

TICCIH



THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

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The Etelka Iron Furnace, a charcoal-fuelled smelter dating from 1871 which ceased operations in 1907 and is still in remarkably good condition (photo by author)

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

DISCOVERING THE WONDERS OF SLOVAKIA

Miles Oglethorpe, TICCIH President

—

Bulletin readers who count themselves as TICCIH veterans may well remember the epic intermediate conference organised by Dr. Gyorgyi Nemeth and her colleagues in Hungary in September 1999. The programme commenced with a pre-conference tour of the country's west around Lake Balaton and Tatabanya before heading back to Budapest and then to its main venue, Miskolc. However, in the process, it took the opportunity to stray over the border into neighbouring Slovakia, allowing us to visit the iconic mining town of Banská Štiavnica, inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list six years earlier. It was a fantastic experience, so I won-

ON THE COVER: Fergubel, Matozinhos - tapping iron at one of Brazil's charcoal-fired blast furnaces. Photograph by Viktor Macha.

With this bulletin issue, we introduce a new column to highlight the importance of photography for the knowledge and valorization of industrial heritage. Each column will be dedicated to a photographer and the illustration of one of his photographic projects. This issue's column, featuring the photography of Viktor Macha, begins on [page 33](#).



Dr. Peter Konečný in Nová Baňa gold mine adit situated next to the site of Isaac Potter's 1722 atmospheric engine (photo by author)

der why it took me a quarter of a century to get my act together and return to Slovakia.

I mention this because I have just returned from an extraordinary and inspiring trip which, to my shame, included my first-ever visit to Bratislava. More importantly, it also allowed me to witness work that is happening in the Banská Bystrica region, including Banská



Dr. Viera Krešáková of the University of Matej Bel coordinated the trip, seen here at the award-winning Piešťany Power Plant (photo by author)

Štiavnica itself. It was amazing to see how the town has evolved. Although there is still much work to be done, it is a wonderful place to visit and has made significant progress since 1999.

My visit was at the invitation of the regional authorities and the University of Matej Bel and was organised by Dr. Viera Krešáková, who I met last year at a conference in Bochum. It coincided with a conference on tourism held at the university, expertly hosted by Professor Vanda Maráková. My role was to explore the po-

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are the authors', and do not necessarily reflect those of TICCIIH. Photographs are the authors' unless stated otherwise.

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TICCIIH is the world organization on Industrial Heritage, promoting its research, recording, conservation and dissemination and education on industrial heritage. It holds a triennial conference and organises interim conferences on particular themes. Individual membership levels range from \$10 to \$40 (USD), corporate membership is \$65, and student membership levels range from \$5 to \$10.

There is an online membership form on www.ticciih.org

The **TICCIIH Bulletin** is the only international newsletter dedicated to the worldwide conservation of the heritage of industrialisation, and is sent direct to members four times a year. The Editor welcomes all news, critical comment and articles related to our field. Everything published in the Bulletin can be accessed in a searchable [Articles Index](#) on the TICCIIH web page.

Back issues can be downloaded as a pdf file from the TICCIIH web site, www.ticciih.org

tential of industrial heritage tourism, and as usual, I learned rather more than I imparted in terms of useful knowledge and expertise. It was a useful reminder of the potential for industrial heritage to contribute meaningfully to tourism offers worldwide, and I recalled the excellent work of our friends in Catalunya, not least the annual B-Industrial conference in Barcelona.

However, the major part of my visit involved an ambitious itinerary exploring the central mining region. It was achieved with the support of the Development Agency of the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region. I am especially grateful to Dr. Ľudmila Elexová and her team (particularly Danka Volenská and Veronika Žilinková) for taking me to some amazing places and opening my eyes to what is a region of great beauty and potential. This involved railway and glass heritage, copper mining (in Špania Dolina) as well as the impressive European Fugger and Coburg Iron Routes.

Other highlights for me included a visit to the site of Isaac Potter's Atmospheric Engine (1722) at Nová Baňa with Dr. Peter Konečný, and exploring gold mines around the dead super-volcano that is Banská Štiavnica. However, I also visited the extraordinary iron furnace at Etelka in the Gemer Region. An amazing survivor dating from 1867, and it is great to see it now being recognised and protected.

I travelled back to Scotland via Bratislava and was immensely fortunate to reconnect with Vladimir Hain and Nina Bartosova. In addition to seeing some impressive adaptive reuse of industrial heritage, it was a potent reminder of the outstanding collaborative work being done in the region, not least by TICCIH activists in neighbouring Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Serbia. Vladimir also reminded me of the hybrid international conference being organised by TICCIH Serbia on 13-14 September in Novi Sad.

For me personally, this was a hugely welcome tonic following the chaotic and exhausting experience of retiring from my job three months ago. It also demonstrated the wealth of support there is for industrial heritage in communities across the world. As time marches on and our next **TICCIH World Congress** approaches in Kiruna, Sweden (25-30 August 2025), one of our biggest challenges is to mobilise and harness this support.

Indeed, right now, it is clear that TICCIH has work to do to achieve its full potential. Putting it bluntly, we need to expand our membership both to strengthen our international network and enhance our income so that we can do more and have a more positive impact. So, my challenge to you is to seek out more potential members and **urge them to join and help expand our global family.**

NEWS FROM TICCIH

POLAND

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARD FOR PIOTR GERBER, TICCIH'S NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The European Commission and Europa Nostra announced the 2024 winners of the European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. This year, Europe's most prestigious awards for heritage go to 26 outstanding winners from 18 countries across the continent.

Piotr Gerber, TICCIH's National Representative for Poland, is one of the 2024 winners in the 'Heritage Champions' category. Gerber has dedicated his life to protecting post-industrial heritage. In Poland and abroad, Gerber has played an influential role in raising public awareness and understanding of the importance of technical and technological development.

World's first iron-framed building

Four of this year's winners come from the UK, the country with the greatest number of Awards in 2024. As the United Kingdom

is not a signatory of the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, these winners will receive the Europa Nostra Awards. Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings is among them. The building has been referred to as the 'grandparent of skyscrapers.' When built in 1797, it was the world's first iron-framed building, a new technology that paved the way for modern-day structures. The iconic building has been brought back to life as an adaptable workspace, leisure destination and social enterprise hub.

The 2024 Awards count an impressive range of winners across its five categories. From the unique renovation project of the Ignacy Historic Mine led by former miners in Poland to an innovative AI research project for improving access to Europe's newspaper heritage, from a successful training programme revitalising traditional craftsmanship for contemporary construction needs in Greece to a visionary community-driven effort reclaiming urban heritage in Ghent, Belgium; and a civil society association that has raised awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage of the World Heritage City of Dubrovnik, Croatia, for more than 70 years. This year's winners exemplify the dynamism, diversity and innovation demonstrated across Europe in efforts to safeguard and promote our rich heritage.



Piotr Gerber, TICCIH's National Representative for Poland (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)

In addition to the European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards, the Public Choice Award is presented to one of the selected award winners following an online vote conducted by Europa



Shrewsbury flax mill, 1797, became a floor malting in 1897. A reinforced concrete mesh is being applied by Historic England over the original floor structure as a safety net, 2016 (photo by Mark Watson)

Nostra. **Cast your vote before September 22, 2024.** The winner will be announced at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony on 7 October 2024 at Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest. You can **follow the live stream** of the Awards Ceremony.

TICCIH 2025 Kiruna

Heritage in action



Plaque of the site where sawmill machinery is exhibited. First source of employment in Moa around 1939 (photo by author)

CUBA

MINING IN CUBA. THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN EASTERN CUBA

Camilo Contreras Delgado, TICCIH Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean, camilo@colef.mx

The field of Industrial Heritage is rich enough that we can be surprised by each case's lessons and challenges. This is the situation of Cuba's mining industrial heritage. When we view Cuban Industrial Heritage from outside the island, our main references are associated with the sugar activity. However, the mining activity, mainly in the east in Moa, Holguín, is witness to the different history, economy, politics and culture of Cuba.

The XI International Conference on the Use of Mineral Resources, held from April 10th to 13th, 2024, in Guardalavaca, Holguín, shows us the various efforts to transition to tenable and sustainable min-

ing as much as possible. The event, organized by the University of Moa Antonio Núñez Jiménez through the Instituto Superior Minero Metalúrgico (Institute of Higher Metallurgical Mining), included environmental aspects in its topics, technological and, of course, mining communities. The latter topic addresses aspects of gender, local development and entrepreneurship, the social impact of mine closures, geological and mining heritage, education, culture and health, and social responsibility, among others. These last aspects within the mining communities may seem to be profusely dealt with in other parts of the world, but such emphasis is crucial for Cuba. In Moa, the university has been a factor in change.

Moa University faculty and students presented the results of their work and, more importantly, their work in interdisciplinary groups. The path towards sustainable and patrimonial mining is outlined. It shows potential for collaborations with institutions and organizations such as TICCIH, both at the Cuban level and from international cooperation. I was honored to give the Opening Conference of the Mining Communities Workshop.



Mural alluding to the first visit to Moa of the Commander in Chief in 1966. The emphasis on the mining industry is evident (photo by author)

After the IX Conference, we moved to Moa, where I could interact with the teaching staff, tour the city and see the work of industrial heritage. The residents and academic staff themselves have been concerned about leaving a mark of what they consider the first source of work in Moa “el aserril” (sawmill); they have created an open-air space (near the Municipal Museum) with old machinery and tools, although, it must be said, they have gone further by transferring machinery once used in the mining industry. This is a valuable example of the social and civic initiative to bring industrial memory to the present.

In the east, particularly in Moa, nickel and chromium mining has marked industrialization for several decades. Due to the development and investment model, this industry shows us Cuba’s different economic and political stages. Limonta (2011) describes national and international transitions through investment in nickel plants, particularly the plant now called Pedro Sotto de Alba (commander who fell in the capture of Moa during the Revolution), which began its history in 1951 under American hands. It was not until 1961 when Ernesto Che Guevara promoted its production with support from the USSR, and when the Union disappeared, Canadian investment finally entered the scene. Today, that company operates with 50 percent Canadian capital (Sherril and General Níquel) and the other 50 percent from the Cuban government through the Ministry of Ener-

gy and Mines. The same author marks 1972 as the beginning of the second nickel plant named Fábrica Ernesto Che Guevara, a company that operates 100% with capital from the Cuban government. Cuba is among the first five countries with nickel reserves and exploitation worldwide. However, it is striking that as of 2019, production has a downward trend due to a lack of investment (icex, 2022).

The contributions to mining heritage are present through reflections on the didactic and educational value of the magnesite, nickel and chrome deposits (Domínguez and Rodríguez, 2007). Other contributions highlight the intangible aspect of mining heritage, giving value to the mechanisms of collective memory recovery through the transmission of geological mining knowledge, traditional techniques, oral expressions typical of productive activities, and myths and legends around mining (Domínguez, Costa and Guardado, 2015).

In my tour of the city and the university itself, I was able to identify artistic representations of Moa’s main economic activity. This is the case of the murals whose main theme is mining, but also with a strong political symbolic component. The urban and institutional spaces are scenarios where economic-political history not only remembers the past but also updates the identity features of the city and the nation.



Partial view of the Camariocas mining construction in Moa. Ruins of a mine that never came into operation (photo by author)

Even though economic factors are fundamental for productive activity, external political factors in Cuba have also played a fundamental role. Continuing with my tour, I learned about the construction of Camariocas, a monumental work started by the USSR but which, with global changes, remained unfinished. Here we have an unusual case: ruins of what never was. These remains whose value is witnessing the political-economic movements in the countries and different stages in world geopolitics.

In Holguín and specifically in Moa, there is a material base, human resources and clear challenges to promoting the mining patrimony. Changes in legislation are another favorable ingredient. The training of professionals at the University of Moa, both in technical and social and human areas with sensitivity to history and mining memory, allows us to see with optimism the coming challenges of heritage conservation and the needs in environmental matters.

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Opening of the five-day molinology meeting (photo by author)

MEXICO

WHY A MOLINOLOGY MEETING?

Yolanda Dolores Terán Trillo is an expert architect and master in the restoration of monuments. Historical Studies Offices (Dirección de Estudios Históricos, DEH) & National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), teranytrillo@hotmail.com

The responsibility that corresponds to me as head of the institutional project for the planning of the Culhuacán Paper Mill Site Museum (Museo de Sitio del Molino de Papel de Culhuacán), a mill that was the first in America for this purpose, allowed me to carry out what I wanted: to promote the fair recognition of the importance that the varied and diverse mills have had throughout the national history, to counteract the ignorance to its cultural baggage would contribute in a direct way to turn and see the abandonment, deterioration and lamentable daily disappearance to which this important Mexican patrimony is subjected.

Convinced of its cultural relevance and with the genuine conviction that the best way to do so would be to count on col-

lective participation through looking for and finding friends, looking for and finding acquaintances who share the interest in the subject, etc. Thus, the idea of planning the **Molinology Meeting** arose as part of the general project of the Culhuacán Paper Mill.

I. Opening of the event

My first approach was with a 17th-century flour mill suitable for housing, hidden and unnoticed in the middle of Mexico City. As it corresponds to any research beginning, I started with the search for a bibliography that complemented what I already knew: it was a mill that dated from the Viceregal period and used the power of water. The readings I found on mills generally focused on its location, the history of the different owners and whether it belonged to a hacienda. The mill was just another building and briefly transcribed from other books part of its operation, which was not clear to me. A book from Spain awakened my interest. I flew to the mountains where the author mentioned the mill and entered the magical world of molinology with the firm idea that Mexico should have its specialized bibliography.

Last May, in two INAH ('Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia' or 'National Institute of Anthropology and History') work cen-



Paper Mill. Mexico City (photo by author)

ters located in Mexico City, the Culhuacán Ex-convento (Exconvento de Culhuacán) and the Restoration and Museum School (Escuela de Restauración y Museografía), the Iberoamerican Molinology Meeting was held, publicized with the text **“The traditional milling as a prelude to industrialization”** (“La molienda tradicional como prelude de la Industrialización”) and four thematic axes:

- Architecture, restoration and value enhancement;
- Traditional technology and energy resources;
- Cultural landscapes, customs and traditions;
- History and documentary sources.

This meeting brought together a varied public interested in the knowledge of ancient devices. The practice of grinding is as old as man’s molars. The oldest mills made of stones were moved by man and beasts of burden; later, the energy of water, wind and new materials was used. The value of these buildings does not lie in their size but in their patrimonial wealth.

The five-day meeting lasted from Tuesday, May 21, to Saturday, May 25, at the school and the ex-convento. Participants listened to more than thirty presentations and discovered exhibitions of posters and models of the Paper Mill. The meeting was complemented by a guided tour of the mill’s architectural remains and the former Hacienda of Molino de Flores in the State of Mexico.

2. Paper Mill. Mexico City

Carrying out the meeting allowed restoring to the national mills the legitimate valuation that dignifies them, an indispensable and urgent factor to recognize them not only because they have allowed the transformation of diverse raw materials but as a whole, integrating the totality of what each and every one of the buildings possesses, each section of its facilities, any tools, complex machines and treaties that gave rise to its technological evolution. Everything, yes, everything, is part of the cultural, economic and political heritage that was integrated into the rural landscape and the urban context in which some are currently located. Each one generated real meeting places and social coexistence at certain times and spaces.

In executing the project, I had two fundamental supports. One was the Committee of Conservative Architects of Cultural Heritage of INAH, where my colleagues are; many know them and value their importance. The other was the director of the Culhuacán Ex-Convento, with whom I shared the concern to open the subject to countries more directly linked to our history, the Ibero-American countries, and the need to have greater prospection through universities.

The opening to other convening institutions aimed to motivate students’ attendance. Although the event was free, students were required to count on their presence to directly share the speakers’ experiences and get involved in their study and custody. The approach to universities increased the diffusion, gathering researchers, members of the academy, mill owners, industrialists and the general public.



Poster exhibition (photo by author)

3. Poster exhibition

At the close of the event, the following commitments, among others, were mainly established:

- To disseminate the material presented.
- To organize other mills' meetings in two years, with the city of Tlaxcala, in the State of Tlaxcala of the Mexican Republic, as the venue.
- To encourage the value enhancement of mills.
- To itinerate the posters exhibition, travel to municipalities and towns in Mexico with mills.

All the commitments aim to preserve the mill heritage for the legacy of future generations.

To these achievements, I add the satisfaction of the acknowledgment of the International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (Comité Internacional para la Conservación del Patrimonio Industrial, TICCIH) as the First Iberoamerican Meeting of Molinology in America. Fully aware of the value of Industrial Heritage, I have fought for more than two decades for its preservation by sharing talks, presenting conferences, giving interviews, advising theses on such heritage and the obligatory visit to any mill I manage to enter. The floodgate is open... Let's move mills!

FIND TICCIH ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





Prof. Dr. Sonja Ifko presenting about adaptive reuse of industrial heritage in Slovenia (photo by author)

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ENTITLED “PERSPECTIVES ON INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE”

Assistant Prof. Dr. Maja Pličanić University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Educational Sciences, mplicanic@pf.unsa.ba

On December 15th, 2023, at the Urban Design Studio in Sarajevo, an academic discussion was organized by the University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Education and the National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (NK ICOMOS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth of Sarajevo Canton.

The round table, “Perspectives on Industrial Heritage,” aimed to foster collaboration and establish connections among experts and scholars from the region whose countries share a recent common industrial past. The overarching goal was establishing

a high-quality partnership to exchange experiences and knowledge in industrial heritage preservation.

The academic discussion was conducted in two sessions. Participants showcased the current state and future perspectives of industrial heritage preservation in the former Yugoslav countries. During the sessions, many pertinent research questions within this field were addressed.

Dr. Miles Oglethorpe was invited to participate as a keynote speaker to emphasize current trends in industrial heritage protection. As the president of the International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), his valuable insight brought to light important topics such as the significance and potential of industrial heritage as a significant driver of sustainable development and climate action initiatives. He expressed satisfaction with organizing such an event to popularize and raise awareness of this valuable heritage as part of national and universal cultural heritage. Dr. Oglethorpe highlighted the importance of TICCIH’s engagement in understanding the complexities of this heritage category, referencing international documents and recommendations that define the scope and values of industrial heritage.

The first session, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Elša Turkušić-



Prof. Dr. Maja Pličanić concluding the third session of the round table discussion (photo by author)

Jurić, president of NK ICOMOS in Bosnia and Herzegovina, illuminated the diverse perspectives on industrial heritage preservation. **Prof. Dr. Sonja Ifko** highlighted successful cases of adaptive reuse of industrial sites in Slovenian communities, emphasizing their pivotal role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This underscored the potential for participatory approaches facilitated by international bodies like ICOMOS and TICCIH. **Prof. Dr. Nana Palinić** provided insights into Rijeka's industrial heritage, questioning the balance between repurposing former industrial facilities and reintroducing industrial production in modern contexts. The participants of the round table were introduced to the work of Pro Torpedo, the only Croatian association for promoting and protecting industrial heritage, which has been gathering experts and professionals for two decades. **Prof. Dr. Slavica Stamatović-Vučković** discussed Montenegro's industrial architectural complexes, warning against profit-driven transformations that neglect heritage valorization, eroding cultural identity.

The subsequent session, moderated by **Prof. Dr. Miroslav Malinović**, explored research perspectives and methodological frameworks in industrial heritage studies. **MSc Goran Arčabić** shed light on industrial heritage from the socialist development era, urging critical reevaluation and valorization of Yugoslav-era industrial complexes constructed to establish the foundations of the state economy in socialist Yugoslavia. **Prof. Dr. Anica Draganić** emphasized the importance of recognizing the values of socialist industrial heritage, citing the successful transformation of a silk factory into a cultural

center in Novi Sad, the Svilara Cultural Station. **Dr. Tijana Veljković's** doctoral research demonstrated the transformative role of industrial culture in Tuzla's urban and social development, advocating for integrated heritage protection to mitigate inappropriate spatial interventions. **Prof. Dr. Maja Pličanić** proposed a methodology for safeguarding Sarajevo's industrial architectural heritage, emphasizing identifying architectural identity and authenticity. This approach will empower protection services to recognize and safeguard these elements.

Following the presentations, a discussion among participants took place, leading to the following conclusions:

- The industrial heritage of the socialist period emerged as the most vulnerable, shared by all participating countries in their cultural history. Interregional collaboration thus becomes imperative as a necessary framework for professional, institutional, and educational efforts in promoting the potential of industrial heritage within sustainable development processes.
- Because the issue of industrial heritage preservation is intertwined with current social, economic, and environmental challenges, the instigation of political interest in actively protecting industrial buildings and sites is needed (e.g., projects like the European Capitals of Culture in the cities of Rijeka and Novi Sad). Public engagement and involvement must be fostered through various modalities to motivate the public to preserve this her-



Participants and audience after the event (photo by author)

itage. Problematizing and raising awareness in this domain are achievable through further scholarly activities (such as roundtable discussions, conferences and thematic journal issues).

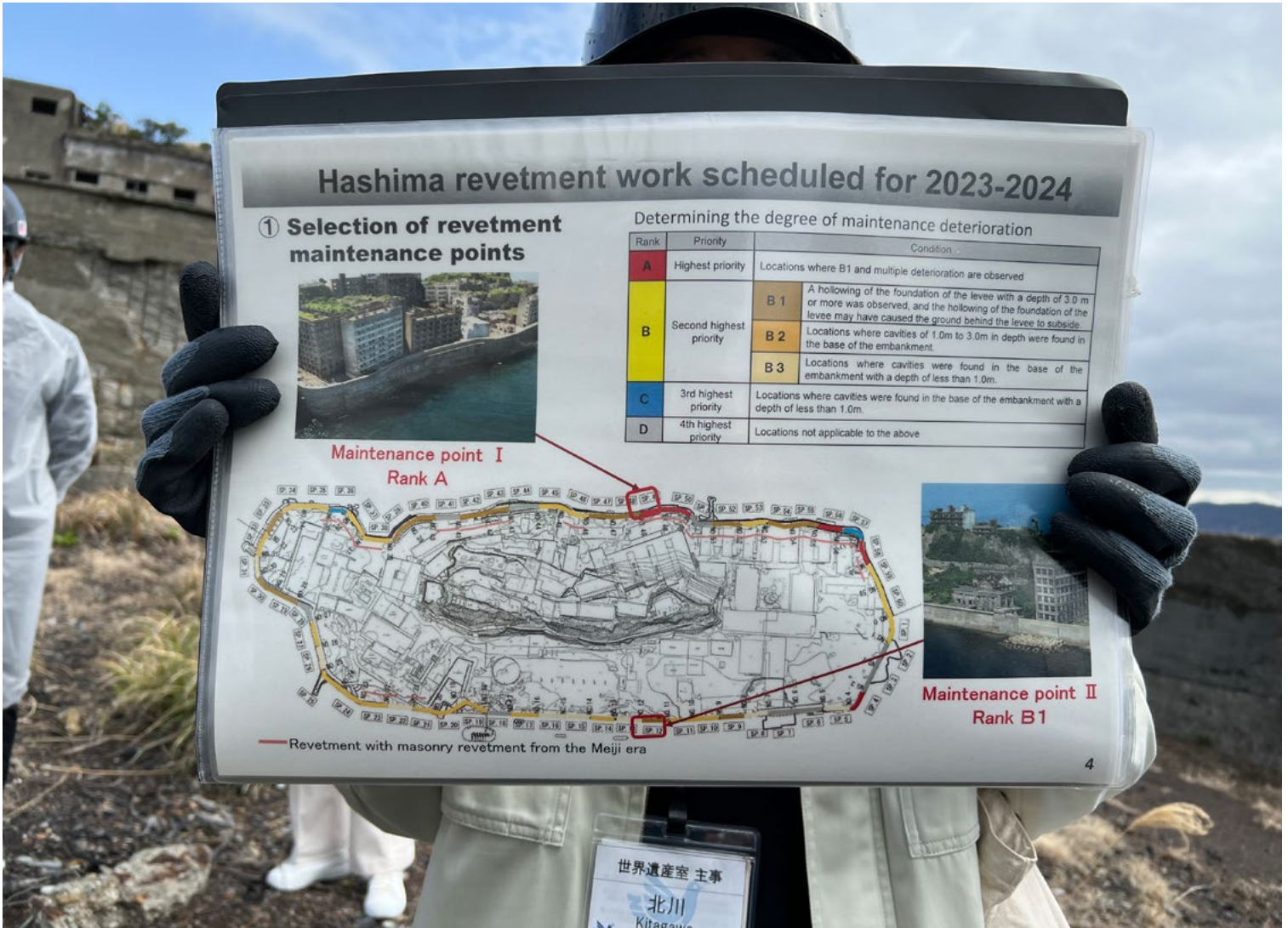
- Certain countries in the region still lack an inventory of their industrial heritage. Therefore, this form of collaboration and presentation would enable better professional support and mutual exchange of experiences documenting industrial buildings and complexes. The demarcation of areas containing industrial buildings and sites of cultural-historical importance must

align with the values they embody, which can be defined based on scientific methods presented at the roundtable.

- The recommendation to incorporate industrial heritage content into higher education programs in technical and humanities disciplines is equally significant.
- The roundtable results and participants' presentations should be published, thereby contributing substantially to the dissemination of scientific thought in the region and beyond.

TICCIH 2025 Kiruna

Heritage in action



Hashima revetment work scheduled for 2023-2024 (photo by author)

JAPAN

RETURN TO HASHIMA COAL MINE: WHAT FUTURE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL RUINS?

Massimo Preite

My first visit to the Hashima Coal Mine dates back to 2014, on the occasion of the International Conference on Industrial Heritage, organised by the Secretariat of the National Congress of Industrial Heritage in support of the nomination to the UNESCO List of the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution. From that first visit, I have been left with two indelible impressions: on the one hand, amazement at the (paradoxical) creative genius of

decay, at the kaleidoscope of forms that its disintegrative effects have produced; on the other hand, dismay at the absolute inability to imagine proposals and interventions to manage an ongoing process of decay of a breadth and complexity unmatched by other ruined industrial heritage sites.

In March this year, I was invited back to Hashima again. Ten years later, the impressions this return gave me are contrasting. On the one hand, I admire the commitment of our Japanese colleagues, who have not let time pass in vain: in 2015, the 23 sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution were registered with UNESCO; in 2017, the city of Nagasaki formulated a Conservation Plan for the Hashima Coal Mine; and from 2023, maintenance work on the sea wall around the island began. On the other hand, I felt a certain regret for the discipline I work in because of the considerable lack of original theoretical advances on industrial ruins.



The current ruins mainly testify to the condition of Hashima at its peak in 1959 (photo by author)

The lack of recognition for industry remnants becomes even more apparent when compared to the important place that archaeological ruins have occupied in modern and contemporary societies. Witnesses to vanished civilisations, their study led in the 18th century to the development of new archaeological science and specific excavation and consolidation techniques, and in the 19th century, amid Romanticism, to the birth of a true “aesthetics of the fragment” as opposed to the totality of monuments, in the belief that the incompleteness of the ruin was capable of releasing many emotions and a density of meaning that the whole work was incapable of conveying.

In the second half of the 20th century, a second category of ruins appeared, which could be defined as “traumatic ruins”, i.e. those caused by the events of the Second World War. In this case, remaining in a state of ruin is a voluntary choice intended to transmit the memory of a human catastrophe that has to be kept indelible for future generations. For example, the ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, badly damaged by the

bombing of Berlin on 23 November 1943 and never rebuilt; the remains of the village of Oradour-sur-Glane, set on fire by the Nazis on 10 June 1944, along with the 643 people who lived there, and never rebuilt, to leave it as a memorial to the massacre; Finally, the skeleton of the Genbaku Domu, also known as the “Atomic Bomb Dome”, the only structure to survive the atomic blast on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, as a testimony to the atrocity of atomic warfare (later inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996).

Between the centuries needed to produce archaeological ruins and the single moment from which traumatic ruins emerge, there is a third category of ruins – the industrial ruins – which result from the deindustrialisation processes that have affected Western countries since the early 1970s. The closure of mines, steel mills, textile factories, car plants and other manufacturing industries has led to widespread processes of abandonment and degradation of vast former productive areas: the scientific literature on this phenomenon is immense, but despite the many

denominations it has coined – such as derelict lands, wastelands, brownfields – it has always been uncertain about how to deal with industrial remains.

Its fundamental hesitation is easily explained by the fact that the reasons already mentioned for protecting archaeological and traumatic ruins do not apply to derelict industrial sites, given that they are the object of a very different perception. Firstly, they have a modest antiquity value due to their recent age; secondly, their function as a material testimony to the original structure can be effectively compensated by good archival documentation (when available). Finally, industrial ruins are strongly associated with negative values: the memory of the fatigue and harshness of working conditions, the contamination of soils and structures that persists even after production has ceased, and even the deterioration of their image when they become places of marginality and social deviance. This combination of factors meant that the remains of industry were seen less as ruins than as piles of rubble, devoid of any meaning.

The remedy for these pathologies has often been urban renewal, i.e. the demolition of all pre-existing industrial constructions and the rebuilding of the land thus freed. It is indisputable that, since the 1980s, there has been a greater sensitivity to the testimonies of production. Their preservation has been given a positive role in the urban regeneration programmes of post-industrial cities. But it is undeniable that the widespread approach has focused more on the adaptive reuse of industrial buildings than on their restoration in their state of ruin. This was probably also influenced by the delay in developing a theoretical reflection on industrial ruins, especially on their specific characteristics of 'materiality.' In fact, whereas the ruins of antiquity are dominated by stone, whose elements, although disjoined by the disaggregating action of time, still evoke the possibility of recomposing, through anastylosis, the integrity of the lost whole (or at least of its significant parts), in industrial ruins, as Tim Edensor (*Industrial Ruins*, Berg, 2005) has observed, we find undifferentiated masses of disparate materials: "In the ruin all objects are equal, none assigned higher value than others, because they are all categorised as trash. They are useless and worn out, and therefore possess no value and can be, indeed ought to be, discarded (page 100)."

This "defamiliarised landscape" disorder remains indecipherable and establishes an irreversible decay, completely devoid of the aura of grandeur usually associated with ancient ruins. The absolute "nonsense" produced by modern rubble did not fail to cause some concern even to a titanic builder of monuments of the first half of the twentieth century – Albert Speer – who, at the beginning of his project on the reorganisation of Nuremberg, almost foreseeing the final catastrophe of the regime for which he was working and distressed by the 'depressing and unwelcoming impression produced by the rubble of modern buildings', ended up developing a personal theory (Theorie von Ruinenwert) about the advantages of 'using pre-modern materials and relying on a statics taken from ancient models to construct buildings that, even in the phase of disintegration, could resemble the ruins scattered on the Palatine or in the area of the Baths of Caracalla' (Joachim Fest, Speer: Eine Biographie, Fischer TB Verlag, 2001).

The difficulty of developing an adequate reflection on the treatment of industrial ruins is indirectly demonstrated by the book above mentioned by Edensor, which, although it has the merit of fully recognising the value of industrial remains, examines their more ephemeral and collateral reuses: illegal plundering of building materials, shelters for the homeless, adventurous games, ecological naturalisation, spaces for graffiti art, etc. The work thus remains in the context of a theory of industrial heritage that in recent years has not made any significant contributions to the crucial questions concerning the fate of industrial ruins: how to conserve them, how to organise their public access and what meaning to assign to them in today's culture. In contrast to this void of proposals, the originality and novelty of the Plan for the Conservation, Restoration and Public Use of the Hashima Coal Mine (one of the 23 parts of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution) emerge with greater evidence. In my opinion, this Plan represents a significant advance in terms of theory, method and programming, was formulated by the City of Nagasaki in 2017 under recommendations a) and b) of **decision 39COM.8B14 adopted by the World Heritage Committee** at its 39th session in 2015.

In the initial part of the Plan, there is a summary division of the ruined heritage into three different areas: the Seawall Revetment surrounding the Island, the Coal Production Facilities and the Housing Facilities to accommodate the island's growing population. Then follows the list of elements of the property. Only some contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Hashima Coal Mine: the adit remains, the Revetment Remains, Pit No. 2, Pit No. 3 and its winding machine room. However, it is undeniable that the extraordinary patrimonial content of Hashima could never ignore other property elements, even if their historical interest is only national or local. It is unlikely that the original above-ground structures will remain from the coal exploitation that began in 1887. Hashima, the most advanced example of underwater coal mining, was a place of perennial application of the best coal mining techniques.

As a result, the coal production facilities have been demolished and replaced by new facilities in a continuous upgrading process of modernisation; the residential facilities have also been rebuilt following the devastations produced by typhoons. It cannot, therefore, be excluded that the current ruins mainly testify to the condition of Hashima at its peak in 1959, when the island was a coal mining community of 5,259 people with the highest population density in the world (835 people per hectare, that is 83,500 people/km²). Due to a lack of proper maintenance since the mine closed in 1974, the buildings made of reinforced concrete, steel and wood have fallen apart or irreversibly decayed. The degradation process is ongoing, as Hashima Island is perpetually exposed to the elements and suffering salt, wind and flood damage. Since further collapses are expected, it can't be excluded that the most decayed buildings may be removed to ensure the preservation and safety of the other parts of the World Heritage property.

The conservation plan does not hide the fact that it is technically impossible to preserve all the remains, especially those



Due to a lack of proper maintenance since the mine closed in 1974, the buildings made of reinforced concrete, steel and wood have fallen apart or irreversibly decayed (photo by author)

of the reinforced concrete production and residential buildings, which have suffered the most from material and structural deterioration. A strategy was therefore needed to establish precise priorities among the actions to be undertaken. To this end, a thirty-year intervention programme has been developed, divided into three ten-year phases (2018 - 2047). The order of urgency of the interventions corresponds to a principle of priority that considers the state of deterioration of the elements, the

degree of contribution to the OUV and, finally, the availability (or absence) of applicable conservation techniques. Indeed, if the current state of knowledge on the effects of corrosion makes the conservation of the most damaged structures technically unlikely, in that case, the State Party is committed to monitoring advances in conservation technology to select the best possible means of preserving the remains. In a nutshell, in Phase I, conservation work will only be carried out on sites that urgently need

work and for which established methods are available. Nagasaki City will also conduct research into conservation methods during this phase. From Phase II, the City will apply the research results to repairs.

Moving on to a more detailed examination of the interventions, the following can be noted. Since the revetment of the sea wall along the coast plays a crucial role in protecting the whole of Hashima from ocean waves, the city will prioritise measures to prevent them from collapsing. That's why it was decided to take measures to preserve the seawall remnants in the coastline from Phase I onwards, to "maintain their primary function of protecting the island." In addition, restoration and conservation techniques for the revetments are sufficiently well established to allow easy and immediate repairs. Basic guidelines are already available for the repair of cracks, the filling of underwater cavities and the carrying out of work to drain off the seawater that washes over the seawalls. Moreover, there is a commitment to keeping the original shapes of the upright seawalls and reinforcing the original masonry revetments where they are visible to visitors. The consolidation of the revetment is currently underway. This was preceded by a detailed survey carried out in 2021-2022, which, using basic underwater inspections, concrete strength tests and visual surveys, made it possible to divide the entire coating into 60 sections and classify each of them according to four intervention priority levels corresponding to the degree of deterioration detected.

On the other hand, preserving the "retaining walls remains" is less urgent. As the population grew, Mitsubishi, which bought the entire island in 1890, financed a major project to expand the surface area progressively. The waste from the mining process was used to extend the landfill around the island. The new land around the rock was surrounded by a fortress-like sea wall to protect it from high waves. Five times during the Meiji era, land was reclaimed from the sea to enlarge the island. The expansion continued until 1931, and the increased surface area was occupied by numerous buildings that housed industrial structures and various apartment buildings and all the services useful to the population, including a hospital and a school.

Therefore, since the remnants of retaining walls that can be found throughout the island today represent the traces of past expansion efforts and contribute to the property's OUV, the City is committed to preventing their collapse and keeping them in good working order. However, as these retaining walls have relatively few points of deterioration, the City will take measures to preserve them from Phase II onwards.

The remains of the coal production plant are vital to understanding the industrial (mining) system of the time, as they are direct representations of the coal mining industry. The programme is to start conservation work on the most degraded remains, which shows the workflow of the coal production system. The conservation methods are based on the principle that the colours and shapes of the newly added materials should be close to those of the existing ones: especially in the case of the brick structures, the new bricks should bear the inscription "Repaired in 20XX"

on the four sides (front, back, left and right) to distinguish them from the original ones.

Finally, about the housing remains, undoubtedly the most difficult artefacts to protect (due to their irreversible state of structural and functional deterioration), it is envisaged that only the reinforcement of the interiors and the maintenance of the structures will be carried out. The aim is to conserve the current state as far as possible. However, it is not excluded that some of these remains may exceptionally be removed to ensure the conservation of the other buildings or the safety of visitors. In addition to repairs and reinforcements, the plan also includes the realisation of some visitor infrastructures to facilitate tourist visits. It should be noted that the planned interventions have been designed with minimal visual impact to preserve the relic landscape characteristics of the Hashima Coal Mine as much as possible. This is another aspect of originality and innovation compared to what has been done in other archaeological sites around the world, which have been submerged by an endless flood of illustrative panels, equipped routes, reconstructions, and interpretation centres, all of which, taken together, represent an invasive superstructure developed to the detriment of the original state of ruins that has been irreparably lost.

This risk has been carefully avoided in Hashima. It was decided that only one new tourist route of minimum size would be created in the coal production zone, paved with concrete slabs to preserve the remains and ensure that the route blends in with the surrounding buildings. New "viewing plazas" will be created to the minimum extent necessary to convey the nature of the installations at the time of the mine's operation so that visitors can understand the entire coal production system through the sequential observation of the different elements, such as the shafts, transport, preparation, storage and coal loading plants, etc. The viewing plazas will have small wireless transmitters to provide information to mobile devices. Visitor understanding will be further enhanced by linking up with the Takashima Coal Museum on Takashima Island and the Nagasaki City Gunkanjima Museum in Nomozaki. This made it possible to exclude the erection of any new information centre - except for a sign indicating the name of the island as a National Historic Site and a World Heritage plaque installed in the first visitor area, as visitors will be able to access the information of the already mentioned museums through their devices (smartphones, tablets, etc.).

In conclusion, the greatest merit of the Hashima Coal Mine Conservation Plan is that it has not succumbed to any of the temptations that conservation plans for many archaeological areas have often encountered: in Hashima, no insulation work was carried out on an eminent ruin, giving it prominence by thinning out the immediate surroundings, nor has there ever been any reconstruction of the ruined structures, much less any new architectural intervention in dialogue with the pre-existing remains. The Hashima Coal Mine Conservation Plan has only opened up a double front: the full acceptance of the site as it is (only by consolidating what exists and removing what is unsafe) and the commitment to make every effort to slow down the ongoing degradation processes as much as possible.

A final comment concerns the narrative of the Hashima Coal Mine OUV. As I said, it is one of the 23 sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution; together, they testify to Japan's unique achievement in world history as the first non-Western country to successfully industrialise. This result, accomplished in just over 50 years without being subjected to any relationship of colonial dependence, was achieved through three phases: the first was trial and error experimentation, the second was the import of Western technology, and the third was full-scale industrialisation through newly acquired domestic expertise and the active adaptation of Western technology. Hashima Coal Mine was remarkably active in the second and third phases.

But this narrative is not the only one. There is also a “dark” narrative about the use of forced labour in mining. It is an emblematic case of contested history, as different visions of the same past are set against each other. The “Overview of the Roots of Contested History Interpretation between the Republic of Korea and Japan” is the first step taken by the State Party to achieve a shared memory of past events. It is more than likely that pursuing this goal will require a long and arduous process. However, the road ahead is a fundamental aspect of an active and stimulating OUV, which fuels several interpretative comparisons and raises new questions about the universal meaning of the property. A heritage that continues to do all this is surely great.



The PIMCED Group visited two mezcal-producing units: Palmar Segundo in Mexquitic de Carmo-na and Ipiña Station in Aqualulco (photo by Camilo Contreras)

MEXICO

ANNUAL MEETING PIMCED 2024, SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO: A BRIEF REPORT

Jaime Sánchez Macedo (*El Colegio de Michoacán / TICCIH member*), jaime.sanmac@gmail.com

The symbolic dimension is both a bridge and an antidote against separating material and immaterial heritage. Beyond industrial heritage's productive and reproductive aspects, the various methods of

representing it—through the arts, museography, or daily rituals—also constitute forms of *patrimonialization*.

On June 20 and 21, the annual meeting of PIMCED (Spanish acronym for “Mexico's Industrial Heritage Group: Conservation, Studies, and Dissemination”), affiliated with TICCIH, was held at the Public Research Center El Colegio de San Luis (COLSAN) in the city of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Since its foundation in 2017, PIMCED, composed of academics from different educational and research institutions in Mexico, has established its annual meeting as a space for dialogue and reflection through the presentation of research works focused on the different facets of industrial heritage, as well

as for the establishment of a common work agenda for those who are part of the organization.

Thus, COLSAN hosted four working groups in which 13 presentations were distributed, with the central theme being exploring the symbolic dimension in industrial heritage studies through a varied repertoire of case studies. From PIMCED, participants included Jaime Sánchez Macedo from El Colegio de Michoacán; Eliana Celeste Olguín Hernández from COLSAN; José Óscar Ávila Juárez from the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro; José Manuel Esparza Casas from COLSAN; José Ramón Cárdenas Nieto, independent researcher; Ada Marina Lara Meza from the Universidad de Guanajuato; Aurora García García de León from Universidad Autónoma de Baja California; Francisco Alberto Núñez Tapia from Centro de Enseñanza Técnica y Superior (CETYS Universidad); Moisés Gámez from COLSAN; Camilo Contreras from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte; and Rodrigo Esqueda from Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí. External speakers included Cándido Eugenio Aguilar Aguilar and Luz Carregha Lamadrid, both from COLSAN; and Amor Mildred Escalante, an independent researcher. The start of the activities was presided by David Eduardo Vázquez Salguero, president of COLSAN, and Moisés Gámez, current coordinator of PIMCED and researcher affiliated with the host institution.

In the first working group, presentations were made on archival heritage, neighborhood heritage, and the productive spaces created by the development of the textile, oil, and other industries in various regions of the country: Parras, Coahuila; Monterrey, Nuevo León; Querétaro, Querétaro; and El Ébano, San Luis Potosí. The second working group focused on the railroad legacy associated with industrial development in Monterrey, San Luis Potosí and Aguascalientes. This was explored through three research perspectives that addressed the urban impact resulting from the introduction of this transportation mode for peo-



Members of PIMCED in the 2024 annual meeting (photo by El Colegio de San Luis)



Some members of PIMCED in a mezcals-production site (photo by Camilo Contreras)

ple and goods, its symbolic dimension associated with the memory of its users and the recovery of its vestiges as site museums. The third working group presented two studies related to industrial heritage derived from mining activity in Guanajuato: one on the formation of the collection held in the Mineralogy Museum “Ingeniero Eduardo Villaseñor Sohle,” and the other on the analysis of symbols associated with the mining cultural heritage of the same city. Additionally, preliminary findings from research on the industrial fishing memory of the Manchuria neighborhood in Ensenada, Baja California, were presented. Finally, the fourth and last working group of the meeting consisted of the presentation of three projects for the recovery of industrial heritage associated with memory: a craft beer company in Mexicali, Baja California; the recovery of the workers’ magazine of the Sahagún Industrial Complex in Hidalgo; and the representation of industry in the stained-glass windows of Roberto Montenegro preserved in university spaces in Monterrey, Nuevo León.

The culmination of the annual event was the plenary meeting of the

PIMCED, in which it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the city of Ensenada, Baja California, as well as the start of a publishing project about the symbolic dimension of industrial heritage based on the presentations given in the 2024 working groups. Additionally, as has been done in previous annual meetings, a tour of production sites was included, this time visiting agave distilleries. In Mexico, besides tequila, mezcal is a traditional beverage consumed beyond national borders. The PIMCED group visited two production units: the first using the ancestral system (Mongolian-origin distillation) where the serpentine is not used, and the second using the artisanal and industrial system. This distillation does use the serpentine. Academic meetings on industrial heritage worldwide are characterized by thematic tours, providing experiences of multiple aspects of it.

Anyone interested in the activities of the PIMCED Group is invited to [follow the official website](#) as well as the [Facebook page](#) to stay informed about activities and to disseminate content related to the study of industrial heritage in Mexico and other parts of the world.

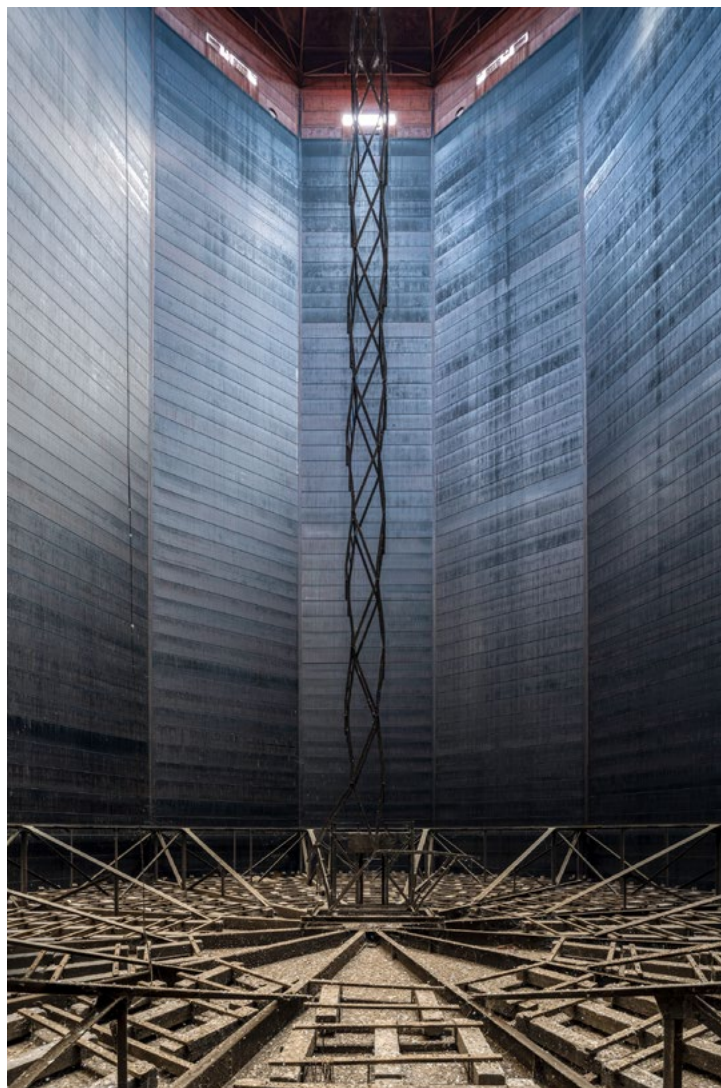
ITALY

AIPAI PHOTO EXHIBITION 23|24

Palmina Trabocchi, AIPAI Associazione Italiana per il Patrimonio Archeologico Industriale

AIPAI Photo Contest, in its second year, has already achieved extraordinary success in terms of membership. Two hundred shots were submitted for selection, the winning projects were exhibited on May 11 in the spaces of the [Brescia musil](#). Thus was born AIPAI Photo Exhibition 23|24, the photographic exhibition promoted and organized by AIPAI / TICCIH Italy in collaboration with Olivetti Historical Archives Association, DICEA - Sapienza University of Rome, Do.co.mo.mo Italy, AEM Foundation, ISEC Foundation, Maire Foundation, Musil Foundation, Ro.Me Museum Exhibition, Photography Network. The award ceremony and the first exhibition of the show took place at the Ro.Me Museum Exhibition, the international fair of culture and museums held in Rome each November, and at Villetta Casana in Ivrea, home of the Olivetti Historical Archives Association of Ivrea. Being itinerant throughout Italy, it will continue in June at Centrale Montemartini in Rome and from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4 at the [AEM Foundation](#) headquarters in Milan.

The exhibition will feature the winning, mentioned and selected shots from the second edition of the competition, designed to raise awareness and promote archaeology and industrial heritage. Professional and amateur photographers offered their reflections by presenting a photographic project that could cover machines and production cycles of historical industrial heritage, industrial cities and territories, landscapes of production, infrastructure and urban heritage and construction for the industry. Technological innovation and experimentation of materi-



Soft Machine, Brescia, 2023 (photo by Nicola Bertellotti)



Infundibolo cronosinclastico, Barcellona, 2022 (photo by Nicola Bertellotti)

als, techniques and procedures; memory of industry and labor; history and culture of work; restoration, conservation and recovery; reuse and regeneration practices; image and communication of industry; industrial tourism; experiences of use and mobility.

The novelty of this second edition that AIPAI wanted to reserve for photographers under 35 is the Patrons of Young Talents Award, supported this year by the Maire Foundation, which involved signing a work contract to create a photographic project. The exhibition itinerary starts with the winning work “Soft Machine” by Nicola Bertellotti and with the project “Lo scrigno” by the young Claudia Mencarelli, winner of the Patronage Award for Young Talents Under 35, dedicated to the Ex Alc.Este distillery in Ferrara, followed by the works awarded with special mention: “(Re)FineArt” by Carlo D’Orta and “The future does not breach this wall.Walls, gates, ruins, visions” by Luigi d’Aponete. In the exhibition, it will also be possible to admire the mentioned works by Andrea Martino (The former

Tabacchificio Salvati: a monument to work), Nicola Cavallera (Canal de Castilla) and the selected shots by Chiara Cevales, Roberto Cicchetti, Paolo Felletti Spadazzi, Fabrizio Fiscaletti, Milvia Morocutti, Giovanni Peressotti, Francesca Pompei, Alvisè Raimondo, Roberta Vassallo and Claudio Zanirato.

The promoting committee, chaired by AIPAI president Edoardo Currà and jury president Fabrizio Trisoglio, also president of the Rete Fotografica, and organizational manager Palmira Trabocchi, announces that the call for the third edition will take place in the fall, which sees confirmed expansion of the types of awards and mentions and a special highlight for the category related to heritage second life practices.

More information about the AIPAI Photo Contest can be found on the [AIPAI website](#) or email to info@patrimonioindustriale.it.



Cementera, Barcellona 2022
(photo by Nicola Bertellotti)



Ice Base II, Ravenna, 2018
(photo by Nicola Bertellotti)



Far from me, Papigno, 2020 (photo by Nicola Bertellotti)



Alumetal, Rovereto, 2019 (photo by Nicola Bertellotti)



Interior of the Molino de Flores National Park (photo by Raquel Mancera Sánchez)

MEXICO

CONSERVATION: A STRATEGY FOR PRESERVATION WITHIN THE MOLINO DE FLORES NETZAHUALCÓYOTL NATIONAL PARK

Agustín Tagle Urrutia. Geographer. Director of the Molino de Flores National Park, agustin_tagle@hotmail.com & Raquel Mancera Sánchez. Architect and master in conservation and restoration. Directorate of Archeological Studies- INAH, raquel.mancera-sanchez@gmail.com

Molino de Flores Netzahualcóyotl National Park, encompassing 50 hectares in Texcoco, Mexico, preserves the historical monument corresponding to the Hacienda Molino de Flores. This hacienda, active from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries, is located at the foot of the Sierra de Río Frío, in the transition zone between the wetland of the Texcoco Lake and the mountains. Established on November 5, 1937, by Presidential Decree, the

park aims to protect scenic beauty and architectural heritage, inspired by a similar approach in the United States.

Currently, the Park is administered by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP). Still, when safeguarding a historical monument, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) regulates intervention actions related to cultural heritage. Between 1979 and 1981, restoration works were carried out by the Secretariat of Human Settlements and Public Works under the Agreement made with the Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, supervised by the INAH.

Thinking about the history of the Molino de Flores means understanding a productive and dynamic process that has been interacting over the centuries; it began with establishing a Batán in 1567. The first owner, Juan Vázquez, established a workshop, recognized as the first economic activity on the hacienda. By 1585, Pedro Dueñas installed a wheat mill. In the nineteenth century, the production of pulque was the most important activity, ending its productive stage with the Mexican Revolution.

Over the years, the productive development of the Hacienda caused a change in land use due to the opening of farmland, which



Main façade of the Molino de Flores (photo by José Luis Gonzalez Gonzalez)

has impacted the environment, reflecting transformations to the landscape and current land use. Since the creation of the National Park, it has gone through different administrations, which has caused poor site management, moving it away from its essence of environmental conservation.

In the beginning, already as a Natural Protected Area, there were plans to protect and promote a series of activities; however, the lack of an adequate budget for the real conservation needs and the poor planning and administration of the site led to it being for years a space that served more as a municipal park than as a site of historical or environmental significance. In 1995, the Federal Government transferred the administration of the Park to the state government, which in turn immediately handed it over to the City of Texcoco, which, from that year until 2018, was responsible for the management and activities that took place in the park. Although during this stage, the tourist activity had considerable growth in terms of the number of visitors, the use and management that the site received were not adequate because priority was given to tourist activities, forgetting the relevance of the monument and the environmental importance of the site.

Since 2018, when the federal government, through CONANP, resumed the administration, an operational approach has been adopted to conserve the environment and the monument. As of 2019, the government retakes control of the park, and it is in 2020 when a coordination agreement for its management is signed with the City of Texcoco, taking into account that the Federal Government is the

one who has the acts of authority for its management and the City Council only joins the conservation activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an unexpected opportunity as the park closure allowed for a thorough assessment. This included the state of conservation of the monument, an inventory of flora and fauna, and an evaluation of visitor impact. The reopening marked a shift towards environmental and historical appreciation, highlighting the industrial importance of the hacienda and its ecological significance and defining the safe areas for visitation. Both visitor capacity and visitation areas are constantly reviewed to optimize space utilization and ensure a positive experience. Currently, the park welcomes 65,000 visitors each year who are given access to ecological and historical information.

From then on, conservation actions were initiated, including communicating the importance of the ecosystem services provided by the Natural Protected Area, which were identified by environmental monitoring and research activities, as well as monitoring and preventive maintenance actions in the monument. This strengthens the constant work link with the INAH through the Directorate of Archaeological Studies. The park's environmental monitoring, initiated in 2021, revealed 530 native flora and fauna species thrive within the park's boundaries. This represents a high biodiversity relative to the park's surface. The monument's core revealed its importance as a wildlife refuge, as the highest number of sightings was registered in this area. Because of this, the design of wildlife crossings in some walls was integrated as one of the joint conservation actions.



Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) inside the historical monument (photo by Agustín Tagle Urrutia)

As part of the environmental conservation activities and following the monument's conservation actions, saponins have been promoted to clean facades and walls, avoiding the residues produced by the detergents usually used. In addition, high-purity lime has been promoted to replace interventions with cement incompatible with the monu-

ment's traditional construction systems. Finally, conservation must be understood as a series of comprehensive actions to ensure the preservation and prevention of material and environmental deterioration, guaranteeing the permanence of species and, above all, cultural and environmental heritage coexistence and permanence.



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National Mining Day at the "Furnasetta" in Casale Monferrato (photo by author)

ITALY

XVI NATIONAL MINING DAY

Manuel Ramello

The XVI National Mining Day was held on Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 May. Promoted by the Superior Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), National Network of Italian Mineral Parks and Museums (REMI), Italian Association for Industrial Archaeological Heritage (AIPAI), National Association of Mineral Engineers (ANIM), Assorisorse – Resource Natural and Sustainable Energies, Italian Association of Geology and Tourism and Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE) who share the common purpose of spreading

the value and cultural meaning of geological tourism, promoting the use of the geological and mineral heritage has arrived in its sixteenth edition, registering growing interest across the entire national territory.

The voluntary and national-scale initiative, in its first edition in 2009, sees five Regions - Piedmont, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany and Umbria - immediately welcoming the initiative as a favorable opportunity for the launch of a circuit of museums and mining parks. The National Mining Day is, therefore, a fixed event. Participation increases year after year, with various events in the area ranging from guided tours and geotourism itineraries to seminars, book presentations and conferences, photographic exhibitions, concerts, educational workshops for schools, theatrical performances, etc. The common aim is to enhance the mining heritage within the Italian landscape, affirm its historical

importance, keep its memory alive and spread the value of the recovery of these territories as an opportunity for sustainable development.

The 2024 edition saw the participation of 11 Italian regions, and around 45 activities were created over the two days. The program is particularly rich in the regions of Piedmont, Lombardy, Tuscany, Veneto and Sardinia. For this edition, activities decreased in the regions of southern Italy, with the absence of Campania, Molise, and Basilicata.

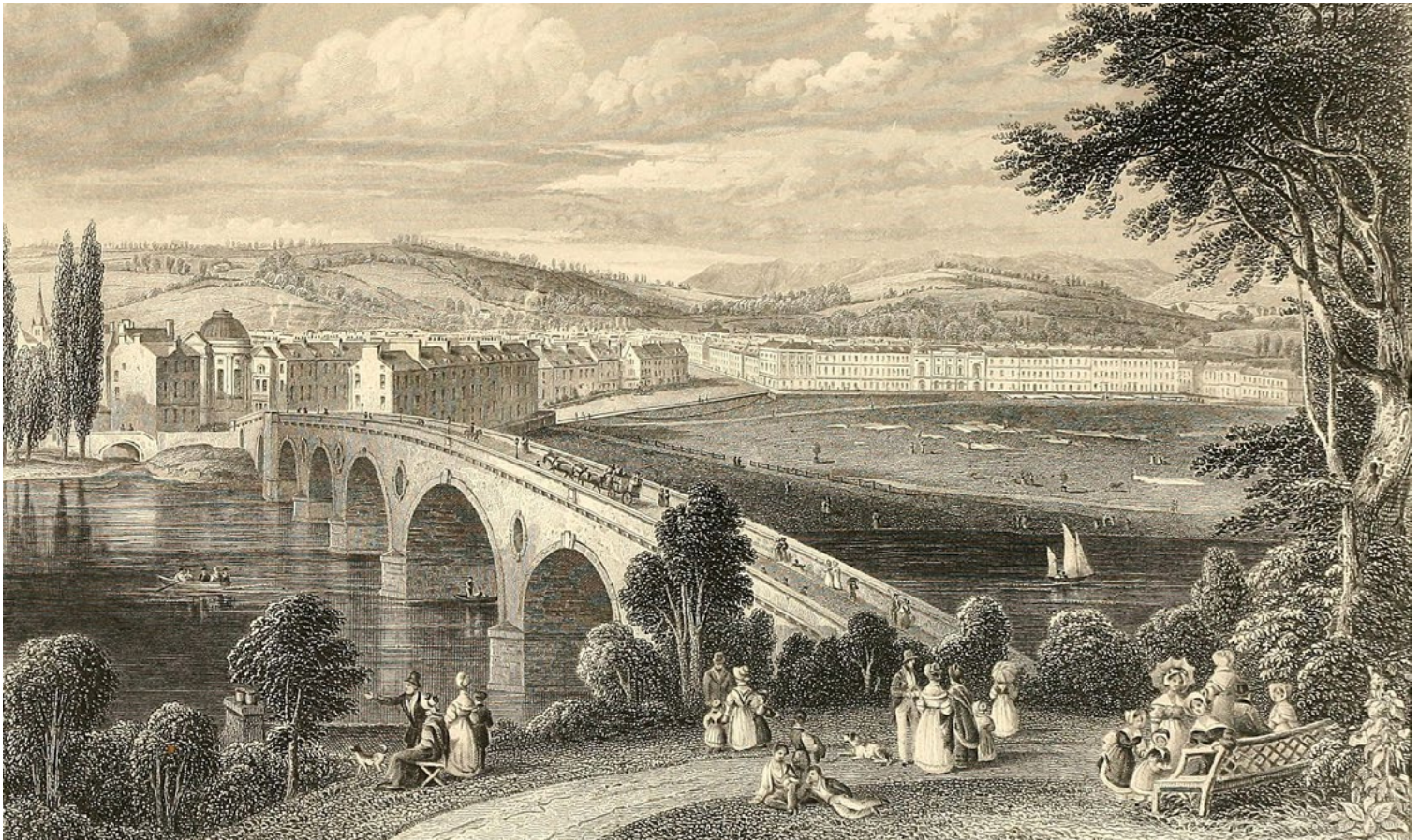
Since its foundation, AIPAI has promoted, coordinated and carried out research activities to analyze the industrial archaeological heritage in its multiple connections with the cultural and environmental heritage system and with the culture of work by promoting operational and scientific collaborations between public and private entities. In this context, the collaboration with ISPRA defines actions of knowledge, valorisation and promotion of the Italian mining heritage by making its national network of scholars and experts available to define common actions to spread the mining culture.

AIPA took part, committing itself with its councilors and delegates to the organization of three activities:

1. in Piedmont with the conference in Ozzano Monferrato as part of the promotion and valorisation of the industrial mining heritage of Monferrato Casalese (present the vice-president Manuel Ramello),
2. in Emilia Romagna, with the descent into the underground at sunset at the Sulfur Museum and the underground reconnaissance at dawn of the Grotta di San Michele in Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna (councilor Massimo Bottini present) and
3. in Lazio in Tivoli/Guidonia with a walk along the extraction activities of the travertine quarries (present the president Edoardo Currà and the councilor Maria Elena Castore).



National Mining Day at the "Furnasetta" in Casale Monferrato (photo by author)



Smeaton designed several bridges, including the Perth Bridge in Scotland (photo by The Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland, 1868, Public Domain)

UNITED KINGDOM

JOHN SMEATON INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INNOVATIONS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

The John Smeaton International Symposium on Innovations in Civil Engineering (JSISICE-300) will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, on Monday the 2nd of September 2024. This one-day symposium is being organized to commemorate John Smeaton’s 300th birth anniversary and his pioneering contribution to advancing Civil Engineering in the UK and worldwide. John Smeaton is regarded as the “father of civil engineering” and was responsible for designing bridges, lighthouses, land drainage, river navigations, canals and harbours; the majority of which remain in service today.

Notable Smeaton innovations that significantly influenced later practice included, in 1759, Eddystone Lighthouse on an isolated sea rock; in 1771, Perth Bridge, his largest, with nine arches introducing hollow spandrels for lightness with strength, which came into general use; and the Forth & Clyde Canal across

Scotland, now renovated and serviced by the Falkirk lifting Wheel. Smeaton’s Mills and Millwork expertise led to steam engine improvements and, in 1759, to The Royal Society publishing his multi-edition “Experimental Enquiry Concerning the Natural Powers of Water and Wind to turn mills and other machines,” still being reprinted in 1836.

In light of John Smeaton’s accomplishments, the symposium aims to provide a knowledge-sharing and networking platform for researchers, practitioners, and students to discuss challenges characterising different types of infrastructure, recent advancements and solutions proposed for overcoming them.

Topics covered include but are not limited to recent developments in the analysis, design, construction, monitoring, maintenance, and rehabilitation of different types of infrastructure (e.g., bridges, tunnels, coastal and offshore structures, railways, dams, canals, etc.).

[Explore the symposium website.](#)

SERBIA

I TICCIH SERBIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE RETHINKING INDUSTRIAL ROUTES AND NETWORKS

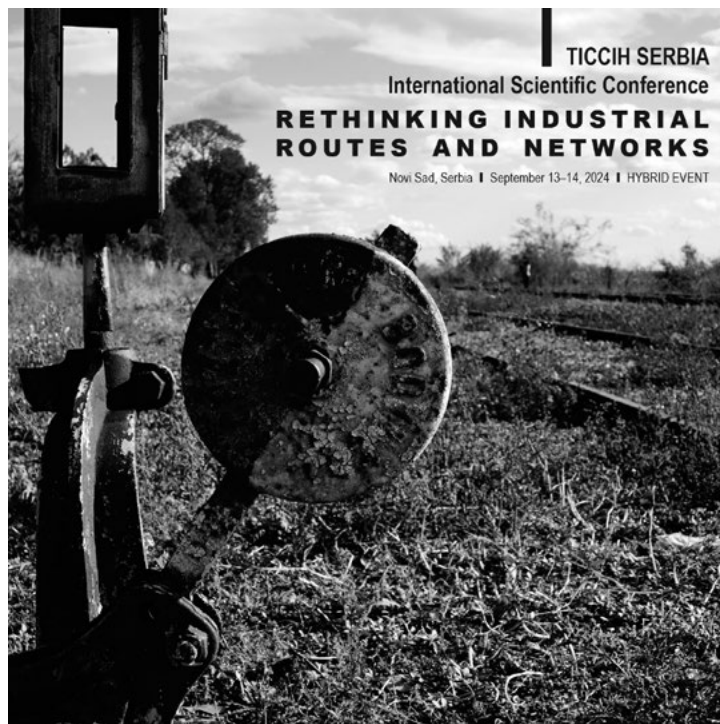
Following the ongoing debates on the European cultural heritage foundation, the first TICCIH Serbia International Conference rethinks the role of industrial heritage in the challenges facing common historical, present, and future cultural values.

In the current year, we are marking the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, adopted to achieve a greater unity among the members of the European Commission to safeguard and realize the ideals and principles which are their common heritage. During the past decades, Europe has experienced a transformation of the social, political, and cultural milieu, which resulted in a critical review of the concept of common heritage in recent years. In this context, the Conference will examine the dynamics of establishing and breaking links and relations between mutually intertwined histories and cultures.

Since 1985, the signatory states of the European Cultural Convention have been celebrating their common heritage within the European Heritage Days, a participatory cultural program initiated by the Council of Europe and the European Commission. Participatory events, organized every September, bring together experts and the public to explore and enjoy cultural heritage. The first TICCIH Serbia Conference theoretically discusses this year's theme of the European Heritage Day – Heritage of Routes, Networks and Connections – within heritage studies and cultural tourism.

The conference aims to review various aspects of industrial routes and networks grouped around three thematic sections.

Although industrial history can be considered a crucial segment of the European past, today, memories of that era are fading despite numerous industrial monuments across Europe. The first thematic section highlights the role of merging industrial historical elements, tangible and intangible, in the context of re-examining mutual memories and cultural values. In particular, it addresses historical routes,



such as railways, roads, and canals, recalling their role in creating the European collective identity.

The second thematic section reviews the significance of various industrial heritage routes in the context of tourism. Contributions presenting the experience of sites that are part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH), European Cultural Routes, and others are welcome. The focus will be on the role of industrial routes in sustainable tourism and local community development.

The third thematic part is dedicated to considering the role of digital technologies in transforming existing and developing new industrial directions. We are rethinking the role of digitization in increasing interactivity and participation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for virtual access to heritage sites has reached unprecedented levels. New digital networks and virtual routes were formed. We welcome positive and negative examples and discussion on the topic. [More details can be found on the website.](#)

DOCUMENTING THE BRAZILIAN CHARCOAL BLAST FURNACES

While charcoal was already replaced by coke in the iron-making process in Europe during the 18th century, and ancient charcoal blast furnaces are mainly a matter of historical preservation, Brazil offers a different scenario.

Imagine a tropical valley with dozens of smokestacks and mini blast furnaces. No, this is not a scenery from the old masters. This is the daily life in Minas Gerais, a heavily industrialized part of Brazil.

We are not speaking about some historical relics. These exotic beauties date back to the 50s mostly when the pig iron industry was blooming. While no coking coal deposits exist in Brazil, charcoal makes the perfect match. The eucalyptus forests were planted

all around the north part of Minas Gerais back in the day, and the process is very simple. Planting new trees, cutting the old and burning the wood happens daily. Is it sustainable? Most likely, yes. And even more, compared to traditional coke making.

I started documenting Brazilian charcoal blast furnaces in 2023 within my Beauty of Steel project. This non-commercial project aims to show the steel industry as an important and irreplaceable part of our society and culture. To date, I have visited and documented over 400 steel mills, foundries, forges, rolling mills and coke plants in 29 countries worldwide.

Why? Our generation may be among the last to experience the fascinating world of dark, rumbling factories.

*Viktor Mácha, **The Beauty of Steel***



Atlas Siderurgica, Itabira



Siderurgica Gage, Gage



Siderurgica Siderbras, Divinópolis



Fergubel, Matozinhos

LINKS TO ONLINE EVENTS CALENDARS:

- [TICCIH Conference Calender](#)
- [ICOMOS Conference Calender](#)
- [UNESCO Events](#)

To add events to the TICCIH Calender please send details and a link to ticcih@mtu.edu



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