



Opinion

Dr Patrick Martin, Society for Industrial Archaeology

While reading Sir Neil Cossons' edited 'Perspectives on Industrial Archaeology' recently, I was struck by the generally (and sometimes specifically!) negative tone regarding educational programs in IA. Because this volume is largely an historical view of the development of IA in the UK, it reflects upon the successes and failures of the field in that context, with the early promise of generating an academic discipline falling firmly in the "failure" column. As a person who has devoted much of my professional life in recent years to the establishment of a postgraduate degree program in IA, and to raising or maintaining a high standard of scholarship through the publication of 'IA, The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology,' I find this conclusion somewhat unsettling. However, I have come to much the same conclusion independently; my recent programmatic work is largely a reaction to the observation that IA had not found a solid academic home in North America. But at the same time, I also felt a bit of disagreement with the conclusions in the Cossons volume, for there are signs of improvement that those authors fail to acknowledge, signs that are a positive indication of directions to be followed and opportunities to pursue. As the authors in Cossons' collection are narrowly focused on the UK, I cannot fault them for not recognising our efforts in North America. But while they discuss the early successes and more recent diminishment of the Ironbridge program, they pay only the slightest attention to the active work at Leicester University. There can be no doubt that the appointment of Dr. Marilyn Palmer to the first UK Professorship in Industrial Archaeology is a significant event; though it is mentioned, it appears in a diminished status, including a footnote. (Perhaps this is because the program is pointedly archaeological, rather than historical?) This opportunity to educate a new generation of students in IA is a potentially critical expansion of the field, and the program has already spawned some talented practitioners. Together with tools such as Palmer and Neaverson's 'Industrial Archaeology: Principles and Practice', the future has not looked brighter in years.

Another development that prompts positive, hopeful views of the future are the Seminars entitled "Future's Past", hosted by Dr. Marie Nisser and a consortium of colleagues and institutions. Sponsored by the EU, this series of meetings and workshops was aimed explicitly at stimulating educational and training missions, in this case tied to co-operative efforts

between Baltic and Scandinavian countries. While only a few specific programmatic solutions arose from the conferences, strong linkages were generated and ideas shared. At least two persistent themes arise, from the conclusions of failure in the UK, from the modest successes in North America, and from the ongoing Scandinavian/Baltic discussions [see Henrik Wager's article]. The first is that IA cannot hope to succeed as an independent academic discipline in a traditional sense. The field simply does not carry the momentum of an established discipline, nor has it developed the mature core of concepts and theory to sustain itself. IA must be planted in an interdisciplinary seedbed, melding the roots of history and archaeology, with a solid dose of geography and the emerging technologies of remote sensing, and an outreach via information technology; The generation of sound scholarship is a requirement, and that work must reach an audience that resides in multiple disciplinary homes.

Second, the first fifty years of practice have confirmed the need to maintain substantial links with the real-world issues of preservation and development. Operation as an ivory tower discipline is not feasible. There must be strong ties with the preservation community, including the forces of rehabilitation and reuse, decidedly economic undertakings rather than strictly intellectual ones. The growth of heritage tourism and the increasing realisations of value in the historic industrial landscape cannot be ignored by those responsible for training the practitioners of the future. In the twenty-first century university, partnerships with government and industry are increasingly important. The realisation of connections between the academy and the economy via industrial archaeology/heritage will be vital to the success of our field of interest, and must be introduced in the classroom.

NOTE: This document is a resetting of text and images from the original TICCIH *Bulletin*. It is not a reproduction of the original publication.

New industrial museums

The European Museum Forum awards for 2001 included several candidates that interpret industrial themes or buildings. The Museum for Communication includes the world's first, the Imperial Postal Museum, in Berlin, Germany. The Swedish Postal Museum uses modern technology in a 17th century post office. The German Salt Museum in Lüneberg occupies a historic building used for salt treatment. The Mining Museum of the Greek island of Milos explains the long history of mineral extraction there, including that of obsidian. The Norwegian Petroleum Museum has a new building in Stavanger whose architecture reflects the bedrock, coast and oil platforms of the region. The Mining Museum of Velenje in Slovenia occupies a mine shaft that was opened in 1885. The winner of the European Museum of the Year was the National Railway Museum in York, England, for its new gallery 'The Works'. This tells the story of railways using first-hand explainers, includes access to the conservation workshops, and has a real-time link to the operation of a section of railway in northern England. The winner of the Micheletti Award for industrial candidates was the Fabrica do Inglês cork museum at Silves in Portugal, a late 19th century factory restored and opened by a commercial company. Information from Ann Nicholls, EuropeanMuseumForum@compuserve.com

Mining Conference

After the success of the first meeting of the Textile section this spring, a similar one is being arranged of the TICCIH Mining section. As with the textile conference, part of the objective is to constitute the section and establish its programme. Also hosted by the Museu de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya near Barcelona, in Spain, it will include visits to coal and salt mines, as well as to the 6,000 year emerald mines at Gavà. The kilometres of galleries, excavated with flint tools, are the oldest in Europe.

World textile sites

The first list of world textile sites, prepared tentatively by Mark Watson for the Textile Section meeting in April, is on the TICCIH web site, and is included here with the intention of encouraging a fuller and more geographically representative list.

Pioneers

Caraglio, Italy (silk), Cromford, UK (first cotton mill), Ditherington, UK (first iron framed building, flax), Charles V, Tourcoing, France (first reinforced concrete building: demolished. Any successors?)

Flagships: architectural one-offs or trend-setters (claims of outstanding value as works of art may be ambitious. Another way would be to link sites that produced outstanding de-

signs; Gobelins in France, Dovcot Studios in Edinburgh, UK, Turkey and Afghanistan for their carpets?)

Manningham, Bradford, UK (velvet), Salts, Bradford, UK (worsted/alpaca), Templeton, Glasgow, UK (carpets), New Lanark, UK, (cotton), Marshalls, Leeds, UK (flax, with Murray's engineering works), Ravensberger Spinnerei, Bielefeld, Germany (flax), Myslakowice, Silesia, Poland (flax)

Motte-Bossut, Roubaix, France (cotton), Casaramona, Barcelona, Spain (cotton), Vapor Americh, Amat y Jover, Terrassa, Spain (wool)

Giants

Largest in world, 1800: vying between Belper and New Lanark, UK (cotton); (by 1900 the largest single site employers (of 5-6,000) in the UK were Dean Clough, Halifax (wool carpets), Coats and Clark, Paisley (cotton thread) and Camperdown, Dundee (jute).

Largest in Europe, 1910: Krenholm, Narva, Estonia (cotton).

Largest in world (1912: 15,500 workers) Amoskeag, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA, Cotton

Technological transfer/multinationals

Slater, Pawtucket, USA (cotton from Belper, UK), Finlayson, Finland (cotton from Scotland to Russia), Zyrardow, Poland (flax, France to Russia, plus Austrians, Scots), Tithaghur, Samnugger etc., Calcutta, India (jute from India to Dundee and then technology transferred back again)

Coats/Clark, Paisley, UK (world-wide cotton thread empire: mostly demolished in Scotland, so best representative may be elsewhere, eg Kirov Kombinat, St Petersburg, Russia)

Time capsules (ie. unchanged):

Marzani, Abbadia Lariana, Italy (silk), Edessa, Greece (hemp twine), Chatham docks, UK (hemp rope), Dangerfield, Knockando and Islay, Scotland, UK (wool), Tuchfabrik Muller, Germany (wool), Queen Street Mill, Burnley UK (cotton weaving), Watkins Wool Mill, USA (wool), Somewhere in Mexico, Egypt or India? (cotton or jute spinning)

Textile Landscapes (meaning groupings of mills, factories, textile machinery works, industries ancillary to textiles and supporting the workforce, workers' and owners' housing, parks related institutions, water power and transport systems, agricultural landscapes where the raw material is produced and undergoes some initial processing. Much here depends on management strategies that safeguard the landscape).

Urban cotton: Ancoats and Oldham, Manchester, UK, Lowell, USA, Lodz, Poland (cotton and wool), Tampere, Finland (plus linen, wool, paper etc), Norrköping, Sweden, Ghent, Belgium (plus linen), Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing, Mulhouse,

France, Puebla, Mexico

Urban lace: Nottingham Lace Market, UK

Urban linen: Dundee and Leeds, UK

Urban jute: Calcutta, India

Urban wool: Halifax, Huddersfield, Selkirk, UK, Verviers, Belgium

Urban silk: Macclesfield, UK, Lyon, France

Rural cotton: Parc Fluvial Navas-Berga, Catalonia, Brede, Denmark, Derwent Valley, UK, Southern USA, Mexico (nb. also the haciendas in Yucatan, that worked the cactus fibre)

Rural linen: Lower Silesia/Bohemia/Lausitz, Poland/Czech/Germany, Sion Mills, Tyrone, Antrim, N Ireland, Blairgowrie, UK, Central Sweden, Kortrijk, Flanders, Belgium, Baltic States and Belarus

Rural wool: Pennines and Gloucestershire, UK., Adda, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, South America (but where?), Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan (for carpets)

Rural Silk: Lombardy, Tuscany, Italy, San Leucio WHS, Italy, Cevennes, France, Thrace, Greece and others on the European Silk Route, Samarkand, China

Well known examples of paternalist/utopian town planning

New Lanark and Saltaire, UK, Crespi d'Adda and San Leucio, Italy

Report

Teaching industrial heritage - an innovative task?

Dr Gracia Dorel-Ferré

To be able to speak of teaching industrial heritage implies a number of assumptions. How does industrial heritage exist as a discipline, firstly, and furthermore, as material for teaching? What is its field, its contents? Who will teach it, and to whom? A rapid scan of the horizon shows us that even if studies are leading the industrial heritage, in an uneven but genuine way, in many countries of Europe and America, after long years of struggle, out of the shadows, and it has started to be an argument for developers, artists, and businessmen, it is far from being welcomed as a whole discipline by the universities. On one hand, economic and social historians,

who have had the wind in their sails for the best part of twenty years, have still not assimilated industrial heritage as an integral part of their reflections. They wrongly consider this as a special object of study of architects, who neglect the socio-economic significance of the buildings for their forms and masses. Finally, our culture rests on bases defined in the last century which see the art of industry as a sub-category, not worthy to be on the same level as the Parthenon or the Coliseum. We have only just started to value the architectures of the world of work.

So for reasons to do with epistemological reservations and cultural stereotypes, industrial heritage is not accepted at its true value. Moreover, no university course includes industrial heritage in the first year of the university, only diplomas, when they exist, involved with specialist training or with post-graduates. In particular, the training of teachers does not include even the most minimal introduction to industrial heritage.

Yet consideration of teaching does exist. It concerns itself with preparation through active methods. Conceived at the turn of the twentieth century by the Frenchman Freinet, the Italian Montessori, the Catalan Ferrer Guardia, or equally the Belgian Decroly, they have in common the appropriation by the students of relevant knowledge by means of learning techniques in which they themselves take the initiative. Very naturally, the masterpieces of this teaching are the voyage of discovery, on the ground, and the recourse to documentation not only by means of the usual references, books and periodicals, but also videos and the resources provided by the Internet. One can see all sorts of applications for the industrial heritage. No one would consider studying the Middle Ages without visiting a church or château. Why study the XIX or XX century without going to a factory, a railway station or a bank?

However, putting into practice this teaching by active methods, one hits plenty of problems that follow from that what has been said above: if the teachers are not trained during their university courses, what about the directors and curators of the centres of documentation? How can mentalities be changed, and made so that partners in the world of education take the industrial heritage into account? Certain activities can help us here, such as 'town studies', that multiply their itineraries on the ground to make the distinctive characteristics better understood, or the 'field trips' that allow several days to be spent in a different milieu from the usual one of the school. In a more general way, multidisciplinary activities which encourage various teachers of different disciplines to work together can permit some of the looked-for objectives to be attained: to approach an industrial witness, research into people who have worked in a vanished industry, etcetera. The question remains of how to evaluate this activity, so different from the dissertation or commentary on documentary material that we are used to make. Other ways, other techniques, have to be found, and the role of the teachers is sometimes reduced.

Without doubt, among the measures that TICCIH could take

is a letter to the authorities at the highest international level highlighting this shortcoming in our teaching and its unhappy consequences. For it is not simply about a deficiency that has to be made good. To ignore the industrial heritage means to hide in a dramatic way all that relates in the clearest way to the past two centuries. How can our present be understood if we don't take account of our immediate past? It's all the more serious that the proponents of present day history hold the ground giving importance to events and political developments, regardless of everything that constitutes the everyday affairs of ordinary people. The television and newspapers shower us with interviews with a minority who seem to have made history their own, while the majority watch in silence while whole pieces of the sites that testify to the past disappear each day, under the pick of the demolition man.

The task is a big one: to promote the industrial heritage as a material for teaching and not just for academic research, to make the specialists aware of the need to make their discipline more widely available, to alert civil society to the peril of amnesia that awaits it, knowing that if we reach the children, the game is won, and the heritage saved.

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Training and research. The Nordic Experience

Professor Marie Nisser

In 1992, the Council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSFR) set up a chair and Marie Nisser was appointed professor. The chair was linked to the Department of History and Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Industrial Heritage Studies had not yet found an academic foothold and the new-founded chair was the first of its kind in Europe and elsewhere. Soon after the Swedish initiative another chair was set up in Freiberg in eastern Germany and the importance of training and research within the field started to be acknowledged in several universities and colleges over the world. History of Science and Technology had been recognised some decades earlier and is now an academic field of studies with high status in many parts of the world. The first temporary chair in Sweden is this discipline was set up at the Royal Institute of Technology in 1987 and five years later it became permanent. A second chair was set up at Gothenburg University in 1999.

The Industrial Heritage section at KTH together with Professor Maths Isacson at the Department of Economic History at Uppsala University took initiative to arrange a multi-disciplinary and multinational training course "Industrial Heritage in the Nordic countries – Knowledge, theories and methods" which has now been given three times between 1995-1998 in collaboration with a number of teachers and researchers at universities as well as

inspectors of the boards of national antiquities and museum attendants in the Nordic countries. Several industrial regions and sites in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have been studied as part of the fieldwork campaigns during four periods of intense training within each course. A number of aspects of industrial growth and change, of buildings, of working environment etc. have been analysed in about 50 theses and reports. Total of more than 80 participants have taken part in the three courses and they have formed a strong and sustainable network for exchange of information and knowledge. The training programme has contributed to strengthen the activities within the field of Industrial Heritage studies in the Nordic countries. It has given the teachers and participants a mutual understanding for similarities and differences of industrial growth and change in these countries. It has also increased the knowledge about the industrialisation of Northern Europe.

The training programme now continues in other forms. The multinational training has been widened to embrace the Baltic countries and further information about this project which is called the Industrial Heritage Platform is given by Henrik Wager in another article in this issue.

On a national level, Maths Isacson and Marie Nisser have initiated a research school in collaboration with a number of other disciplines at Uppsala and Stockholm universities together with the Forum for Industrial Heritage and Local Development in the municipality of Norberg. It is called "Technology, Industry and Culture" and has partly been financed by a grant from the European Community. The joint focus of research for the graduate students is region of Bergslagen.

In 1997, a national conference on training and research within the field in question was arranged in Stockholm under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. And in June 2000 an international conference on the same subject was arranged in Norberg. The conclusion of the discussions at the working sessions was among other things that there is a long-felt demand to further develop the skills, knowledge and management of the industrial heritage and that training programmes ought to be strengthened in the future. The issues of research need to be broadened. New questions have to be raised continuously and this should be done in a local, regional, national and international comparative perspective. The studies should be organised in joint multidisciplinary projects.

Over the years we have seen a number of training programmes being launched. It would be important to evaluate all those training efforts and draw some guidelines for the future. What could we learn from each other in an international perspective? What could be the role of TICCIH in such an evaluation work with the aim to strengthen our endeavours in the future to confirm the role of Industrial Heritage studies within the academic agenda?

Current Issues on Training in Industrial Heritage in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

Henrik Wager

Background

The training project is a part of larger programme within the framework of a Nordic-Baltic Industrial Heritage Platform 2000-2002 (IHP). The IHP is a three-year co-operation programme which aims to increase and strengthen the knowledge, appreciation and appropriate use of industrial heritage in the Baltic Sea region. The project has obtained its basic funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

At present there is no special organisation that gives international multidisciplinary training in the field of industrial heritage in the Nordic and Baltic countries since the unique, multidisciplinary and multinational Nordic courses concerned with the industrial heritage came to a halt in 1998.

Since 1999, the focus on training concerned with the industrial heritage has been expanded from the Nordic to the Baltic countries. The idea and initiative emerged from the teachers who were involved in the Nordic courses. The point of departure for this development was an international seminar, 'Industrial Heritage in the Nordic and Baltic countries', held in October 1999, in Helsinki, Finland. The seminar was followed by another, 'Future's past' - sponsored by the Swedish Institute and held in June 2000, in Norberg, Sweden. This seminar provided an overview on preservation, training and research in the field of the industrial heritage in the Nordic and Baltic countries, Central-Europe and the United States of America.

It can be stated that the needs for training related to the industrial heritage varies in the Baltic and Nordic countries. This for practical as well as theoretical education. The industrial heritage has been recognized as an important field of action not only with regard to conservation and adaptive re-use issues but also in view of training and research. Inevitably there are differences in the Nordic countries, e.g. in means and resources. There is also a lack of a joint, effective and applicable working model/method for taking care and management of the industrial heritage. The aim is to create such a model through training.

The Baltic countries, however, do not have equally strong traditions in this area. Nor do they have at this moment sufficient resources to develop them. The industrial heritage also plays a restricted role in Baltic antiquarian administration. The major threats for the industrial heritage in the Baltic countries are the destruction and disappearance of culturally and historically valuable environment with its structures and facilities, along with the ensuing loss of socio-economic values as a result of rapid economic change. Under present conditions, the safeguarding of the industrial heritage calls for awareness

and recognition of socio-cultural and economical values at all levels in society. Advanced professional training for special needs has been recognised to be a particularly urgent requirement. Actors within the field in question within the Baltic countries feel that only through international co-operation - with training as a part of it - can their industrial heritage be saved.

The training project

The training project will be carried out in two steps in 2001-2002. In the first year, three thematic bilateral and tri-lateral pilot courses will take place in each of the Baltic countries. The courses will be implemented in the spring and summer 2001. The Swedish-Latvian course 'Industrial Heritage and Societies in Transition - New Life Industrial Areas - Theories, Methods and Knowledge' is divided in two workshops. The first workshop took place in 23-29 April 2001 in Norberg, Sweden. The second workshop will be carried out in 1-6 October 2001 in Riga and Liepaja, Latvia. The course between Finland and Estonia 'Old Factory - New Use' took place in 11-17 June, 2001 in Tallinn, Estonia. The participating countries in the third joint course 'Recording Living Industrial Heritage' are Denmark, Lithuania and Norway. The course will take place in Kaunas, Lithuania, between 29 August - 5 September 2001. They are intended for graduate students, post-graduates at universities, museum attendants and inspectors of historic buildings at national level and regional levels, architects and local planners, and anyone who is engaged in the industrial sector from all of the participating countries.

The first Swedish-Latvian workshop included fieldwork, seminars, lectures, and presentations of papers. Fieldwork and excursions focused on the problems that four communities Norberg, Avesta, Fagersta and Västerås in the Bergslagen region have had to tackle in the latest decades and the studies dealt with examples of good solutions as well as shortcomings. Attention was given not only to buildings and landscapes but to how indigenous communities move on in the face of newcomers who come and bring new skills and energies to replace them. The same questions will be raised and the same problems will be studied in the second workshop in Latvia in October 2001.

The Norwegian-Danish-Lithuanian pilot course on surveying, inventories and photo documentation, architecture and construction of the industrial heritage, aims to teach and discuss the effective and qualitative documentation of the industrial heritage. The objective of the field course will be to train participants in organising their observations in such a way as to produce relevant, structured and understandable information in an archival form - and to create a documentation report of a factory or industrial installation. The fieldwork will take place in a match factory 'Liepsna' in Kaunas, Lithuania. In 1930, Swedish 'Svenska Tändsticks Aktiebolaget' purchased the factory and a large proportion of the process machinery from the 1950's is still in daily use.

The mutual workshop between Finland and Estonia concen-

trated on fieldwork, in which the participants studied alternatives for the adaptive re-use of industrial facilities. The course focused also on the preservation of the industrial-historical character of buildings in re-use. As a result, an exhibition was arranged. Study objects of the workshop were a cellulose factory (from late 1920's and early 1930's) and hydroplane hangars (built in 1916). The fieldwork days began with lectures by experts on the specific theme of the day. The evenings were reserved for more lectures on the themes of the day and the presentation of the fieldwork.

The purpose of the above mentioned pilot courses is to build a basis for an extensive course to be held in 2002. The pilot courses will give experiences of a great value for the implementation of this course. The planning of the extensive course has recently started.

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Worldwide

FINLAND

'Consulting hours' on industrial heritage

Tuija Mikkonen

TICCIH-Finland, the society for industrial heritage in Finland, has launched a new means of promoting industrial heritage matters: consulting hours, called 'industrial heritage clinic'. In a country like Finland with quite long distances between different cities and towns, it is not easy to arrange events to gather people from all over the country. Therefore, the society has decided to go into the field and to arrange regional meetings and consulting hours. There is also evident need to meet local actors to discuss current and practical questions.

The first consulting hours were held in May 2001 in Kotka, Kymi river valley (Kymenlaakso), south-eastern part of Finland. The region is one of the most industrialised areas in Finland, specialised in wood processing and paper industry. The meeting was held in the Concrete Technology Centre in a recently renovated building of the former Kotka Steam Brewery (1895-1967). Concrete technology was the special topic of the meeting. Although the concrete has been a very popular construction material during the past century, the investigation and research concerning concrete is quite small. CT Centre promotes the co-operation between experts both on the national and international level in order to produce new information about the concrete technology and to develop the product.

The consulting hours gathered a wide variety of participants,

representing museums, authorities, voluntary associations, and industrial companies. The general condition of industrial heritage in Kymi river valley was considered to be quite good. Several sites have been preserved, and adaptive reuse projects have been carried out. Many large industrial companies of the region have a positive approach to the heritage questions.

The national charting of industrial heritage sites in Finland was made at the end of the 1980s, and some regional and local inventory lists specialised on industrial buildings and sites have been made during the last two decades. The lack of financial resources on systematic inventory, consultation and advice work is, however, a problem within the heritage protection authorities.

The planning of the future use of industrial sites should be made in co-operation with municipalities, other authorities, regional and municipal museums, and technical universities. All former industrial buildings cannot be preserved and transformed to museums. Therefore, it would be useful to summarise examples of good adaptive reuse projects as guidelines.

Discussion on different values when evaluating the importance of preservation of old industrial buildings was considered very important. It is often quite difficult to motivate the citizens to accept renovation of old buildings when a brand new dwelling house is another alternative. However, appreciation of preservation and respect for the historical value of industrial sites are increasing. One possibility to avoid the decay of the building is just to repair the roof, and wait for a good and practical solution.

The consulting hours in Kotka were a good indication for the increasing needs and desire to discuss and solve practical problems on industrial heritage and the protection of industrial sites. It was also a good example of decentralisation of heritage work.

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Portugal

Vale de Milhaços gunpowder factory, Seixal – a unique place, to become a museum

Graça Felipe

An old workshop of the black powder production circuit of the Sociedade Africana de Pólvora, in Vale Milhaços, Seixal, Portugal, is the place for an exhibition showing one hundred years of the history of this factory based on the steam power. Entitled Fábrica da Pólvora de Vale de Milhaços – séculos

XIX e XX (Vale Milhaços Gunpowder Factory – 19th and 20th centuries), the exhibition was conceived by the Ecomuseu Municipal do Seixal.

As a result of a joint initiative of the Municipality and the factory owners, who decided to create, in 2001, a local development agency, the black powder circuit project of becoming a museum is in progress. The circuit will be conserved functioning in situ, although for safety reasons, an inert product will replace the final one. Presently, the site is visitable as an extension of the Ecomuseu do Seixal.

A small team of factory workers and engineers, essential for the conservation and handling of the engines, production system and the cable energy transmission system, is also associated with this project.

In 1998, at the time of the hundredth anniversary, the-then Executive President of the TICCIH, Eusebi Casanelles not only found the buildings and equipment the 19th century factory quite remarkable, (boiler house, steam engine house, grinding, milling, pressing, corning, sieving, glazing, weighing and packing workshops, stove, sun dryer, expense magazine, raw materials warehouse, fitting-shop, and carpenters) but also the cable energy transmission system and the inner wagonette system (rail system).

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Conference Report

SWEDEN

‘Industrial heritage as a force in the democratic society’

Professor Marilyn Palmer

Sweden held the presidency of the EU for the first six months of 2001 and one of the main events organised as part of this was a pan-European conference on the preservation and management of the industrial heritage. The base for the conference was Örebro in Bergslagen, the heartland of the Swedish mining industry but now, as elsewhere in Europe, a post-industrial area trying to come to terms with drastic changes to its previous industrial economy. This was the theme of the conference.

Three major sessions were organised around the key words of Identity, Democracy and Force, each introduced by a speaker on the first day. Thereafter, the three groups each heard six papers from different international speakers and debated the significance of the industrial heritage to their particular theme. I gave a paper called ‘Volunteering: the British experi-

ence of industrial heritage conservation’ in the Democracy session while Annika Alzén from the University of Linköping described the ‘I dig as I stand’ movement in Sweden which encouraged the study of local history. Nicholas Falk from URBED described community involvement in industrial heritage conservation projects, taking as an example the rehabilitation of the Liberty silk and bleach works in the Wandle Valley. The Chairman of the National Heritage Board of Estonia argued that the present government of Estonia was born out of the heritage movement there which followed freedom from Russian domination, while a Swedish-financed project to help rebuild decayed communities in Poland (the Halland Model) was also presented as an example of co-operation between the highly democratic state of Sweden and the previously hierarchic country of Poland.

My group concluded that industrial heritage conservation did indeed contribute to democracy, as it was the heritage of working people that was being conserved, often following community pressure for the rehabilitation of derelict industrial areas. The other two groups followed a similar pattern: the only problem with the structure of the conference was the lack of communication between the three groups until the final session, since questions of identity and democracy were difficult to separate, while ‘force’ was actually quite difficult to define in terms of the cultural heritage. However, Henry Cleere, who chaired this session, concluded with a model of the processes of industrial heritage conservation that most of us were very ready to accept.

The conference organisers took advantage of the location of the conference in Bergslagen to hold daily sessions in different areas experiencing problems of rehabilitation. Degefors, the location for day two of the conference, had a huge steel industry until the 1940s, now represented by a stainless steel plant operated by Avesta-Polarit and employing far fewer people. The conference was held in various parts of the workers’ village and the plant itself, and included a tour of the operating steel works. The setting for day three of the conference was Nora, a pleasant town with lots of old wooden houses but also the scene of a once large coal mining industry. The first standard gauge railway in Sweden was built here and the steam trains which still run on it are operated by a volunteer group: the line takes visitors to Pershyttan, where there is a large charcoal blast furnace similar in many ways to Backbarrow in the Lake District, and also to Gyttorp, where an area of twentieth century housing built for one of Alfred Nobel’s factories has been declared part of the Swedish cultural heritage and undergone restoration. The visit following the conference took in not only Falun, which produced the majority of Swedish copper from the 17th century onwards and is now nominated for World Heritage status, but also Grängesberg, where a huge iron mine has recently closed and its community is seeking a new existence, and Borlänge, with its industrial suburbs of wooden houses.

This was an extraordinary conference in the true sense of the word. Two of the dinners were arranged in old industrial plants, the first in one of the rolling mills of Avesta-Polarit

where the billet rolling plant re-commenced once dinner was over. The second was held in one of the engine sheds at Nora. Seating and feeding 150 people in these conditions was no mean feat: they had actually laid areas of grass in the rolling mill, and organised an art exhibition at the same time, while the dinner at Nora was followed by a symbolic burning of a wood and straw sculpture, the significance of which escaped many of the delegates (except that the last firing of the furnace at Pershyttan had been on Walpurgis night?). The splendid food (including nettle soup and roast elk) was organised by the Department of Restaurant and Culinary Art at Örebro University and the Dinner Society of Örebro County. All in all, it was a splendid celebration of the Swedish presidency of the EU and an object lesson in the seriousness with which industrial heritage preservation is taken in the Scandinavian and Baltic states.

GREAT BRITAIN

Studios under threat

Dr Robert Carr

At Alexandra Palace in North London are two studios from which the world's first regular high-definition television broadcasts were made. The studios in question are the EMI studio A and the 1936/7 Baird studio B. They are currently under threat, as the interior of the south-east wing of the building which contains them is unlisted and a danger has arisen that the wing could be gutted and used for something like a bingo hall or wine bar as it has been proposed to lease the Palace to a developer. It is astonishing that this major monument to our technological heritage is not being taken more seriously. A campaign and petition to save the studios is being organised by John Thompson. If you care, contact him for further information at 5 Prospect Place, London N17 8AT, telephone 020 8808 0692, or e-mail thompson.john@btinternet.com

Books received

R.R. Angerstein's Illustrated Travel Diary, 1753-1755; industry in England and Wales from a Swedish perspective, translated by Torsten and Peter Berg, introduction by Prof. Marilyn Palmer. 2001. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD, 2001

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Diary of an industrial spy of the Swedish government, especially interested in the iron industry, touring Britain in the period between the introduction of Newcomen's steam engine and water-powered silk throwing, and Watt's improvements and the Arkwright cotton mill.

—*Axel Föhl*

Events

TICCIH conferences

Chile

Third colloquium on the Preservation of Industrial Heritage, TICCIH-Chile

13-16 September, 2001, post conference tour 17-21 September, Santiago de Chile.

The Third Latin American meeting organised with TICCIH will continue from those held in Puebla, México and La Habana, Cuba. The encounter will stress the relevance of industrial heritage for cultural, economic, and technical activities in Latin America. Its importance for the development of tourism and education will be one of the key topics in the discussion.

Contact TICCIH-Chile, Tel/fax: (56-2) 3364 2113, conpalch@entelchile.net or see the TICCIH web page for full details in English and Spanish.

Germany

Third meeting of the TICCIH Paper Section and 'The Watermark Route' project

26-28 April, 2001, Bergisch Gladbach

Hosted by the Bergish Gladbach paper museum, part of the Reinisches Industriemuseum network, the meeting will continue the very successful series of meetings between paper museums and people interested in the conservation of the paper industry. The theme of the meeting will be the relationship between paper museums and the paper industry, in the past and also the future. Visits to historic paper mills

in the Cologne area. www.mmp-capellades.net/watermark-route

Russia

TICCIH XII International Congress: 'Preservation of industrial heritage and rehabilitation of old industrial centres'

10-14 July, 2003 in Moscow, and 14-18 July post-congress tour to NizhnyTagil in the Urals

The next full TICCIH Conference will be an opportunity to see some of the most interesting as well as spectacular industrial heritage sites in the world. Papers are invited on the above theme. The official language will be English, but papers also in French and Russian, with simultaneous translation of plenary sessions. Study visits in Moscow and cultural programme include the Kremlin, the Bolshoi Theatre, and the Moscow river. Post-congress tour of the famous mining and metallurgical sites in the Urals, including a helicopter trip over the 1882 Ust-Borovsky salt works. Details will be sent out in December 2001. Eugene Logunov, Institute of Material Culture, PO Box 65, Ekaterinburg, B-109, Russia 620109, tel: +7 3432 297874 fax: +7 3432 297731 logunov@online.ural.ru

Other events

Norway

The International Water History Association: 'The Role of Water in History and Development'

10-12 August 2001, Bergen

2nd IWHA conference at the University of Bergen, in association with UNESCO.

This conference will bring together researchers from different disciplines who all study the character and role of freshwater in history and development. Themes include engineering and dam narratives. The final call for papers is in June, 2001. www.iwha.net

France

CIMUSET: 'Museums of Science and Technology and the new means of communication'

Paris, 23-29 September, 2001

Palais de la Découverte, Avenue D Roosevelt, 75008 Paris, T: +33 1 407 48100, bernard.blache@palais-decouverte.fr

Great Britain

Second International Early Railways Conference

6-9 September, 2001, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester.

Papers on early railways (defined as pre-mainline in concept but not necessarily in date) not only in Britain but in America and a number of European countries. Topics will include track, locomotives, technology transfer, operation and finances. michael@lew.karoo.co.uk

Scientific committee: Centre for Railway Studies, University of York, National Railway Museum, Newcomen Society, Beamish Open Air Museum, and the Locomotive Trust.

Full details from the Executive Secretary, Newcomen Society, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD, www.earlyrailways.org

Spain

Basque Industrial Heritage Congress

'Industrial Heritage Management in XXI Century Europe', Bilbao, 18, 19 and 20 October, 2001

A regional Congress for interested professionals and scholars, analysing the situation of industrial heritage and the progress made in the Basque region in recent years compared to other European regions – Sweden: Bergslagen Ekomuseum. Industrial museums. England: Manchester. Regeneration and new uses. Germany: Emscher Park. Industrial landscapes. Urban development and industrial heritage. The Basque Country: The transformation of the landscape. Communications on the papers will be accepted concerning the main monographic subject dealt with in each one. Contact avpiop@avpiop.com and <http://www.geocities.com/avpiop>

Netherlands

IV International Congress on Social History, The Hague, 27 February – 2 March, 2002

International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg, 31, 1019 Amsterdam, T: +31 20 668 5866, kho@iisg.nl

France

Highlighting Industrial Heritage

17, 18 and 19 September, 2002, Saline Royale, France, plus two days of site visits in Franche-

Compté and Swiss Jura. See the web site <http://patrimoine.saline.free.fr>

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