

Cities and Historic Textile Complexes
Typology, Good Practice, and Global Perspectives for Conservation

The comparative thematic study by TICCIH of textile sites

The International Committee for the
Conservation of the Industrial Heritage

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Universality of textiles

mill in Providence Rhode Island USA (right)

Universal Value?

- Textile industry meant large numbers in the workforce:
- Managing people in factories
- Managing communities in company towns, or in rapidly growing cities developed without a paternalist/ controlling influence by a business . This led to developments in public health, transport and urban planning, the garden city movement and so on- but not only or even primarily in textile industries.
- Textiles as a lead sector in industrialisation came first in many countries and so demanded action soonest: factory legislation and town planning.
- Which places best demonstrate these values?



Why do an international comparative study of textile sites?

- 1986-8 World Heritage Site nominations made by UK were deferred by UNESCO for “comparative analysis of 19th century industrial sites and ideas”
- ICOMOS advises UNESCO on cultural world heritage sites
- TICCIH advises ICOMOS
- Sites may only be nominated by States – not necessarily what the experts prioritise.
- the first of the places related to industrial textile production was Crespi d’Adda in Italy, right, inscribed in 1996.



UNESCO cultural criteria

- i) a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- ii) an important interchange of human values on developments in architecture, technology... town-planning or landscape design;
- iii) exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilisation, living or disappeared;
- iv) an outstanding example illustrating a significant stage in human history;
- v) an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use representative of a vulnerable culture or
- vi) tangibly associated with events, living traditions, ideas, beliefs of outstanding universal significance (only with other criteria) *and*
 - meet the test of authenticity (See Nara document).
 - Integrity -is it complete enough, is it too all inclusive?
 - have adequate legal and/or traditional protection and management.

TICCIH TEXTILE SECTION

Meetings:

- 2001 Terrassa, Catalunya, Spain
- 2003 Euskirchen, Germany
- 2007 Sedan, France

Solventing in Verviers 2003
Jaquard loom in Sedan 2007



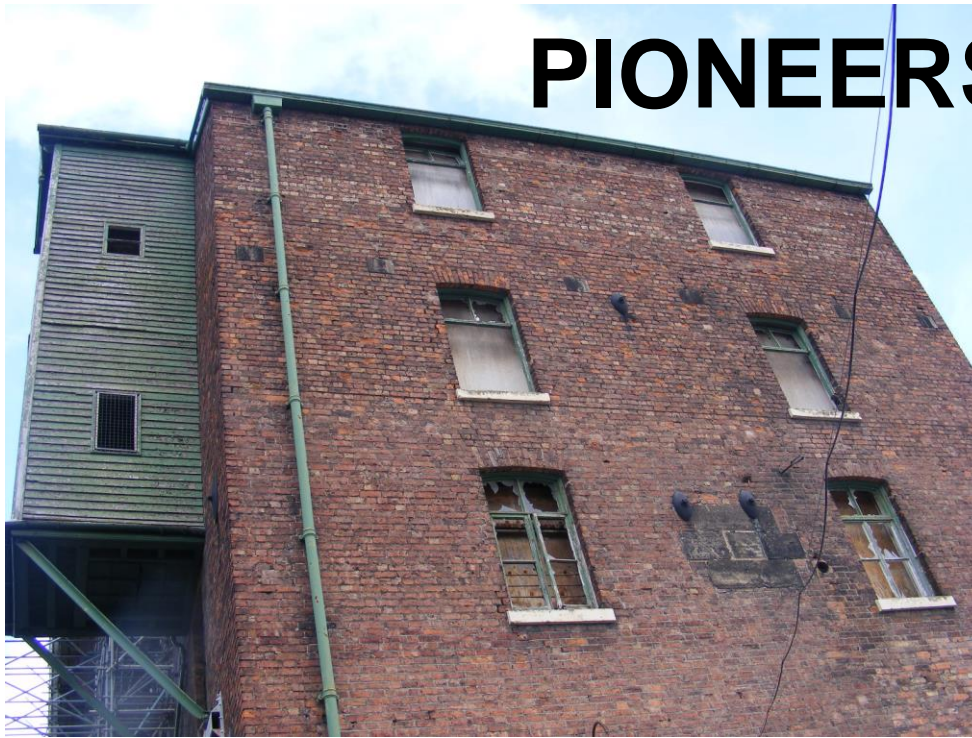
Textile criteria adopted by TICCIH Textile Section

- Pioneer
- Flagship
- Giant
- International exchange
- Time Capsule
- Urbanism
- Landscape



Poznanski villa in Lodz, Poland

PIONEERS (ii, iv)



- **Caraglio, Italy (silk)**
- **Cromford, UK (first cotton mill)**
- **Ditherington, Shrewsbury, UK (first iron framed building, flax (left, now being refurbished by Historic England))**



FLAGSHIPS (iv)



Lister Bradford 1873



Templeton Glasgow
1889



Poznanski



Lodz



Cox's Stack Dundee 1865

Giant (iv): Manchester, NH, USA

Amoskeag, largest complex in the world of textile mills in a single ownership.

In 1912:

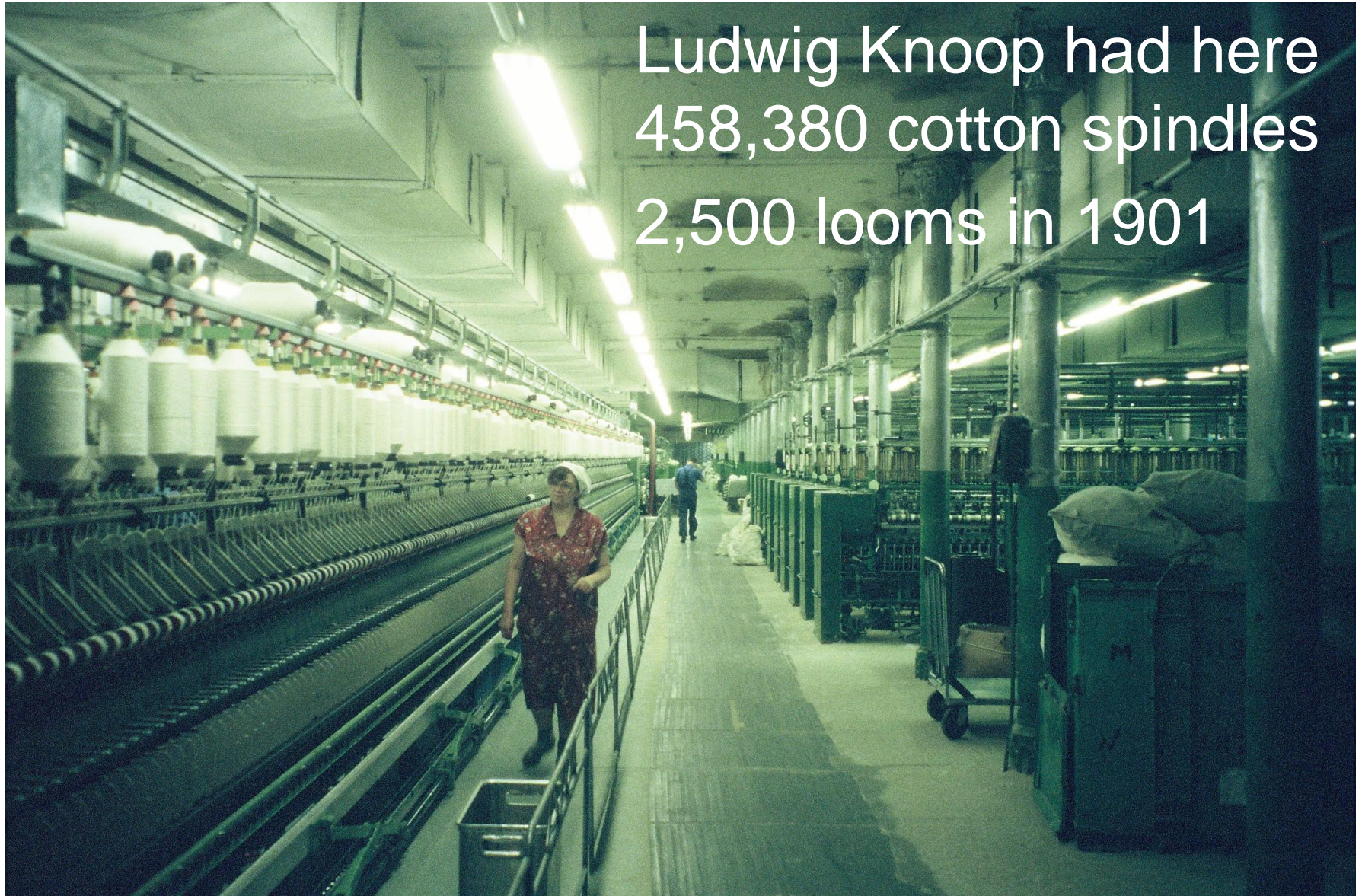
- 17,000 employees,
- 700,000 spindles
- 23,000 looms.

Closed 1935. 60% of mill buildings survive

67 Housing blocks form a National Historic District



Biggest in Europe: Kreenholm Mills, Narva, Estonia



Ludwig Knoop had here
458,380 cotton spindles
2,500 looms in 1901

Kreenholm Island

Links to mill cities at [water falls](#) (Narva, Tampere) and [in USA](#) (Lowell, Lawrence)

- Closed in 2008
- Opera performed in millyard here 2019



Other giants? Pick a date and a fabric

Around 1800: vying between **Belper** and **New Lanark**, UK (cotton);

Around 1900:

- Cotton: **Scheibler**, Lodz, Poland (11,000 workers)
- Linen: **Zyrardow**, Poland (9,000 workers)
- Wool: **Dean Clough**, Halifax UK (carpets: 5,000 workers)



International interchange (ii): Belper, UK- Pawtucket USA

WH Criterion (ii)

“Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design”

(Slater Mill Pawtucket USA)



Technological transfer: Tomioka Silk Mill, Japan

- French and Italian techniques fused to Japanese Practices (escape chute for women in kimonos)



Aikawa, Japan



Enough of experts!

- Academics and local politicians co-operating (Gunma, Japan)
- Practitioners: people experienced in the industry (Roubaix, France)



Time capsule: “sleeping beauty” (iv, v)



Goteborgs Remfabrik;
(Sweden: cotton)



Tuchfabrik Muller,
(Germany: wool)

Urbanism (ii, iv, vi)

Lowell, Valdarno, New Lanark, Scheibler, planned factory towns with a philanthropic/ paternalist purpose



More about these in
Lodz in 2021!



Textile Landscape

Urban /rural landscapes:

- Cotton
- Wool
- Jute
- Linen
- Silk



Urban cotton landscapes



Ghent



Lodz, Poland



Fall River, USA



Ancoats, Manchester , UK



Blackburn weavers cottages, UK

Rural Wool landscape: Biella/ Pray, Piedmont, Italy



Wool in Languedoc, France



Brassac spinning mills, and
hooks on the bridge for
tentering fulled cloth



Mazamet tanneries, fell-
mongers and a
conditioning house

Whirlpool fulling mill, Romania



Some rules

- Must be outstanding to meet UNESCO criteria
- Quality of original architecture must be the priority, not the brilliance of the recent intervention made by a “starchitect”
- The new use must build in flexibility for future economic shocks.
- It must at least have been started, and is not just an empty factory- sterilised but without life.
- Then key textile sites can be beacons of hope for other places too.

Thank you!

