

OBITUARY OF JOHN BARTHOLOMEW - THE SCOTSMAN - APRIL 1893

DEATH OF MR JOHN BARTHOLOMEW. - Mr John Bartholomew, the well-known map maker of the Edinburgh Geographical Institute and 32 Royal Terrace, died yesterday in London after an illness of some months. He went to London about a fortnight ago for special treatment, but steadily sank. He was born in Edinburgh on December 25th, 1831. He early commenced to learn map drawing and engraving under his father, and his love for maps and geographical work soon led him to make rapid progress as a cartographer. In 1858 he went to London to work as an assistant to the great geographer, Dr Petermann. His fellow-worker in those days was the celebrated African cartographer, Mr E. G. Ravenstein. Returning to Edinburgh in 1856, he continued his father's business with great energy, and, in conjunction with Dr Petermann, he contributed most of the maps to "Fullarton's Royal Illustrated Atlas," and, in conjunction with Professor Hughes, "Philip's Imperial Atlas" was drawn and engraved in Edinburgh. Other important works followed: -- Black's General Atlas of the World," a large topographical map of Scotland on a scale of four miles to an inch, and afterwards a companion map of England and Wales from the survey just then completed. This last was a heavy undertaking, which cost many years of hard work, and on completion held out little or no prospect of financial success. It was only in later years that any benefit was reaped. After this period the production of maps was greatly developed, by the introduction of lithographic printing. Maps for educational purposes could now be cheaply and quickly produced, and from this time he was for many years specially engaged on school atlases and wall maps for many geographical publishers, Messrs Nelson and Messrs Chambers, of Edinburgh; Messrs Philip, of Liverpool; and Messrs Collins, of Glasgow. These works attracted much public commendation, and received distinguished awards at different international exhibitions. About 1870, as the business gradually extended, several important atlases were undertaken for American and foreign publishers, the "Handy General Atlas of the World" being published simultaneously in England and America. In 1839, on the occasion of leaving his premises at Chambers Street for the new Geographical Institute at Parkside, he retired from active work, leaving the management of his business to his son. Married twice, he leaves a widow, two sons, and seven daughters.