

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1 1977/78

Rolt Memorial Fellowship at Bath

Many hundreds of those now actively engaged in industrial archaeology will acknowledge that their palate for the subject was first sharpened by the writings of L T C Rolt. Presidency of the AIA came to Rolt at the end of a very full life engaged both in writing about engineering and in practising it, as readers of the two volumes of his biography will know. As well as playing a role in generating public interest in, and appreciation of, inland waterways, classic motor cars and narrow gauge railways, Tom Rolt wrote a sequence of biographies, notably of Telford, I K Brunel and the Stephensons which are unlikely ever to be bettered, however, much additional source material may become available to future biographers.

To commemorate his outstanding contributions to the history of technology, the University of Bath, which bestowed an honorary degree on Rolt in 1973, will establish a Fellowship in his memory. The first Rolt Memorial Fellow will be appointed this year, and applications are now invited from mature scholars who could use this opportunity to research some aspect of engineering or transport history. The successful applicant, who will normally be appointed for a year in the first instance will have the status of a member of the University, although receiving no salary. The resources of the Fellowship Fund will be available to cover costs of travelling, copying, printing etc, up to a ceiling of £500 per annum. The Rolt Fellow will be expected to bring his work to publication stage with the help of the Fund, and of the research facilities of the University of Bath. His research programme will be under the general direction of the Director of the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology within the University, and he will be encouraged to deliver a public lecture during the tenure of his Fellowship.

Further details are available from the Director of the CSHT, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

Applications for the first appointment will close on 28 February 1978.

News items, book notices and general information about Societies activities etc should be sent to the AIA Bulletin Editor; John Robinson, Fund for the Preservation of Technological Material, The Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD.

Save 'John & Michael' for Lincolnshire. Steam ploughing and Lincolnshire have been closely connected since 1850 when Lord Willoughby d'Eresby developed, on his Grimsthorpe estates, one of the first successful methods of harnessing steam power to cultivation. Lord Willoughby's steam ploughing tackle was exhibited at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and was seen by John Fowler. Shortly afterwards Fowler developed his own steam ploughing system which became, from 1860 onwards, the most successful system used in the country.

Steam ploughing was readily adopted by Lincolnshire farmers whose large relatively flat fields were ideally suited to this form of cultivation. Surprisingly, none of the Lincolnshire steam engineers developed ploughing tackle and Fowler's system was used almost exclusively. The county at one time had approximately 20% of all the ploughing engines in use in England. It was also the home of the country's largest steam ploughing contractors — Ward & Dale of Sleaford — who in 1910 owned 24 complete sets of ploughing tackle.

In view of its importance to the history of agriculture in Lincolnshire a set of steam ploughing tackle has been high on the 'shopping list' of the County Museum Service, who for some years have been building up a significant collection of machinery, tools and records illustrating the development of agriculture in the area. A complete set of tackle has now been found including the two steam engines, balance plough, the living van and water cart. All are in original condition and, with minor restoration, ready for the road. This set

is unique for its completeness and for its Lincolnshire connections. There will never be another chance to acquire such a good and appropriate set for the County.

The engines were bought from Fowlers of Leeds in 1925 by Mr H Carter of Tydd Manor, Nr Holbeach, and were named 'John' and 'Michael' after his two sons. They were used to on Mr Carter's farms in the Fens until 1945.

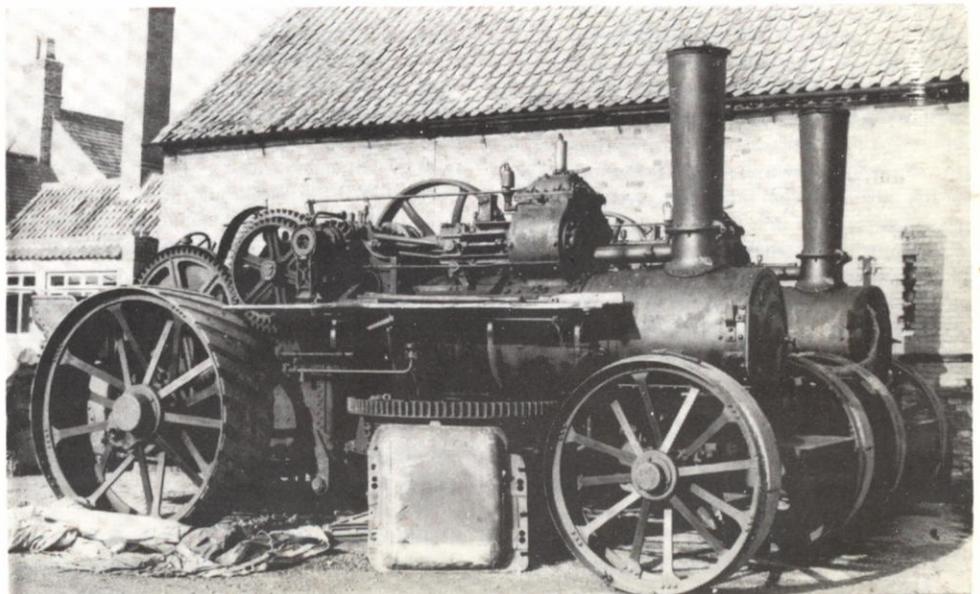
They were then purchased by the present owner, Mr H Thorlby of Evedon, Nr Sleaford. Mr Thorlby was one of the last people in the county to use steam tackle and this particular set remained in use until 1965.

Mr Thorlby has now decided to sell the tackle and has had offers from all over the country. He has agreed to give the County Museum Service the chance to raise the money to keep this important part of Lincolnshire's history in the county. The money must be found by 31st January 1978.

The Friends of Lincoln Libraries, Museum and Art Gallery have, therefore, launched an appeal to raise £5,000 towards the total purchase price of £14,000.

Further details may be obtained from Mrs C M Wilson, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Telephone Lincoln 28448.

Donations should be sent to: Mr J J B Wright National Westminster Bank, 97 High Street, Lincoln.



The reconstituted AIA requires that members complete the new form of application for membership of the AIA Limited, which was distributed to all members with Bulletin 4.5. Failure to do this will mean that they are not entitled to receive any further material from the Association. As was explained in the President's letter, the old AIA has now ceased to operate and constitution of the new limited company requires all members to sign the new form of declaration. If you have not yet done so please complete this form and return it to the Assistant Secretary as soon as possible; his address is

Stuart Smith
The Wharfage
Ironbridge
Telford
Salop TF8 7AW

The British Waterways Board 1978 Calendar is now available. This year the 12 full colour plates feature the distinctive style of artist Ronald Maddox.

The scenes range from the architectural – the Avoncliff Aqueduct in Wiltshire on the Kennet and Avon Canal, and the scenic – the Caledonian Canal in Scotland, to the purely functional – the Board's push-tow barge system on the Aire and Calder Navigation in Yorkshire.

Priced at £1.70p (+40p postage and packing) the calendar is available from the Canal Shop and Information Centre, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JX.

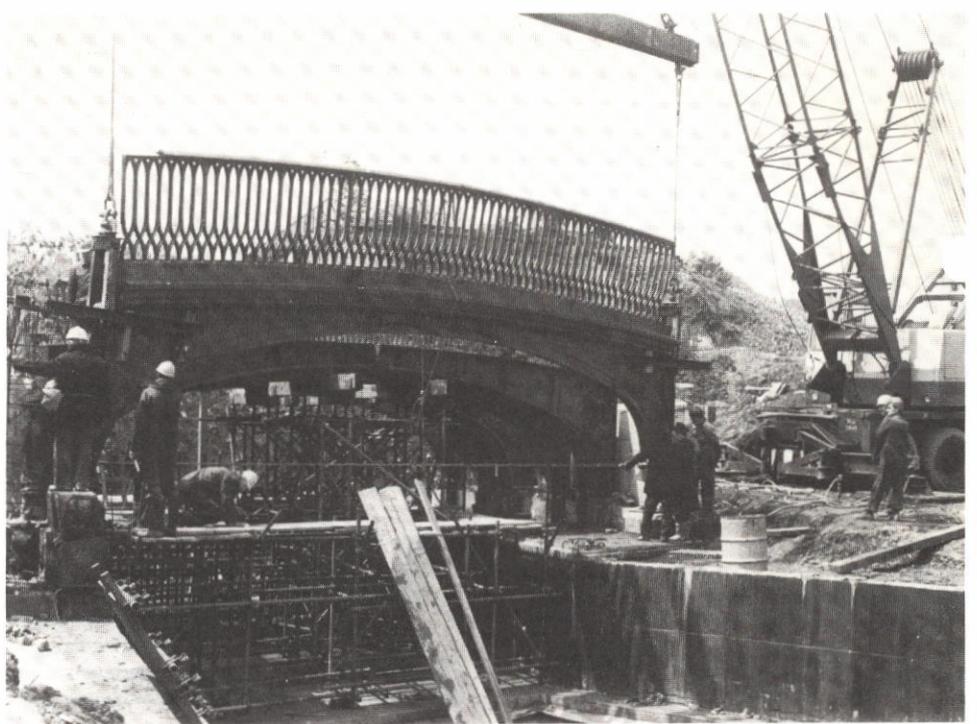
A Railway Environment Panel is being set up by British Rail to advise them on policies and principles to be followed when dealing with Environmental matters, and to encourage and promote their practical application.

At a seminar on Industry and the Environment at the Royal Society of Arts earlier this year, British Rails Chairman, Peter Parker, stated "it is no longer enough to press the claims of the Environment as a self-contained interest. Its consideration now seems to be sufficiently accepted to require integration within the general policies and practices of Industry".

British Rail is conscious of its opportunities to make a positive contribution towards improving the national environment, and also of its responsibilities both to conserve what is good and to prevent further deterioration of that part of the national railway heritage considered worthy of preservation. This responsibility applies not only to such important elements as buildings, structures, trains and ships, but also to the countryside itself where 11,000 route miles of the railway system provides a unique ecological habitat. As a first step a post of Director-Environment was created in June.

The new panel has been drawn from a wide spectrum, and has been able to call on the experience and skill of several distinguished 'outside' members to enhance its effectiveness.

A New Museum of Industrial Archaeology: One of the latest additions to the fast growing tally of IA museums is the Black Country Museum located on a key site adjoining the A4123 Wolverhampton-Birmingham New Road under the shadow of Dudley Castle at the mouth of the Dudley Canal Tunnel. It covers a 26 acre site



and is fast achieving its ambition to recreate a Victorian industrial hamlet complete with canal boat yard, ironworks, chain shop, soapworks, chapel, bakery, chemists and a pub incorporating a domestic scale brewery. Exhibits include an elaborate iron road bridge, originally built on the skew over a Wolverhampton canal in 1879. The site already incorporates an ambitious complex of nineteenth century limekilns which obtained their raw material from nearby Wren's Nest, the underground quarries being honeycombed with arms of the canal tunnel. (It is worth mentioning that Wren's Nest was the birth place of Abraham Darby, founder of the celebrated Coalbrookdale Company, whose parents were first generation Quakers in Dudley).

Already the site, officially opened this October with a rally of scores of boats of every kind, including the museum's own ice breaker 'North Star' dating back to 1868, has an air of bustle about it with re-erected buildings saved from destruction, surrounded by pavements of Staffordshire blue bricks. The boat yard, for example is completely equipped as a working exhibit with blacksmith's forge, nail store, rivet store, paint store, saw mill, stable, steam box and tar boiler. It will be capable of maintenance work on any traditional narrow boat.

The chief prestige exhibit will be a reproduction of the world's first steam engine, built by Thomas Newcomen in 1712 within half a mile of the museum. This will give an insight into the advanced technology of this influential giant step into the modern world and the tremendous scale on which this pioneer steam pumping engine was constructed. The faith in so revolutionary an invention plus the massive capital investment must have been tremendous. It is hoped to inaugurate the Newcomen engine in 1979.

There is ample room for expansion at this promising newest open air museum of industrial archaeology.

Restoring Cast Iron Work the Council of Iron-foundry Associations can supply free of charge, a list of iron foundries interested in undertaking

work which involves replacement of decorative cast iron on buildings. Some foundries have a selection of old patterns (the models used to make the mould into which molten iron is poured), though the chances of finding an exact match for existing iron work are remote. New patterns can be made, but this is a highly skilled, and therefore expensive, job. The usual practice in restoration work of this sort is to remove a piece of undamaged (or even damaged) cast iron and use it as a pattern for a replica, fractionally smaller than the original.

In addition to the list of foundries, the Council can provide booklets on the basic principles of the casting process and on the many sorts of cast irons available and their properties. Contact Miss Wendy Slemen, Council of Iron-foundry Associations, 14 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LZ, telephone 01-930 7171.

Holiday Flat in the Peak District: Industrial Archaeologists wanting a self-contained holiday flat in the Peak District are invited to contact a fellow member, Mr Lindsey Porter, Knowle Cottage, Market Place, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 0AL. telephone Hartington (0298 84) 435, for further details.

The flat is in Hartington village, adjacent to the office of Moorland Publishing Company.

Bridges and Bridgebuilders of Cleveland: The Annual half-day meeting of the Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society will cover Bridges and Bridgebuilders of Cleveland, and will be held at 2.0 pm on Sunday 19 March 1978, at the Leeds University Centre, Harrow Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. An Engineer from the County Authority will give an illustrated lecture on the 1911 Transporter Bridge which spans the river Tees. The Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company of Darlington will make a contribution covering some of the examples that this company has built all around the world including the 1905 Victoria Falls Bridge, 1909 Nile Bridge, 1935 Lower Zambesi, 1936 Verugas Bridge, Peru, 1942 Nowrah Bridge, India, 1959 Auckland Harbour Bridge, New Zealand, 1964 Forth Road, and 1966 Severn Bridge. It is hoped

that a rare film of the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the early 1930's, fabricated by Dorman Long in Middlesbrough will be shown. Other speakers will describe bridges along the River Tees, such as the 1934 Tees (Newport) Bridge which is capable of lifting the 5400 ton central span by means of two 325 HP electric motors. Information leaflets about this meeting will be available from

1 Tomlin, 13 Albert Road, Eston, Cleveland TS6 9QN.

Industrial Archaeology of Mid-Wales compiled by an active Member of the AIA, Mr J B Croucott, deals with the Industrial Archaeology of the former County of Radnorshire. These notes cover metal mining, water mills, railways, roads, quarries, aqueducts, the power industry and manufacturing and service industries. There are also brief notes on farming and other features. It is illustrated with maps of the area and detailed notes on Rhayader. Members of the AIA requiring copies of these notes are asked to write to Mr Groucott at 37 Trefonen Way, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5YA, enclosing 25p for copying and postage.

The Pattern of Past Industry in the Brecon Beacons National Park has recently been published by the National Park; A brief gazetteer of Industrial Archaeological Sites in the National Park, this booklet, priced 20p is obtainable from the National Park Office at Glamorgan Street, Brecon, Powys LD3 7DP. The twenty pages are split into extractive industries, iron-making, other industries, communications and miscellaneous. Each section gives a short history of the industry followed by brief but excellent references to sites including NG References. This booklet is essential reading for any visitor to Powys and would form a worthwhile part of any industrial archaeologist's bookshelf.

'Conservation and craft skills' – Crafts Advisory Committee: This pamphlet forms the greater part of a report prepared in 1975 by the Crafts Advisory Committee for the use of the Department of Education and Science. It studies the current activities in conservation with particular reference to craft skills. It also looks at the need for conservation skills and the demand for them. It summarises current training and makes suggestions as to how it can best be expanded. The brochure includes some useful appendices listing workshops, organisations, colleges, Trusts, courses and local authorities visited.

Available gratis from –
The Crafts Advisory Committee,
12 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AU.

Industrial Archaeology

The re-appearance of **Industrial Archaeology** containing two numbers – 11/4 and 12/1 – may confuse those of our members who do not realise that the Association has no connection with this publication. The AIA journal is **Industrial Archaeology Review**, and the Council are anxious that no misunderstanding should arise amongst our members about the separate existence of these two periodicals.

AIA Members should submit articles for publication to the Editor of **Industrial Archaeology Review**, Professor John Butt, Department of History, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

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01-274 6599 (Home)

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House, Savile Row, London W1X 2AA
01-734 6010 Ext 123 (Work)

40 Priory Road, Hampton-on-Thames, Middlesex
01-979 8272 (Home) 01-549 1366 (Work)

AIACalendar

**SPAB Wind and Watermill Section
conference on Windmills**
March 18

Brick and Tile Kilns
April 1–2

To be held at Art Workers Guild, 6 Queen
Square, London WC1. Details from: Mrs M Dance
Secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient
Buildings, 55 Great Ormond Street, London
WC1.

Seminar at School of Pharmacy, Brunswick
Square, London, WC1. Fee £7.50 (£1 deposit
non-returnable). Details from: London Kiln
Study Group, c/o Cunrning Museum, Newington
District Library, 155 Walworth Road, London
SE17.

Annual conference of South-Western Industrial Archaeology Societies
April 15

Weekend tour of ia sites in Devon
April 21–23

East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, on 'Quarrying and Roadstone Industries'
May 13–16

The Midland Canals, in Town and Country
July 29 – August 5

Trevithick Society Week of Industrial Archaeology
September 11–17

AIA Annual Conference, Penzance
September 15–17

Courses at Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB

Woollen Spinning and Dyeing
March 17–19

Mines of the Peak District
March 31 – April 2

Woollen Spinning for Beginners
June 30 – July 2

Details of all these courses from Peter Townsend, Principal, Losehill Hall telephone: Hope Valley (0433) 20373.

Courses at Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd LL41 3YU

Quarries and Quarrymen
March 4–11

Welsh Gold Mines
May 1–7

Practical Industrial Archaeology
June 3–10

Lead and Copper Mines
June 17–24

Details from: W A Tanner, Secretary, Oxford House Industrial Archaeology Society, Risca Adult Education Centre, Oxford House, Risca Gwent NP1 6GN. Telephone Risca 612245

Directed by Dr Edwin Course. Details from Sandra Chivers, Department of Adult Education University of Southampton, Southampton SO9 5NH. Telephone Southampton 559122 ext 779.

Organised by Leicestershire Industrial History Society. Topics will include; geology of Leicestershire's granitic intrusions, development of stone-crushing and quarrying machinery, and a tour of Bardon Hill quarries led by their managing director. Details from: M J Bannister, 40 Westover Road, Braunston, Leics.

A residential course with lectures, full-day coach trips, half-day boat trips and the thirty-year old documentary film *Painted Boats*. Fees £58 plus VAT, with £2 supplement for single room. Based on Avoncroft Residential College, near Bromsgrove. Details from Lewis Braithwaite MA MICE, University of Birmingham Department of Extra Mural Studies, 24 Grove Street, Leamington Spa. Telephone Leamington Spa 34019.

Visits and lectures on the industries of Cornwall. Details from Paul Stephens, Hon. Secretary, The Trevithick Society, Prospect Villa, Greenbank Road, Devoran, Truro, Cornwall.

Held in conjunction with the Trevithick Society's programme mentioned above.

Sequel to a highly-successful beginners course in spinning held last year, with introduction to the art of making and using dyes. Fee £27 including accommodation.

Visits to Magpie and Masson mines, and the new Mining Museum in Matlock, and field visit in Castleton district. Fee £25 inclusive.

Repeat of last year's highly successful beginner's course. Numbers restricted to ensure that all participants get the maximum attention. Early application particularly advised – fee £27 inclusive.

A wide range of slate mines in Snowdonia will be visited, and techniques and conditions of work during the 19th century will be studied.

Detailed study of what were the most important gold mines in Britain in the modern period, with visits to large and small workings in Merionethshire.

Students will work on the initial recording of an old slate mine. Beginners to practical work are particularly welcome.

An opportunity to visit and study a wide range of mining sites, some of them remotely situated, and to investigate the variety of techniques used for extraction.

Further details from the Principal E A J Buckhurst, at the address above, telephone Maentwrog 324/334

Education Group: In the Bulletin for July 1976 (3.1) Dr Michael Lewis drew attention to the AIA Adult Education Committee, which first met in May 1975. Members may be interested to know of subsequent developments.

Perhaps the most important was the acceptance of the fact that whilst most industrial archaeology teaching is to adults, there was a great scope for the expansion of industrial archaeology in schools. With this in mind it was decided in September 1976 that the Committee should extend its interest to education wherever it was being provided.

The most recent meeting, held at the Manchester Conference this September, reached a number of decisions. First it was decided to ask the Convenor to investigate the possibility of a conference at national level on the teaching of IA in schools, in association with the Schools Council. At the same time, individual members should be encouraged to hold meetings in their own areas – this was being done in Southampton and Nottingham. He was also asked to investigate the best way of letting teachers who were interested know about help that might be forthcoming from AIA or local IA groups. The growth of courses sponsored by hotels was noted, and it was felt that if requested, assistance on the teaching side should be made available. In the more established field of adult education, the new certificate offered by Leicester University was discussed, together with the progress of Mr Brian Woodriff's survey of courses given in 1976–1977.

However, perhaps the most significant decision reached was that the Committee should not be precluded from the advice and help of all AIA members interested in education by the impediment of having a formal structure. It would rather be regarded as an education group, with occasional meetings and activities open to all members. With this in view, the Convenor was asked to invite all members who would like to be informed and hopefully, involved, in the work of developing industrial archaeology to let him have their names in order to compile a mailing list. Would those interested please let the Convenor know?

The address to write to is:

Dr Edwin Course, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH.

AIA Bulletin is published by the Association for Industrial Archaeology. The Association was established in September 1973 to promote the study of Industrial Archaeology and encourage improved standards of recording, research, publication and conservation. It aims to assist and support regional and specialist survey and research groups and bodies involved in the preservation of industrial monuments, to represent the interest of Industrial Archaeology at a national level, to hold conferences and seminars and to publish the results of research. Further details of the Association and its activities may be obtained from the Membership Secretary Association for Industrial Archaeology, The Wharfage, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop TF8 7AW England (095–245 3522). ISSN 0309–0051.