Opinion

Rheinisches Amt für Denkmalpflege

Axel Föhl

In December 2001, the 1930’s complex of hard coal mine and coking plant (1958-1987) of Zollverein in Essen-Katernberg in the Western part of the Ruhrgebiet was declared a World Heritage Site. It is the third large-scale industrial complex to be part of the German list. Rammelsberg metal ore mine (including the mediaeval centre of nearby Goslar) and Völklingen blast furnace works preceded Zollverein in 1992 and respectively 1994. There is no question that the all-round qualities of the 120 hectare Zollverein site make it an outstanding monument to the history of technology as well as to the architectural history of the 20th century. Rainer Slotta, in his 1999 publication as a prelude to the 2001 listing, made this abundantly clear. Probably nowhere else in the world a top industrial architect got the chance, as was the case with Zollverein central shaft Nr.XII, to develop an architectural coherence that the engineers with their technical necessities just had to follow. The splendid 2002 exhibition ‘Symmetry and Symbol’ about Zollverein architects Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer (shown in the mine itself) underlined this fact most impressively.

Like in the case of the amazing Vienna group of gas-holders (cf. TICCIH bulletin 16, 2002, p.1 and 7) however, what causes concern with the Zollverein site is not so much what it is, but what it is supposed to become in the near future: Still under the auspices of the 1989-1999 International Building Exhibition IBA in the Ruhrgebiet, (then) Sir Norman Foster got the chance to transform the former central power station of the mine into an exhibition space for the North-Rhine-Westphalian Design Centre. Cutting open four of the 1929/1935 boilers. One 1929 boiler has been left intact. Other parts of the mine serve as exhibition halls or are rented out to several enterprises. What has so far been left intact was the coal washing plant. ‘Stiftung (Foundation) Zollverein’ has since 1998 established a guided tour regime here that allows visitors to take in the original technical pattern of working the 12,000 tons of coal per day, after it had been brought up the central shaft XII of the Zollverein mine (other surviving shafts are part of the world heritage site as well). This ‘Stiftung’ has undertaken a splendid job of interpretation and information so far.

Getting a good deal of money (€90 million, mainly from EU sources), the newly established ‘EGZ’ (Zollverein Development Corporation) put forward a plan to make Zollverein an international centre of design, incorporating a design school and a worldwide, 100-day fair, called ‘metaform’ that is to take place in 2005 for the first time (every five years hence). At the moment the debate is about how to transform the highly intact coal washing plant, that is densely packed with historic machinery, into a ‘plug-in centre’ as well as into a newly planned ‘Ruhrmuseum’. Here again the question is whether someone like Rotterdam architect Rem Koolhaas, who has designed buildings like the famous The Hague ‘Netherlands Dance Theatre’, is the most suitable architect to carefully blend historic structures with new uses, cautiously discerning between using something in a different way or using it up. One has to keep in mind that Zollverein XII was made a World Heritage Site for what it is and not for what it could possibly be converted into.

At least one can say that a most destructive concept of some years ago, namely to crown the coal washing plant with an immense glassed-in cube, has been abandoned – if only after UNESCO clearly stated that this idea would prevent the listing of Zollverein as a world heritage site.

Time is running out for all participants in the planning process. In 2002, a ‘master plan’ was presented. Rem Koolhaas designed several new buildings as well as communication structures to accommodate a congress centre, the proposed school of design, hotels and enterprise zones. Everybody who has followed Koolhaas’ work over the last 20 years, has to ask himself, whether this is an architect suited to carefully integrate new features into existing structures. So far, the activities of the planners on the Zollverein premises have led to something the German press called ‘the execution of a listed monument’. The legally protected salt storehouse of the coking plant was partly demolished to accommodate a large-scale object of art, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov’s ‘Palace of Projects’. Public protest was also provoked a little later when, in June 2002, two live tigers were temporarily displayed in a coal bunker of the same coking plant.
On the other hand, in 1999 and again in 2000, gifted exhibition architect Jürg Steiner demonstrated in his (and two other curators) three-month-exhibition ‘Sun, Moon and Stars’, that drew hundred thousands of visitors into the widely unaltered, formerly forbidden spaces of the coking works, how new features can be sensitively blended in structures that in themselves possess a strong and impressive character. It is that kind of use that industrial archaeologists hope for – using the monumental remains of the heavy industry of 19th and 20th century Ruhrgebiet to give people access to the formerly ‘forbidden’ world of mining and ironmaking that established the importance of Germany’s most potent heavy industry region. The objective can only be to use those spaces and structures without using them up for good. At the moment, it looks like a race against time (2005 design fair, EU money deadlines) whose outcome is very open concerning the chances of survival of Zollverein as an outstanding monument of the industrial history of the 20th century.

TICCIH News

TICCIH continued to work to cement its relationship with ICOMOS, to which it gives advice on matters of industrial heritage. The TICCIH President, Eusebi Casanelles, wrote recently to the newly-elected President of ICOMOS Michael Petzet to suggest a meeting to discuss areas of future cooperation, and to give him the draft of the charter for industrial heritage that TICCIH will present at the Moscow congress in July.

After ICOMOS sent a letter to the UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, on Iraq’s cultural heritage, the TICCIH Secretary Stuart Smith also wrote to Mr Petzet commenting that there were no historic industrial remains in Iraq which required protection, but he is investigating whether this is in fact so. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, for instance, had refineries, company housing, hospitals, schools, workshops, and similar facilities at Abadan in the Masjidi Suleiman oilfields. Any information on the existence of industrial heritage in Iraq, or indeed of any contacts in that country concerned with its study or conservation, would of great interest, and should be sent to Stuart Smith. (See foot of page 2 for contact details).

The XIII TICCIH Congress?

At the time of going to press, the Board have not received any proposals to host the next congress, in 2006. Distant though that date may seem, TICCIH wants to establish its triennial meeting in good time in an international conference calendar that is every year more congested.

The criteria for a suitable place are that it should have an important industrial heritage and be well-communicated. The experience of the Millennium Congress in London suggested that smaller cities rather than great national capitals can be more suitable for this type of meeting, in which the chance to make and renew acquaintances ranks highly in delegates lists of priorities.

National Reports

The organisers of the Russian congress had hoped to publish all the National Reports in Moscow, but at the time of going to press, they have still not been received from Australia, Canada, Chile, Estonia, Great Britain, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Turkey and USA, as well as from Africa and most of Latin America. Mr Eugene Logunov has had to postpone publication until afterwards in the hope of achieving a fuller picture of industrial heritage over the last few years.

TICCIH in Africa and Asia

International organisations such as TICCIH tend to enjoy a stronger representation and participation in Europe and North America than other parts of the world where funding for attending meetings and conferences is harder to come by. TICCIH wants to be able to increase participation from outside its traditional regions and is looking for any sources of funding that can be used to help and encourage a wider participation in its meetings. Any suggestions or guidance would be welcomed by the Board, or through the Bulletin. Likewise the names of possible representatives in regions where industrial heritage is a new and uncertain discipline, or in countries such as Egypt, India, Pakistan or Israel in which TICCIH has a nominal representation but the connection seems to have broken down.

World Heritage List nominated sites 2003

In contrast to last year, none of the 32 nominations for the WHL in 2003 was industrial in character. The full list can be seen at http://www.international.icomos.org/world_heritage/nominated2003.htm

Textile section – guidelines for selecting historic textile sites

As the report on the Euskirchen conference (Conference report) notes, there was considerable discussion of the project of the textile section to develop some guidelines or criteria for assessing historic textile sites. The original draft has now been revised by its author, Mark Watson, and the new text is posted on the TICCIH web site. Any comments on his latest proposal should be sent to the author who would welcome discussion of the theme with other experts of textile heritage.

Conference report

II international meeting of the Textile Section, Euskirchen, Germany

Detlef Stender promised to host the second meeting of the TICCIH Textile Section at his museum, the Rheinische Industriemuseum Euskirchen, at the end of the first meeting two years ago in Barcelona. He made good his promise with a relaxed and smoothly organised conference over four days in April. The meeting took in an animated discussion around the project to draw up guidelines and a list of historic sit's that UNESCO, among others, could use, and three very different approaches to the interpretation and explanation of the textile process and its history.

The three institutions that organised the meeting have very different approaches to the explanation of how yarn and cloth are, or rather, were, produced. The Centre Touristique de la laine et de la mode in Verviers, Belgium, is a centre that promotes woollen textiles and that aims at tourist visitors and school parties. It occupies the early 19th century Dithier's Manufacture, a four-story Neo-classical factory around an open courtyard. Its exhibition consists of small stage sets, using original objects and machinery as well as sound and lighting effects, through which the visitor strolls and which explain the process from sheering sheep through manufacturing textile and the sale of clothes. The Rheinische Industriemuseum in Ratingen (Cromford Mill) is in part of the old Spinnerei Cromford, built in 1783–1784 although now in a very different urban context than when it was first producing cotton. With strong educational objectives, it has been equipped with working reconstructions of various historic machinery in order to explain how key machines, each one a technological threshold, functioned. One of its most important pieces is a reconstruction of an Arkwright water frame built in collaboration, though not necessarily agreement, with the team that operate the original Cromford Mill in Derbyshire, in England.

Finally, the host museum, the Industrial Museum Euskirchen, which is as authentic as its cousin in Ratingen is pedagogic. The Tuchfabrik Müller (Müller textile mill) was a functioning if old-fashioned woollen mill that was reborn overnight as a modern industrial museum. This is a speciality of the Rheinische Industriemuseum network, which includes the Solingen knife works, in which as much as possible is kept as it is when the factory shuts down. At Euskirchen, the interpretational elements - text panels, models explaining for instance the movement of materials through the building, or glass cases containing ephemera of the old work – are modern elements but scattered discretely around the working space. The result seemed to satisfy both the textile and industrial historians as well as the industrial museologists at the meeting. Among the members of the busy Friends of the Museum is Mrs Müller, the widow of the former owner.

The academic side of the meeting concentrated on two
themes, the preparation of guidelines to draw up international comparisons of textile mills, and the transfer of textile technology, principally between England and continental Europe. The main debate at the meeting was over the first theme, which was laid out by Mark Watson who has carried the discussion since it was begun at the I Textile Section meeting in Terrassa and Barcelona and which are posted on the TICCIH web site. Dr Michael Mende presented a number of large sites in Germany but there was a certain scepticism from German colleagues about the value of the approach, expressed by Axel Föhl in a forceful critique of the project and of TICCIH’s wider role as IOCOMOS and UNESCO.

Worldwide

BELGIUM

From Grand Hornu to MAC’s, from Coalmine to museum for Museum for Contemporary Arts

Patrick Viaene (TICCIH-Belgium)

Last year the MAC’S or “Musée des Arts Contemporains” opened its doors to the public after three years of restoration and renovation works conducted by the Belgian architect Pierre Hebbelinck. This was an important feature in the history of this extraordinary former industrial site. Many thousands of visitors from Belgium and abroad have discovered the quality of the renovation works and the excellent permanent and temporary thematic exhibitions about contemporary art in Wallonia, Belgium and from other countries. The director of the museum, Laurent Busine is the right man on the right place. He was the former director and curator of the exhibition-programmes in the “Palais des Beaux Arts” of Charleroi, a main venue in the Belgian art scene. Busine is known world-wide in the contemporary art world for his great sensitivity and originality in the way he makes concepts for art exhibitions, condemning the artificial barriers between avant-garde and outsider art, barriers between “serious” and popular art. The permanent confrontation and dialogue during the visit of the MAC’S between the industrial architecture of the former coalmine-site and the minimalist architecture of Pierre Hebbelinck is another important quality.

The architect created new exhibition spaces behind the old walls of the former coalmine workshops with much respect for the existing architectural substance, created new floor levels in certain parts of the building who

fits marvellously well with the monumental architecture.

In some parts of the Grand-Hornu complex the association “Grand-Hornu Images”, directed by Françoise Busine, the wife of the museum-director, continues her exhibition programme about XXth century design, architecture, art and culture in the largest meaning. Grand-Hornu-Images still operates on the site of Grand Hornu since 1984. Both institutions are supported by the French Community of Belgium and the Province of Hainaut. That is the reason why the MAC’s is generally speaking well accepted by the local population of Hornu and surroundings, a region in deep economic crisis and with a high degree of unemployment since the closing of the mines followed by the that of many other traditional industries. About 40% of the visitors come from Flanders, the Brussels region and Holland, many visitors also are French. Many of them combine their visit to the Grand Hornu (MAC’s) with other industrial sites of great interest as the ship elevators in La Louvière, the new Mining Museum of Bois-du-Luc of the recently opened Walloon Industrial Museum and Mining Memorial in Marcinelle, near Charleroi, installed in the former coalmine of Bois-du-Cazier, tragically known in Wallonia because of the accident in 1956 when hundreds of Italian and Belgian miners died. “Les registres du Grand-Hornu” a major art work in the MAC’s, created by the French artist Christian Boltanski resumes very well the tragic living and working-conditions of the miner population in Hornu, a “pars pro toto” for the social identity of the Borinage-region. With the creation of the MAC’s, Wallonia has a decent opponent and counterpart for the SMAK in Ghent (Flanders) en the MUKHA in Antwerp, the two other important museums in Belgium presenting Contemporary Arts. Practical information : MAC’s, rue Sainte-Louise, 7031 Hornu. Tel.: 0032/65/65.2121, Internet-site : www.grand-hornu.be info.ghi@grand-hornu.be.

Conferences

POLAND

Prof. Edmund Wittbrodt, HOT-GO4 Conference Chairperson

Gdańsk University of Technology will celebrate two jubilees in academic year 2004/05. The first involves the founding of the first institution of higher education in Gdańsk Königliche Technische Hochschule zu Danzig in 1904 and the second its transformation into the Polish state university in 1945 Politechnika Gdańska. This university has continued to grow and is now known as the Gdańsk University of Technology, being the largest technical university in northern Poland.

To celebrate this long and distinguished history, the Gdansk University of Technology Alumni Association is organizing the International Conference “Heritage of Technology – Gdańsk
Outlook 4” (HOT-GO4) on May 4-7, 2005. There is a tradition of research and interest in the preservation of the past technological achievements not just among academic staff at the University, but within Polish society. Some recent events include Poland’s first International Seminar “Preservation of Industrial Heritage – Gdańsk Outlook” (PIH-GO) organized in Gdańsk in 1993, and its second edition – in 1995 (PIH-GO II). Special Project “Technology and Heritage” was executed as a contribution to the Millennium of the City of Gdańsk in 1997. The break of the Millennia at the Gdańsk University of Technology was illuminated by means of the International Conference “Preservation of the Engineering Heritage – Gdańsk Outlook 2000” (PIH-GO 2000). Papers, reports, and special issues about all those activities were published altogether in twelve volumes. Apart from that research, the significant follows-up appeared in bringing the attention of authorities to the outstanding monuments: the Stone Sluice in Gdańsk and the road bridge over the Vistula river in Tczew. Another practical achievement is the course on “Cultural aspects of construction”, which was included in the curriculum of the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 1998.

The forthcoming conference is dedicated to the role of past technology in the cultural life of society. The following problems are proposed for discussion in eight sections:

1. Identity and historical memory of the industrial society – the tangible and intangible heritage of technology.
2. Embodiment of ingenium – approach to heuristics by the investigation of the phenomena of technical creativeness.
4. Heritage of names – biographical notes about inventors of old testing instruments or methods being still in use and named after them.
5. History of engineering for engineers – case studies on the recent teaching experience.
6. Toward e-society – ICT for promotion of cultural heritage and conservation-restoration of its resources.
7. Technological themes in fine arts, music and poetry.
8. History of engineering sciences and education in Gdańsk.

We hope that the discussion of proposed topics and the conclusions drawn should satisfy all of those who are willing to contribute to the sustainability of technical, industrial and engineering heritage. You are welcome to take part in the HOT-GO4 Conference. For more information, please, visit the website: http://hotgo4.mech.pg.gda.pl

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Worldwide

SPAIN

The Spanish National Plan for Industrial Heritage (Plan Nacional de Patrimonio Industrial)

The low value put on Spain’s industrial legacy in many part of the country, and the constant threats to its survival, have prompted the Dirección General de Bellas Artes y Bienes Culturales in Madrid in 2000 to commission the first National Plan for Industrial Heritage from the Instituto del Patrimonio Histórico Español as an attempt to lay out the bases for its protection, conservation and recuperation. The PNPI was presented in April 2001, and the first phase of the Plan was completed in March this year, when a list of 49 important historic industrial sites around the country was approved.

The Plan identifies three classes of industrial heritage: elements which are isolated either by their character or by the loss of related structures, and whose historic value is testimony to a particular industrial activity; complete sites that form a coherent example of some industry; and industrial landscapes in which all the essential components of a productive process are visible. The historical period of the Plan extends from the beginning of the mechanisation of industrial processes in the late-18th century up to the period of their automation. The technical realm of the Plan includes both the technological as well as associated architectural ingredients like housing, churches or settlements.

The Plan aims to achieve a balanced representation of all the major industrial sectors, of all the regions of the country, and of the main phases of industrialization. Under this scheme, three evaluation criteria were identified, two related to the internal importance of a site, and one that is concerned more with the practical circumstances in which a site finds itself today:

Group A: Testimonial value, rarity or typological representation, authenticity and integrity.

Group B: Socio-historical, technological, artistic or architectural interest.

Group C: Possibilities of restoration, state of conservation, viability and legal position.

The Plan has a four stage programme - preparing a national inventory of the most important sites, listing them as legally-protected Sites of Cultural Interest, commissioning Planes Directores (a type of intensive Conservation Plan), and finally carrying out the necessary interventions to the site that are envisaged in the Plan Director.
Including criteria that take into account the current condition and circumstances of a site, as well as its historical and technical importance, and the relatively small number that have been selected, reflect the modest appreciation of industrial heritage in Spain, especially outside the Basque region and Catalonia. The Plan is however an important and pragmatic strategy to protect the many fantastic sites distributed around the Iberian Peninsula and to raise their status, and is potentially a helpful model for other countries whose industrial heritage is, like in Spain, not generally seen as being central to their national identity or character.

— Editor

The inventory of the 49 sites can be studied at the Incuna web page, www.incuna.org/, on whose article I’ve based this report.

Worldwide

EUROPE

Micheletti Award for industrial museums.

The winner this year is the working Museum of Clockmaking in Villingen-Schwenningen, in Germany. It occupies a clock factory that closed when the local industry went into decline in the 1970s, and was singled out by the European Museum of the Year judges for its impact on an area which relied economically on the former factory, and for the way in which the techniques of time-keeping have been integrated with the tale of the lives of the daily workers. The main prize went to London’s Victoria and Albert Museum for its new British Galleries. Among the industrial sites competing were La Hornu (see Patrick Vlaine’s report above), the Lewarde Historic Mining Centre in France, the Museum of Olive Oils of the Sabine Hills, Italy, and the Chatham Historic Dockyard in England.

Publications received

Reviewed by Stuart B Smith


Tragically Professor Skempton died a year before the publication of this volume but he lead a strong editorial team of M.M. Chrimes, R.C. Cox, P.S.M. Cross-Rudkin, R.W. Rennison and E.C. Ruddock. Between them this distinguished panel have put together an 897 page volume of immense value to anyone involved in the history of engineering. There is a very useful introductory article on the Practice of Civil Engineering 1500-1830. Each biographical entry is easy to read and is followed by a bibliography and list of works. Some of the entries are very extensive – one on John Rennie (1761-1821) runs to 15 pages. Not only is the text easy to read, it is also printed in a very clear typeface. There is the welcome addition at the end of an index of places and a chronological table of civil engineering works. There is also a very interesting appendix on wages, costs, salaries and inflation. A very handsome volume and a fine addition to anyone’s library.


This is the first major biography of Watt since Victorian times and reveals a man of undoubted engineering genius but also of great business skill though also capable of somewhat sharp practices. The book covers the earlier part of Watt’s life, a part that has been rather shadowy until now. Dr Hills sheds light thereupon in the most detailed and scholarly way, illustrating the great extent of Watt’s work in Scotland up to 1774. The book is unquestionably the finest work ever produced on this giant of British industrial history. Dr Hills, one of Britain’s foremost industrial historians, is well known for his vast technological knowledge. He is the retired curator of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and Chairman of the North West branch of the Newcomen Society. The book is profusely illustrated and the cover price is very reasonable for this sort of publication. If there is any drawback it is that the paper and printing could be improved.

Studies in the History of Civil Engineering. Ashgate Publishing of Aldersholt, England, are to be commended on their magnificent 12 volume series of Studies In The History Of Civil Engineering published over the last five years and obtainable at £850 for the 12 volumes. ISBN 0 7546 0654 6. They are edited by Joyce Brown, formerly Imperial College London, with the assistance of M.M. Chrimes, A.W. Skempton, N.A.F. Smith and R.J.M. Sutherland.

From dams to cathedrals, from water supply to transport systems, and from land drainage to the design and construction of ever larger and more monumental buildings, the impact of civil engineering on human history has been immense. This series sets out to examine key aspects of its history from antiquity to the early twentieth century. Volumes of most interest to industrial archaeologists are probably:


TICCIH BULLETIN

6

No. 21 ● Summer 2003


Ashgate also publish many other books on the history of architecture and engineering and a full list can be obtained from their website www.ashgate.com

Events

TICCIH conferences

Germany


June, 2004

These two museums, both networks of historic sites in one of the most interesting areas of industrial archaeology and museology in the world, are organising a special TICCIH conference in 2004 dedicated to the interpretation of industrial history and archaeology. The three day meeting will also discuss the creation of the TICCIH industrial museums section. Further information in the Bulletin and TICCIH web page shortly.

Romania

The second international conference and workshop on industrial archaeology

September, 2003, Baile Herculane and Reşiţa

Contact Ioana Irina Iamandescu, Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, Directorate for Historic Monuments - Piata Presei Libere 1, sector 1, 73421 Bucharest, ROMANIA, T: +40 1 224 36 63 x1275, F : +40 1 223 31 57, irina.i_amandescu@cultura.ro irina_i_amandescu@yahoo.com

Croatia

1st International Conference on the 150th anniversary of the torpedo factory in Rijeka and preservation of industrial heritage. Rijeka, 19 and 20 September 2003

The meeting will examine new uses for the former torpedo factory, as well as the industrial heritage of the port of Rijeka and Croatia. There will be a tour of the Port of Rijeka, the former Torpedo Factory, Sugar Refinery, Paper Mill and municipal services. Contact: RI-AK-tours, 51 000 Rijeka, Croatia, Verdiuja 6. There is no registration fee for the Conference. The tourist agency Ri-AK- tours will accept registration of participants and assist all interested. The person in charge of booking is Krasna Humski, Tel: + 385/51/ 312-312, 331-015 Fax: 312-333; www.torpedo150rijeka.org e-mail: ri-ak-tours@ri.tel.hr

Japan

Sixth International Mining History Congress In Akabira, Hokkaido


There will be a pre-congress tour that covers Japan’s representative tourist spots (e.g. Kyoto and Nara) and a post-congress tour visiting the nation’s representative mine-related historic sites (e.g. Kyushu and Tohoku region).


USA

21st Century Preservation - Conservation and Craftsmanship

Association for Preservation Technology International 2003

Portland, Maine, September 17 – 20 2003

With an ever-increasing global perspective, Preservation in the 21st Century must be applicable in local, regional, and international contexts. Historically, the confluence of locally abundant materials and the skills and craftsmanship which evolved to utilize them, shaped the maritime, agricultural and building trades, and altered the natural landscape. These forces have resulted in a sense of place that is distinct at the local, regional and international level.

Conference Topics: Maritime Preservation, Traditional Buildings and Landscape Preservation

Poland

Heritage of technology – Gdansk Outlook 4 (HOT-GO 4)

Gdansk, 4-7 May, 2005 (See article in Worldwide)

Themes will include Identity and memory of the industrial society, storytelling of industrial heritage, success stories of industrial conservation, heritage of names, towards e-society and others.

Call for papers before December 31, 2003.

Waldemar Affestl, Secretary, Faculty of Engineering, Gdansk Technical University. affew@pg.gda.pl

Patrimoine de l’industrie / Industrial patrimony

TICCIH’s twice-yearly journal is a scholarly publication, full of photos, devoted to historical research and the conservation of industrial heritage. It has articles in French, English and Spanish. Subscription information from Mme. Maria Teresa Maiullari Pontois, 11bis, rue du Dobropol, 75017 Paris, France, or see the TICCIH webpage www.mnactec.com/ticcih