Mary Pedley, coeditor of *Cartography in the European Enlightenment*, Volume Four of *The History of Cartography*, participated in the 28th International Symposium of the International Map Collectors’ society in London, October 2010. The symposium began in the bright and cheery surroundings of the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, an arm of the Wellcome Foundation, which supports research in the history of medicine. The venue then shifted to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, which lent an eighteenth-century feel to the day’s events: lectures; a guided visit to Flamsteed House, the original observatory building at Greenwich; and the opportunity to examine a selection from the map collection. The group returned to central London on the *Thames Clipper*, a journey upriver offering wonderful views of the docks (including St Katherine’s dock, near Hermitage Stairs, where John Seller had his chart shop) and the sunset over Westminster. The symposium returned to the Wellcome Centre for the final day of talks and was closed that evening by a sumptuous gala dinner in the Stationers’ Hall, one of the several guildhalls of London, home of the Printers’ company.

This symposium brought together map collectors, map dealers, and scholars to hear twelve papers exploring the themes surrounding Britain’s waxing and waning power and influence during the long eighteenth century. Each presenter explored his or her theme within the contexts encouraged by the various volumes of *The History of Cartography*: that maps are created by people for people and that the circumstances of their creation are as important, indeed more important, than the maps themselves; maps can only be fully appreciated by understanding these circumstances. The stories behind the maps were explored in every instance, and the nuances of these stories were the concern of many of the questions from the audience. It is clear that the impact of the contextual approach to maps championed by the History of Cartography Project has inspired a generation of knowledgeable and insightful collectors who are moving away from the questions of the “oldest/only/earliest/rarest” to more subtle differences and distinctions in their comprehension of and pleasure with maps.

The full program with the individual titles of presentations may be seen on the IMCoS web site: [http://www.imcos.org/london2010main.htm](http://www.imcos.org/london2010main.htm). Pedley gave the first paper, opening the symposium by exploring the vital factors required of a city to become a major center of map trade and how London fulfilled those requirements. Her talk drew upon research already submitted for Volume Four of *The History of Cartography*; the encyclopedic approach of the volume lends itself to such synthesis of research, allowing for comparisons of cartographic themes across European boundaries. Several of the presenters were also contributors to Volume Four of the *History*: Sarah Tyacke, Peter Barber, Carolyn Anderson, Sarah Bendall, and Andrew Cook.