

# INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

**132**  
SPRING  
2005

THE BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

FREE TO MEMBERS OF AIA



Romania workshop • Swannington winner • Heritage Lottery Fund • Hatfield seminar  
EMIAC 68 • 20th Century Archives • Cromford picture • wireless history • Farnborough



# INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS 132 Spring 2005

#### Honorary President

Prof Angus Buchanan  
13 Hensley Road, Bath BA2 2DR

#### Chairman

Prof Marilyn Palmer  
School of Archaeological Studies, The University,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

#### Vice-Chairman

Mike Bone  
Sunnyside, Avon Close, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2UL

#### Secretary

Barry Hood  
7 Loch Way, Kemnay, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5QZ

#### Treasurer

Richard Hartree  
Stables Cottage, Sibford Ferris, Banbury OX15 5RE

#### IA Review Editor

Dr David Gwyn  
Nant y Felin, Llanllyfni Road, Pen y Groes,  
Caernarfon LL54 6LY

#### IA News Editor

Dr Peter Stanier  
49 Breach Lane, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8LF

#### Affiliated Societies Officer

Prof Ray Riley  
8 Queen's Keep, Clarence Parade, Southsea PO5 3NX

#### Conference Secretary

Tony Parkes  
60 School Lane, Hill Ridware, Rugeley WS15 3QN

#### Endangered Sites Officer

Dr Mike Nevell  
University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, University  
of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

#### Librarian and Archivist

John Powell  
c/o IGMT, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7DQ

#### Publicity Officer

Jonathan Briggs  
46 Arrowsmith Drive, Stonehouse GL10 2QR

#### Recording Awards Officer

Dr Victoria Beauchamp  
3 Parsonage Court, Parsonage Crescent, Walkley,  
Sheffield S6 5BJ

#### Sales Officer

Roger Ford  
Barn Cottage, Bridge Street, Bridgnorth WV15 6AF

#### Council Members

Christine Ball  
Dr Robert Carr (BA Awards)  
Dr Paul Collins (Partnerships)  
Tony Crosby (co-opted)  
David Lyne (Conservation Award)  
Michael Messenger  
Dr Mary Mills  
Dr Miles Oglethorpe (TICCIH)  
Paul Sautler (E-FAITH)

#### Honorary Vice-Presidents

Sir Neil Cossons John Hume Stuart B. Smith

#### Liaison Officer

Simon Thomas  
AIA Office, School of Archaeological Studies,  
University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH  
☎ 0116 252 5337, Fax: 0116 252 5005  
e-mail: AIA@le.ac.uk

#### Website:

www.industrial-archaeology.org.uk

## Industrial Archaeology Workshop in Baia Mare, Romania

*The fourth International Workshop on Industrial Archaeology organised by the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs held over five days in the autumn of 2004 provided a welcome opportunity for around 50 participants to explore the industrial operations, remains and museums of the mountainous Maramures province of northern Romania whilst sharing varied experiences through informal discussion and lectures. The sessions and tours were adeptly coordinated by Irina Iamandescu, a dynamic young architect working for the Department for Historic Monuments.*

Sabina Strachan

Based in Baia Mare, literally 'Big Mine', named for the availability and extraction of non-ferrous metals, the conference was formally opened in the Biblioteca Judeteana on the last day of September 2004. The warm welcome was followed by two papers providing an overview of 30 years of TICCIH and the 'Eurocultures' web-based educational facility focusing on tourism-oriented case studies. The nearby Maramures County Museum is housed in an arcaded and balconied smooth-rendered building that predominantly dates from the 1770s and functioned as the Mint (first recorded here in the fifteenth century) and as the Superior Mining Office, restored and extensively remodelled in 1979. Naturally the 1,000 or so exhibits in the new 'History of Mining from Maramures' permanent exhibition focus on mining technology with gold and silver furnaces, lamps and tools from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Our visits to operational industrial sites

began the next day at Romplumb lead smelter, now processing lead dust from Poland into ingots rather than locally-produced minerals; some of the technology belongs to 1960s Russia and some buildings incorporate remains of the 1840s. The company has so far met two out of three targets to reduce pollution emissions and they have secured the investment necessary to meet the third. Until the 'Big Chimney' was built in 1994 lead levels were extremely high and could induce headaches in visitors. A common theme during our few days in Romania is the relative labour-intensity of many of the industries. Next door there are blocks of workers' housing built about 50 years ago, on which is painted a female miner symbolising the Communist ideal of gender equality. We then headed towards the Tiblesului Mountains where the director of the National Precious and Non-ferrous Metals of Baia Mare Company permitted us to visit the Cavnic Mines; extraction here was first recorded in 1511. The operation is the largest of its kind in Romania and we toured the dressing plant, an inclined plane and the above-ground parts of one of the shafts. Currently four out of five shafts are operational—down-sizing in the post-Ceausescu era has caused 212 mines to close between 1989 and 2002, and the desire to join the single-currency in 2007 will be matched by the total removal of state support. The local mayor talked of the potential for tourism; there are already some defunct/disused remains but, as in the UK, the opportunity for developing such as an attraction is often limited.

The focus of the bus tour shifted to subsistence economies with visits to three working water mills in villages of the Cosaului Valley. All combined a fulling cone (where felting



A fulling mill at the Village Museum in Bucharest

Photo: Mike Clarke

#### COVER PICTURE

*Romanian Forest Railways 764 steam locomotive emerging from a tunnel in the Maramuresului Mountains (see this page)*

Photo: Mike Clarke