPHER SAXTON, of
Dunningley in the County of York, Gentleman, Granted by
WILLIAM FLOWER, NORROY, 1 July 1579,
as recorded at the College of Arms, 1927*

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Some Notable
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*A Study
in the History of Cartography*

by

SIR HERBERT GEORGE FORDHAM

Author of Hertfordshire Maps: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Maps of the County, 1579-1900; The Cartography of the Provinces of France, 1570-1757; Studies in Carto-Bibliography; Catalogue des Guides-Routiers et des Itinéraires Français, 1552-1850; Maps: Their History, Characteristics and Uses; The Road-Books and Itineraries of Great Britain, 1570-1850; John Cary, Engraver, Map, Chart and Print-Seller and Globe-Maker, and other works

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1929

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107452855

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First published 1929

First paperback edition 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-45285-5 Paperback

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PREFACE

THIS little book is, as will be gathered from the title, an attempt to bring into something of narrative form, associated with the personality of some one notable individual, or family, in each case, an outline of the development and progress of the art and science of cartography during the long period which precedes the modern systematic surveys organized by the Governments of the countries of Europe and the American Continent.

The study is not a complete and exhaustive one, inasmuch as it does not deal with the immense cartographical output of the Dutch and Flemish School of map-makers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, nor with the maps produced in the former century in Italy, and at most it only claims to be a sketch.

But, with these recognized omissions, there remains a sufficient historical sequence and continuity to justify my title and the ideas it represents.

I have first dealt with the remarkable work of survey carried out in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Christopher Saxton and with its development, and with its influence on cartography in the British Isles through at least a century. This work may well be regarded as laying the foundation of the conception of modern cartography.

In the next century I have selected the famous French cartographer Nicolas Sanson, whose maps, as a whole, present a typical example of definite progress in the science to which he devoted his life, and whose work was further developed by his sons and successors; his influence in French and World cartography extending until nearly the middle of the eighteenth century.

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The foundation of exact and scientific survey at the hands of successive members of the Cassini family and their associates may be said to fill the eighteenth century with the triangulation and mapping of France, leading up to the elaborate mapping of the roads of France, and finally to our own Ordnance Survey and to the remarkable "Regional Survey" and map of the Austrian Provinces of the Low Countries undertaken by the Comte de Ferraris.

Some reference to a typical English cartographer, John Cary, who flourished in the latter part of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, and to General William Roy and the preliminary work from which sprang, at the end of the former century, the British and Irish Government surveys and mapping, brings me to the point of time and of cartographical progress which I indicated above as having been selected as the limit of this work.

It will be found, I hope, to contain a large amount of historical information useful for obtaining an idea of the magnitude and character of the long, continuous labour necessary for the building up of cartography as a science of world extension and fundamental to geography itself, and leading to something of a distant personal acquaintance with the men, their lives, and their devotion to the work they have so happily advanced to a final success in the now stereotyped form of survey and of map delineation.

A list of Works of Reference has been added, in order that materials may be at the service of students, for following up, without undue loss of time, the facts upon which the sketch here offered is based. An Index is also supplied.

H. G. F.

ODSEY

October 1st 1928

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