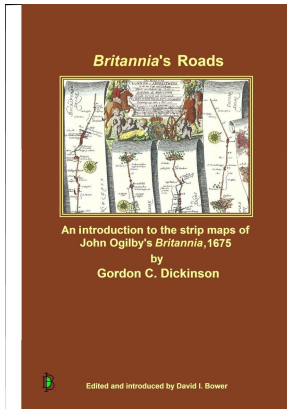


**BRITANNIA'S ROADS**  
**An introduction to the strip maps**  
**of John Ogilby's *Britannia*, 1675**  
**by Gordon C. Dickinson**

Edited and introduced by David I. Bower  
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This volume is the first publication of a work written by the late Gordon Dickinson, which he completed about 2006. It is a book that will appeal to the enthusiasts for *Britannia's* strip maps of the roads of England and Wales, but it may surprise many of them. The book starts with an introduction to *Britannia* – its origins and contents, including a listing and mapping of the roads. Most of the remainder of the book is devoted to a detailed study of a selection of the strip maps chosen to illustrate their variety of styles and the accuracy with which they represent what was on the ground at the time the roads were surveyed.

Dickinson's chief aims were to draw attention to the many types of error to be found in the strip maps, to discuss in detail the possible reasons for them and to explain how, in spite of the errors, the maps can be used by those who understand their limitations to derive information about the roads and countryside of the second half of the seventeenth century. To this end there are chapters on the surveying methods used and on the problems encountered in the drafting of these first strip maps of the roads of England and Wales. A chapter on the accuracy of distances in the maps concludes that "The great virtue of *Britannia's* distances lies not in the fact that they are right...Better by far to accept...that if one can detect and remove the effect of any truly bad patches...most of the rest of the distances [along, but not transverse to, the roads] will probably not be very far wrong."

In the final chapter Dickinson concludes that the "revelation of these influences and imperfections in no sense detracts from *Britannia's* status as one of the great achievements in English cartography. The author's sole intention in providing these descriptions, exemplifications, and possible explanations of *Britannia's* content, was to enable others more fully to interpret its message and to derive from it the same interest, knowledge and pleasure that he has."

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**The book is a perfect-bound A4 pb of xvi + 145 pages with a frontispiece and 79 illustrations in the text. It is obtainable from the publisher at 2 Welburn Avenue, Leeds LS16 5HJ for £30 or £33 including post and packing in the UK, payable by cheque to *D.I.Bower* or through PayPal (request invoice). For purchasers overseas, post and packing will be charged at cost. Enquiries to [david@dibower.co.uk](mailto:david@dibower.co.uk).**