



TERRY COPPOCK

## John Terence Coppock 1921–2000

TERRY COPPOCK was a pioneer in three areas of scholarship: agricultural geography, land-use management, and computer applications. Educated at Queens' College Cambridge, he spent his academic career at University College London and at the University of Edinburgh, where he was the first holder of the Ogilvie Chair in Geography. One academic session at the University of Ibadan in 1964–5 provided an opportunity for mapping out new directions and endeavours, and his time as Visiting Professor at the University of Waterloo in 1972 strengthened his convictions about the application of academic geography to tackling real-world problems. Terry occupied high office in the Institute of British Geographers, of which he was president in 1974. He received the Murchison Grant (1969) and the Victoria Medal (1985) from the Royal Geographical Society, and served as Secretary (1976–8) and then Chair (1978–80) of the Commission on World Food Problems and Agricultural Productivity of the International Geographical Union. His Edinburgh years were marked by allegiance to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and by exceptional involvement in government committees dealing with recreation and rural affairs. He was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1975, serving on Council and holding the post of Vice-President from 1985. Following the death of Sir Henry Clifford Darby in 1992, Terry became the father figure of the small group of human geographers in the Academy. In 1976 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Upon retirement in 1986 he became Secretary and Treasurer of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, a post that he held until

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the end. He was honoured by the award of a CBE in 1987. Twelve years later he received honorary degrees from the University of Glasgow (D.Litt.) and the University of Edinburgh (D.Sc.), and was especially delighted with the higher doctorate (D.Sc.) from the University of London that was awarded for a submission which included fourteen books and 66 articles or chapters. I was moved that my old tutor should have sought my advice prior to deciding on his final selection but this represented only half of his total published output of 24 books and 138 articles and chapters. In addition, he edited and contributed substantial portions of the 46 reports produced by his Tourism and Recreation Research Unit (TRRU) at Edinburgh. Terry also prepared numerous unpublished papers during his membership of the Land Data Committee of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee (1965–6), as Chairman of the Nature Conservancy's Land Use Panel (1968–71) and of the Facilities Planning Committee of the Scottish Sports Council (1984–7), and as a Specialist Advisor to the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, whose report on land resource use contained a major personal input.

### The first three decades

John Terence was born in Cardiff on 2 July 1921 and received his secondary education at Penarth County School. He left aged sixteen since it seems that his family lacked the resources to send him to university, nonetheless his brother experienced a long and costly training at medical school. In 1938 Terry entered the Lord Chancellor's Department of the civil service in the Rhondda Valley and in the following year performed very well in the administrative examinations that would have enabled him to enter the administrative grade without a degree. With the outbreak of war Terry joined the Welch Regiment and spent the war years as an intelligence officer in North Africa, receiving a commission in 1941. After demobilisation in 1946 he returned to the civil service, working first for the Ministry of Works and then for the Board of Customs and Excise. Whilst a bureaucratic career offered the promise of security and financial reward, it also carried with it intellectual frustrations and a profound wish to escape tedious routines. Professional advice was duly sought and his mentor suggested that a career in university teaching or research might be appropriate.

In 1947 he decided to read for a geography degree at Cambridge, where he was tutored by the orthodox economic geographer W. S. Thatcher, who

had served as an administrator in India. He required three main qualities from his tutees: the ability to construct a logical and sustainable argument; the need to test the validity of all forms of evidence, whether quantitative or qualitative, official or unofficial; and an unfailing commitment to clear expression by the written and spoken word, and the use of statistics, maps, and diagrams. These points are embedded in Thatcher's now forgotten writing, which failed to capture the theoretical excitement that was enthusing some economic geographers but conveyed a great deal of practical common sense that would set any tutee and many a tutor in good stead. In due course, Terry would demand those same qualities from his own students, as I and many others remember only too well. With the benefit of sound tutorial advice from the lawyer Arthur Armitage at Queens' College, Terry worked with determination to make up for what he perceived as lost time. He performed brilliantly in both parts of the Geographical Tripos and graduated with a first class degree in 1949 after only two years at Cambridge. Then followed a year as departmental demonstrator and director of studies at Queens' before his academic career would truly begin.

### The London years

In 1949 Henry Clifford Darby left the thriving department he had built up at Liverpool to succeed C. B. Fawcett as Professor of Geography at University College London. He determined that the small number of academic and support staff he inherited should be promoted elsewhere and set about assembling a completely new team. In this way, W. R. (Bill) Mead was brought from Liverpool to build up human geography and the physical geographer E. H. Brown arrived from Aberystwyth, the two having trained at the LSE and Kings College London respectively. As a graduate of and former lecturer at Cambridge, Darby took soundings among his former colleagues (J. Alfred Steers, Vaughan Lewis, Harriet Wanklyn, Jean Mitchell, and Margaret Anderson) with a view to acquiring a Cambridge man. Terry Coppock received whole-hearted support and in 1950 was duly appointed as assistant lecturer at an annual salary of £550, which was the maximum for that grade. Two years later he would be confirmed as lecturer, starting at £600 per annum, and would be firmly established in the rejuvenated UCL department that was set on a trajectory of rapid growth in the next two decades.

Bill Mead recalls that since Terry did not enjoy robust health he took him 'under his wing' in his large College apartment in Kensington. He became acquainted with the stream of Scandinavian and North American colleagues who stayed in the spare bedroom, maintaining contact with some of them throughout his life. This arrangement lasted until after Terry had married the classicist Sheila Burnett in 1953, who came from a Pontefract medical family and whom Terry met at one of the supper parties that Sir Ifor (later Lord) Evans held for young staff and students. Sheila eventually convinced Terry that they should put down a deposit on a home of their own and also buy a car. Even the perambulator for Terry and Sheila's first born had been delivered to Bill's bachelor flat. Darby required his young colleague to teach several aspects of geography, including biogeography, map interpretation, the British Isles, and some lectures on western and central Europe for which Terry prepared by cycling trips through Belgium, the Netherlands, and northern France. This experience led him to enunciate the principle that no matter which route one travelled, the prevailing wind would be in the opposite direction. However, it soon became clear that his forte was not Europe, about which he never published and which was passed to others to teach, but rather the economic, and especially agricultural, geography of Great Britain.

Early in the 1950s Darby conceived a regional project that would focus on an area close to London and which would galvanise members of the department, students and staff alike, through field investigations, research for higher degrees, and publications. The chosen area was the Chilterns, close to Darby's home in Berkhamsted, with Terry being entrusted with research into its land use and farming. Despite a number of master's degrees being completed, the regional project failed to materialise in its intended form. Nonetheless, for several years Terry organised cohorts of students to undertake a massive land-use survey as well as pursuing his personal research into rural changes in the Chilterns from 1870 to the middle of the twentieth century. His work combined the qualities of the Land Utilisation Survey that had been masterminded by L. Dudley Stamp in the 1930s and had won the admiration of Clifford Darby, with the historical dimension that Darby had developed to great effect in his personal work on the Fens, his evolving team project on the Domesday geography of England, and his edited volumes which comprised half of the Naval Intelligence Geographical Handbooks compiled during the Second World War.

In the middle 1950s Terry published a suite of journal articles in which he probed the reliability of agricultural returns and other statistical and

cartographic sources, developed innovative mapping techniques to depict agricultural phenomena, and reported on radically changing distributions of arable and other land-use categories in the Chilterns due to the 'Feed Britain' campaign. These essays were, in effect, the first drafts of material that would contribute to his doctoral thesis. Like so many dissertations that were being written by young academics at the time, his research was under the nominal direction of the head of department but was, in effect, undertaken without supervision. Many years later, Terry wrote ruefully to Ron Cooke that 'Mine is a London Ph.D., ten years in the making! I think HCD was my supervisor, but we never discussed it!' (12 June 1987). With the assistance of an aged Austin Seven, which had the propensity to break down or to lose doors or vital parts at crucial moments, Terry marshalled his field assistants across the Chilterns, while at weekends and long into the night he assembled, abstracted, and processed statistical and cartographic evidence. Not surprisingly, he sometimes complained that this was drudgery. Throughout the 1950s he made abundant use of the department's first-rate drawing office whose staff produced literally hundreds of detailed maps for his thesis and for related publications, rivalling the output of Domesday maps drawn for his head of department.

Disaster struck when a drying oven overheated in a nearby office at UCL, occupied by the Egyptologist Margaret Murray (once Flinders Petrie's assistant), causing a fire which destroyed or badly singed many of Terry's documents, drafts, and finished maps. The 'curse of the Pharaohs' was blamed. Insurance covered some of the material losses but much work had to be prepared afresh and completion of the thesis was delayed until 1960. The first volume distilled Terry's critical review of source materials and methods of cartographic depiction, before exploring the structural background to agricultural change and conveying his meticulous reconstructions of the agricultural geography of the Chilterns in 1870 and 1951. Then followed an analysis of the mechanisms of change recorded during three component phases and then across the whole eighty-year span. The second volume formed a veritable atlas containing no fewer than 193 original maps and diagrams. Terry's methodology echoed the juxtaposition of temporal cross sections with process-orientated vertical themes that had been developed by Jan Broek in his study of *The Santa Clara Valley* (1932) and was much favoured by Darby, but Terry's thesis lacked the rigid symmetry that Darby was conceiving for his new volume on the historical geography of England that would eventually appear in 1973. Terry acknowledged that 'much helpful criticism and advice has been given by

numerous friends and colleagues' (vol. I, p. 5) but made no direct mention of his head of department. He chose not to revise his vast corpus of material in order to produce a regional monograph.

After a decade of close attention to one region, Terry's interests began to broaden during the early 1960s, with respect to theme, time, and space. He wrote on matters related to conservation and recreation as well as to farming, recognising that geographers had much to offer planners and decision makers in terms of practical land-use management. Whilst always acknowledging the importance of the past in seeking to understand the present, he began to place growing emphasis on the future use of land resources. These issues were fully incorporated in his contribution to the new M.Sc. programme in Conservation devised by the botanist William Pearsall and Clifford Darby and delivered by their lecturing staff. As a university teacher, now in his forties and with a wife and two children but still on the lecturer grade, Dr Coppock compared his lot unfavourably with that of his former colleagues who had risen through the ranks of the civil service and with that of his neighbours who commuted from Hertfordshire to well-paid jobs in the City. His unflagging energies and punishing work routines were directed to a series of new writing and research assignments.

These included preparing a suite of articles that reviewed work in British agricultural geography and land-use studies in order to inform the Twentieth International Congress that would meet in London in the summer of 1964. Together with his UCL colleague Hugh Prince, he also edited *Greater London* (1964), whose fifteen chapters written by geographers and planners in the capital (and especially from UCL) brought together research findings on the conurbation past and present. Terry contributed three chapters that summarised physical resources and historical development, analysed commuting from dormitory settlements (with detailed focus on Radlett where he lived), and looked to the future challenges of managing London as a world city. His final words anticipated the decentralisation of work and housing into outer sections of the metropolitan region that would become so characteristic of the remainder of the twentieth century. It was, however, Terry's third new assignment that was set to break completely fresh ground.

After analysing evidence for individual farms and for the component parishes of the Chilterns, Terry wished to expand the scale of his work to produce an agricultural atlas for the whole of England and Wales that would exploit an enormous range of statistical sources including those available for the 350 National Agricultural Advisory Districts. The

amount of material that would have to be abstracted and manipulated to produce such an atlas and an explanatory text far exceeded what might be expected of a lone researcher with pen, paper, slide rule, and calculator. Terry soon realised that the new experimental science of computerised data analysis and depiction might offer a solution, and he obtained enthusiastic support from UCL colleagues in electrical engineering and computer science. With the help of a few undergraduates (of whom I was one) during the summer vacation of 1963 for checking calculations and ensuring that information was 'centred' correctly for cartographic display, the atlas began to take shape. Its primitive printouts were far from camera-ready in quality and so the final maps were drawn by UCL cartographers who worked from machine-generated drafts. This was, indeed, a breakthrough and heralded Terry's profound interest in data handling, computergraphics, and remote sensing of information that would become so very important not only to academics but also to environmental managers in the later decades of his life. It is also a salutary reminder of how far and how fast the world of cartography has changed since the early 1960s.

### A West African interlude

With all these projects under way and yet a desire to escape for a while, Terry accepted an invitation from Michael Barbour (a former geography colleague at UCL and subsequently Dean at the University of Ibadan) to spend a year as visiting senior lecturer in Nigeria. This offered him the opportunity to travel widely, to explore tropical aspects of rural geography and land-resource management, and to add the word 'senior' to his title, albeit only for twelve months. With Akin Mabogunje, Michael Thomas, and Michael Chisholm on the staff of geographers, Ibadan held exciting prospects for Terry, Sheila, and the children. Intensive blocks of teaching were interspersed with periods for local and more distant travel, set against a demanding schedule of proofreading, indexing and map checking, as well as assembling materials for future articles on Nigerian farming. Geography finalists at Ibadan were required to research a long essay on their home area, with Terry supervising those on farming topics. He arranged to go out with each of his tutees to see their home area. Terry's letters to Bill Mead at this time are filled with anxieties about cartographers, publishers, and proofs, as well as descriptions of the terrain, climate, and economy of Nigeria and of the ex-colonial university systems operating in various parts of Africa.



To quote his own words, Terry found Ibadan to be ‘quite an extraordinary city—nearly a million inhabitants, the great majority living in single storey houses roofed with corrugated iron (the universal and unlovely roofing material), open drains and rutted roads. There is no public transport, but a vast number of taxis’ (9 November 1963). As well as the extreme heat ‘the two things we notice are the extreme stillness of the air, especially at night, and . . . the way sounds carry . . . It’s surprising how you welcome the sudden breeze before a thunderstorm’ (9 November 1963). January and February seemed to be ‘climatically the least enjoyable time, before the rain cools things off; it’s very hot and humid so that it’s rather difficult to work up any enthusiasm for anything’ (2 February 1964). Terry apologised for the quality of his typing, since ‘it’s a very hot and sticky day without a breath of wind, and which one just drips perspiration sitting quite still’, notably while dealing with proofs and indexes (28 February 1964). Sheila assisted him with these tasks, joined other members of the university community in choral singing, and received distinguished visitors to supper. Fortunately, they had acquired the services of a ‘very efficient cook/steward, which is a great blessing’ (21 November 1963).

In November Terry reported that ‘the pineapple season is just beginning (we even have some growing here in our garden) and I think there’s little to beat a really good fresh pineapple for breakfast! We also have several paw-paw trees where we knock ripe fruit down with a large stick. The life has its advantages’ (21 November 1963). During February, he visited various agricultural developments with USAID and FAO officials and organised complicated personal visits to farm settlements, research stations and plantations. He wrote: ‘The difficulty is that official hours are 8 till 2, a relic of war and colonial times, so that you cannot visit anywhere in the afternoons. As some of these places are a 100 miles out of Ibadan it means a good deal of duplication in travel’ (6 February 1964). Wasting time and wasting money—both scarce resources—were arguably Terry’s pet hates.

The presence in Ibadan for six weeks of the distinguished agricultural physiologist Sir John Hammond FRS (1889–1964) as Nuffield Professor offered new opportunities, including a visit ‘starting at the crack of dawn, to an experimental livestock centre 150 miles north of here in the savannah. . . . I was going to drive myself but when I heard he was going in a Ministry car, I scrounged a lift’ (17 February 1964). Terry noted ‘a couple of useful chats’ with Sir John and was preparing himself for ‘tomorrow’s tour of the cocoa area’ and ‘on Thursday to a 30,000 acre ranch being run by the Western Region Development Corporation’ (17 February 1964).

The routine was characteristically punishing with 'twelve hours in the sun today and motored 300 miles and feel pretty battered. How Sir John stood up to it at 75 I don't know. Tomorrow we are off to more cocoa farms' (18 February 1964). Subsequently, a most complex three-week programme of visits to thirty different institutions was arranged for Terry by the Eastern Region Ministry of Agriculture and could not be missed. This included a two-day trip by turbo jet launch into the mangrove swamps of the Niger delta. 'One by-product was that, sitting on top of the launch all day, I got badly sun-burnt for the first time since we landed in Nigeria almost six months ago' (29 March 1964). Then followed a visit to the African Timber and Plywood Company at Sapele which exploited a 2,000 square mile timber concession that was 'being surveyed and mapped at a scale of 2 feet to the mile, at a cost of £3–400 per square mile, to locate all economic species and to plan exploitation' (29 March 1964). Despite Nigeria not being 'a country of fields and hedgerows', Terry reported being continually 'surprised at the variety I find, often confined to quite a small locality—live hedges of a variety of materials, many made of bamboos or sticks, earth banks and so on. The other day I suddenly came across a closed landscape of small fields surrounded by woven mat fences' (29 March 1964).

By mid-April he found that the climate was becoming more bearable, and wrote: 'The rains are beginning now and it's appreciably cooler—a ten degree drop in the maximum to the high 80s and a smaller drop in the minimum; it's like a tonic when a storm comes over and the wind gets up and the temperature falls suddenly. We had 2½ inches in a couple of hours the other day—this is something you can't take a decent photograph of' (18 April 1964). With examining under control, proofs completed and three articles on rural Nigeria under way, based on 16,000 miles of travel throughout the country, Terry felt able to leave Sheila, Helena, and John in Ibadan in order to travel south to Salisbury, where the 'clear sparkling air' of early May was 'extremely refreshing' (3 May 1964). Then on to Swaziland which, although 'only about the size of Wales, . . . contains extraordinary contrasts and I have even been able to have a quick look at most of them' (16 May 1964). Finally, came five hectic weeks in South Africa when Terry 'hardly ever spent two nights in the same place, but all very interesting and enjoyable. I spent the last 24 hours in style on the 20,000 acre farm of a millionaire farmer whose grandfather was a Welsh drover who emigrated in the 1850s' (14 June 1964).

As well as reports on the joy of discovery and of work completed, Terry's letters to Bill Mead contained a nagging thread of anxiety about

his future at UCL. He believed that he should already have been made a Reader and deeply regretted that Darby's public declaration of support for promotion at a meeting of the Maconochie Foundation a couple of years previously had not resulted in action (18 April 1964). He set about applying for Chairs in Britain and overseas, but funds for flying in candidates were slight and he was not called back from Africa for interview. In due course, the internal promotion came through and for the academic session 1964–5 Terry held a Readership in the University of London. With the *Agricultural Atlas of England and Wales* (1964) complete and articles and chapters flowing apace, the idea of a Chair became all the more appealing, but that would mean leaving UCL as many of his cohort of colleagues would do in the years ahead as provincial chairs became vacant and new departments were established. The newly-created Ogilvie Chair in Edinburgh was announced in the Spring of 1965; Terry became the first occupant, on the basis of his thoroughness and tenacity in research, his appreciation of contemporary techniques, and his sympathetic and understanding approach to students. He had, however, very limited experience of administration or of graduate supervision under the firm regime of H. C. Darby.

### The Edinburgh years

The Ogilvie Chair offered Terry new opportunities to expand his developing interests in public policy and to further his enthusiasm for devising new methods for handling, interpreting and displaying vast quantities of spatial information. His inaugural lecture on 17 May 1966, entitled 'The Geographer and the Use of Land', was dedicated to the late Sir Dudley Stamp, and traced Terry's career to date and his future plans. He recalled his presentation to the conference of the Institute of British Geographers at Keele in 1954 on the topic of 'Land-use maps: a plea for quantitative data', and his conversation with Professor Alan Ogilvie in which he argued that changes in land use should be recorded systematically to assist environmental planning. In a phrase that he liked to quote, he remarked that 'the map is to the geographer as the microscope is to the biologist and as the telescope is to the astronomer, a means of converting material to a more manageable scale' (p. 3). He praised Stamp's Land Utilisation Survey of the 1930s and noted the utility of various historical sources to aid reconstruction of past land-use conditions but regretted the lack of proper land-use statistics in Britain, rendering it impossible to determine

accurately how much farmland had been taken for urban and other uses. Geographers, he maintained, had a vital role to play in environmental management, with their experience of critically evaluating sources, skills in interpreting air photographs, knowledge of spatial sampling methods, and growing appreciation of computerised techniques. Terry cited appreciatively the experience of the Canada Land Inventory that had assembled and correlated data on settled parts of the nation (effectively forming a proto-geographical information system) and he argued that there was great scope for extending this GIS approach in Britain, and especially in Scotland. With remarkable foresight he noted that even the Canadian facilities 'will seem modest if the vision of satellites recording and analysing land-use automatically becomes a reality' (p. 10).

To practise this new kind of geography would require technicians and computer laboratories as well as secretaries and libraries. The Ogilvie Professor greatly welcomed the expansion of computing facilities at Edinburgh and looked forward to collaborating with colleagues in economics, statistics, and agriculture, and to liaising with civil servants in St Andrew's House who he rightly anticipated would be more accessible than their counterparts in Whitehall. His proposed research agenda embraced studying recreation as a user of rural land, the march of urbanisation and afforestation in transforming the look of the countryside, and also the implications of on-going rural depopulation for landscapes and community life in remote areas. Terry argued that research should be given higher priority in geography departments in British universities, long overwhelmed by the demands of teaching undergraduates, that lectures should concentrate on issues of significance in the real world (while never ignoring their historical antecedents), and that geographers should focus 'on the examination of problems in regions rather than of regions themselves' (p. 19). In other words, they should give purpose to the rich but stifling legacy of regional geography. This was a revolutionary agenda for the mid 1960s.

Whilst being a sympathetic and understanding teacher, it must be said that Terry was not always the most fluent of lecturers. He could rise superbly to the grand occasion, such as his defence of 'the geography of agriculture' to a powerful audience of sceptical agricultural economists, but trying to retain the interest of a lecture hall full of occasionally reluctant undergraduates sometimes appeared to be an ordeal. Packing lectures together to suit his commitments could be simply disastrous, as I recall from four-hour lecture sessions at UCL prior to his departure for Nigeria. Terry's real teaching strength was in tutorials or personal

supervisions when his energy could be sharply concentrated on the person and the work in hand. His ability to assimilate and synthesise vast amounts of information, to recognise key points, and to identify a way forward also made him an excellent and much sought-after *rapporteur*. These, if I may call them, 'editorial' skills were widely recognised in academic and policy circles since Terry could always be relied upon to produce a balanced report with amazing speed and accuracy. By virtue of his willing nature and quest for perfection and rapid delivery he never ceased to drive himself exceptionally hard. One wonders why he tolerated so many committees and so much travelling when he had a wife and children at home who would have welcomed his company. As Bill Mead recalled at Terry's memorial service, he was 'strong on responsibility, duty and loyalty—old-fashioned qualities which stood him in good stead'. He was blessed with having Sheila as 'a wonderful foil [who] could not always turn misfortune into fortune, but her infectious humour could counteract the stresses that Terry could suffer and allay his anxieties'.

As his inaugural lecture and the successful meeting with the agricultural economists had shown, by the mid 1960s Terry had established an exhausting agenda that would consume his personal energies and administrative skills for the rest of his life. Research, publication, advisory work on committees, and serving the scholarly community absorbed most of his waking hours. Not surprisingly, he was far from enamoured with the time-consuming routines of running a department, serving only once as head. After five years in the Ogilvie Chair and with his revolutionary agenda still buzzing in his head, he confessed that he still felt like an outsider in the department managed by Professor James Wreford Watson, of whom he never became a close friend, and a group of long-established senior lecturers. His reaction was to convert his knowledge of Canadian applied geography, which was closely tied to public service, into practical reality in Edinburgh. His appointment as a specialist adviser to the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs had reinforced this conviction and prompted him to create and direct an applied research unit which evolved into the Tourism and Recreation Research Unit.

This operation was both novel and controversial in British geography departments in the late 1960s which largely emphasised teaching of undergraduates and pursuit of individual, unfunded enquiry rather than becoming involved with contract research, external funding, and fixed-term support staff. The TRRU drew funds from numerous sources, including the Social Science Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council and many Scottish agencies. It investigated the growing

participation in outdoor recreation, the spatially variable supply of recreational resources, the implications of increased use of the private car to reach recreational sites, and the overall impact of outdoor recreation on the landscapes and communities of rural Scotland. A notable feature was the construction of a pioneering computer-based information system, known appropriately as TRIP (the Tourism and Recreation Information Package). The TRRU produced almost four dozen reports between 1966 and 1980, which often drew on the results of specially commissioned surveys that required Terry and his colleague Brian Duffield to assemble and organise teams of temporary field surveyors and squads of short-term analysts. Terry's experience with UCL staff and students in the Chilterns during the 1950s provided good training for such an enterprise.

*Recreation in the Countryside: a spatial analysis* (1975), written jointly with B. S. Duffield, not only summarised many results from the work of the TRRU but also firmly embedded study of recreation and tourism into an interdisciplinary academic context. This volume and many other TRRU initiatives owed much to the skills of Mona Robertson who was able to decipher Terry's amazing speed writing that spread at a sharp angle across the page. Every word began clearly enough with a few recognisable letters but then trailed off into a line, thereby presenting the reader (and in my case, the first-year undergraduate) with a formidable challenge. Electronic manipulation of data was an integral part of the work of the TRRU, with early examples of computergraphics figuring in its reports and in *An Agricultural Atlas of Scotland* (1976). This was modelled on the prototype for England and Wales but the final versions of the Scottish maps were produced mechanically rather than by draughtsmen with pen and ink. The second edition of *An Agricultural Atlas of England and Wales*, which appeared in the same year, also contained computer-generated maps.

In due course Terry was instrumental in setting up at Edinburgh University the first taught M.Sc. programme in Geographical Information Systems (later called Geographical Information Science), an initiative that would be emulated in numerous universities at home and abroad. In the 1980s he would found the *International Journal of Geographical Information Systems* (now *Information Science*) and edit it from 1986 to 1993 as part of his retirement project. Not surprisingly he preferred instructing small groups of committed masters students about the strengths and weaknesses of 'information' of all kinds to facing mass audiences of undergraduates. His real delight was the score of doctoral students he supervised on agricultural geography, recreation studies, computer mapping, and geographical information systems. Many now occupy

senior academic positions. His schedule of meetings and committees was formidable and often required him to take the 6 a.m. train to London, returning late at night. Train journeys were preferable to flying since reading and writing could be undertaken *en route* and hence less time would be 'lost'. Meeting graduate students had to be accommodated somehow. The story of doctoral supervisions being conducted at Edinburgh Airport is probably apocryphal but one of Terry's students, now a Vice-Chancellor, has confirmed that some meetings were held over very early cups of coffee at Waverley Station.

Terry's productivity continued unabated throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Student needs were met by a textbook on the *Agricultural Geography of Great Britain* (1971), while a book embracing *Land Use and Town and Country Planning* (with L. F. Gebbett, 1978) provided sound advice to researchers. Terry presided over the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers at Norwich in January 1974, delivering the keynote address and chairing the plenary session when distinguished academics spoke on the theme of 'geography and public policy'. His life-long habit of what is now called 'power napping' during lectures was displayed with memorable effect before a full auditorium but, true to form, he 'awoke' just in time to deliver the ever-perceptive first question. In his presidential address, entitled 'Geography and public policy: challenges, opportunities and implications', he developed the case he had made in his inaugural and set it in a wider spatial frame, with the support of some senior colleagues, and before the assembled body of his chosen profession.

He argued that environmental resource issues were of greater public importance than ever before. To study them offered an unparalleled opportunity for geographers 'to demonstrate both to the academic community and to government and the public that they have the necessary skills and concepts to contribute effectively to the solution of some of the major problems facing society. Moreover, if geographers do not respond, they will find that others adopt a role which they have traditionally regarded as theirs' (p. 1). He warned repeatedly that politicians and environmental managers beyond the geographical profession were largely ignorant of what geographers could do. In order to resolve this paradox, the profession needed to identify its capabilities (reinforced by computer applications, automated cartography and remote sensing), focus its research, rejuvenate its teaching, and enter into dialogue with those who advised on and implemented official policy at local, regional, national, and international levels. In short: the thinkers should become doers.

These arguments were reinforced and exemplified soon afterwards in *Spatial Dimensions of Public Policy* (edited with W. R. D. Sewell, 1976) which asked academics ‘What are you contributing to the good of the society which supports you?’ (p. xiii). Over a dozen essays by leading international scholars offered examples of geography in action, with Terry providing an analysis of the work of the TRRU. His conclusion was that geographers must acknowledge their potential and collaborate with other disciplines to tackle ‘topics where the man in the street (and, it is hoped, increasingly the politician) recognises no disciplinary or sectoral boundaries, those which affect the earth as the home of man’ (p. 262).

In characteristic fashion, Terry also convened a specialist session of the Rural Geography Study Group at the Norwich IBG meeting. He had energised this group since its inception as a working party concerned with agricultural mapping and then with agricultural geography more generally, and had given generous encouragement to many young workers in rural studies. The specialist forum at Norwich focused on the environmental and social threats associated with the proliferation of second homes in parts of North America and continental Europe, and the growing fear that such problems might reach critical proportions in the British Isles. A selection of conference papers plus commissioned chapters from researchers in the USA, Canada, Australia, and mainland Europe appeared in *Second Homes—curse or blessing?* (1977). Terry concluded the volume by looking to the future and anticipating the implications of the ‘wired society’ when he speculated that ‘Perhaps the electronic age and the wonders of holography will obviate the need for second homes and make it a matter of indifference where we live, since we may be able to simulate our ideal environment (or in fact a whole family of environments) in our own first home’ (p. 214). As a contributor to and translator for that volume, I was truly amazed with the speed at which edited and completely retyped manuscripts came back to me. Undoubtedly the skills of Mona Robertson contributed to this ‘return of post’ efficiency.

After a remarkably productive quarter century from 1950 to the mid 1970s, Terry approached his second decade in the Ogilvie Chair with the same selfless determination and dedicated drive. Committees, co-ordination, and editorial work absorbed an even greater share of his time, while formal teaching retreated. In the years approaching retirement he was involved at a high level with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the International Geographical Union (Working Group on Environmental Mapping), the Royal Society (British National Committee for Geography), the Ordnance Survey, the



Scottish Field Studies Association, and the Scottish Sports Council as well as numerous local organisations in Scotland. All this was in addition to organisations mentioned earlier. Edinburgh colleagues never ceased to be amazed at the sheer stamina of this man who had been prone to physical ill-health throughout his life and was sometimes afflicted with self-doubt; the tidal wave of publications concealed such patches of darkness from all except his closest friends and collaborators.

### Professor emeritus

Terry never really retired, with his translation to emeritus professor in 1986 merely involving a change in his title and in the range, but certainly not the volume, of his responsibilities. His professional commitment to the Carnegie Trust (which required frequent travel by bus and train from Edinburgh to Dunfermline) commenced in 1986, as did his position as editor of the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*. He recruited an international editorial board to assist him with this ground-breaking journal, travelled to GIS conferences throughout the world, and exerted his enthusiastic influence on many scholars to obtain suitable articles. He was especially generous when dealing with submissions from authors whose first language was not English, always striving to find the best in such pieces and helping contributors to rewrite in a more comprehensible and relevant form. At times, he was caught between acting as a rigorous editor and functioning as a teacher who always wanted to help.

The number of committees and panels with which he was involved in retirement never declined, and there were always post-doctoral researchers and young academics to advise and encourage. Following Sheila's death in 1990 he immersed himself even more deeply in work, while complaining occasionally that there was not enough time to indulge his passion for listening to classical music. Moving from a large house to a small flat and having to dispose of most of his books and papers was a deeply traumatic experience, but one from which members of the Royal Geographical Society have benefited since the documents are now in its keeping. Up until 1997 he was a frequent traveller on the early train to London in order to attend afternoon meetings in the capital before setting off in the evening to return to Edinburgh. In 1987 he was made a Fellow of University College London and was often to be seen in the Department of Geography or in the Senior Common Room. As he drank

his coffee and read a newspaper, it was almost as if he had never left the college. He was invariably accompanied by a large rucksack that contained proofs and manuscripts, and perhaps a suit if formal attire was more appropriate than his comfortably worn sports jacket and rather casual trousers. This life-long commitment to comfortable clothes was reinforced when he took up cycling to keep fit after a heart attack.

By the time of Clifford Darby's death in 1992, the memory of earlier personal difficulties had faded and Terry increasingly assumed his role as the leading geographer in the British Academy. After all, he had been called to contribute a chapter on 'The changing face of England 1850–c.1900' for Darby's *New Historical Geography of England* (1973), and I am led to believe that in 1976 Darby had favoured him as his successor at Cambridge—though that was not to be. Terry remained in close contact with Eva, Lady Darby, and acceded to her request to find a means of publishing Sir Clifford's methodological essays, around which his famous 'methods seminars' at UCL had been articulated. Enlisting the help of others, Terry produced an early draft of one of the contextual essays that surround Darby's own words in *The Relations of History and Geography* (edited by M. Williams, H. D. Clout and H. C. Prince, 2002).

Late in 1997 he fell ill with Lupus, which halted his output for a while but he continued to write and to edit for a further two years. His letters became increasingly difficult to decipher and were, perhaps, a little shorter than before. He continued faithfully to travel to British Academy meetings but confided that his apparent good health was really the result of medication. In the final weeks up to his death on 28 June 2000 he complained bitterly of technical problems affecting the computer he was using to type from his hospital bed. His intention to write the centennial history of the Carnegie Trust for 2001 would not be accomplished, nor would he see Darby's essays through to publication.

By virtue of remarkable insight and prodigious hard work, which took its toll on his health and family life, Terry Coppock made an enormous contribution not only to geographical knowledge and to the profession of geography but also to a wide field of scholarship both in Great Britain and internationally. His work on the countryside and land-use matters heralded our current concern with environmental issues, food supply, sustainability and the wise use of scarce resources. His ideas on policy-orientated research, involving teams of scholars and appropriate technologies, have been accepted so widely among geographers and members of related disciplines that they are now taken for granted. His early use of computerised cartography, geographical information systems

and remote sensing made him a true pioneer in these rapidly expanding fields that extend beyond geography. His students at UCL and in Edinburgh recall his firm and friendly tutorial advice, just as members of government committees and panels will not forget his level-headed approach to problems and his clearly-written reports setting out the path ahead. Members of the Academy will remember his selfless dedication, high standards and unflagging energy with grateful affection.

HUGH CLOUT

*Fellow of the Academy*

*Note.* This essay owes a great deal to conversations with Terry Coppock's former colleagues at UCL: E. H. Brown, R. A. French, J. H. Johnson, W. R. Mead, H. C. Prince, and D. Thomas. I am very grateful to Bill Mead for allowing me to use material from his address at the Memorial Service for Professor Coppock, held in Edinburgh on 25 October 2000, and to quote from letters sent to him from Nigeria. Comments from Michael Williams are also acknowledged with gratitude. I have drawn upon obituaries published in the *Independent* (7 July 2000) by Dr Roger Kirby who was a colleague of Terry Coppock at Edinburgh, as well as having been one of his students at UCL, and by another Edinburgh colleague, Lyndhurst Collins, in the *Transactions, Institute of British Geographers* (2001) NS 26, pp. 263–4. A suite of short essays in the *International Journal of Geographical Systems* (1996) 10, pp. 3–15 pays tribute to his contribution to GIS. Three publications by Professor Coppock have been particularly useful: *The Geographer and the Use of Land*, University of Edinburgh Inaugural Lecture 29, 1966, 22 pp.; 'The geography of agriculture', *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 19, 1968, pp. 153–69.; 'Geography and public policy: challenges, opportunities and implications', *Transactions, Institute of British Geographers*, 63, 1974, pp. 1–16.

