AIA

BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

MARCH 1974 1.1

THE NEED FOR ACTION

Britain has been the birthplace of Industrial Archaeology, both in the sense of possessing the earliest monuments of the Industrial Revolution and of being the place where these monuments first became the objects of serious study. The great strength of British industrial archaeology has been the broad base of its support amongst a wide range of people of diverse backgrounds and skills who have devoted their time to restoring redundant industrial sites, canals and abandoned railways, and in the thriving societies which have been formed up and down the country to promote interest in the industrial remains of their particular neighbourhoods. The manifold activities of these devotees have achieved considerable successes in the preservation of industrial monuments which would otherwise certainly have been destroyed, and they have also done much to further research and encourage the publication of books and papers on the subject.

Despite all these activities and successes, however, there are weaknesses in the organisation of British industrial archaeology which have been spot-lighted by the comparatively recent flowering of interest in other countries. In Sweden and West Germany, for example, there has been a strong insistence on the social significance and utility of industrial monuments, and in the United States of America the Historic American Engineering Record is promoting a thoroughly professional national survey of industrial monuments. In America, also, an energetic national organisation has demonstrated the value of a lively and well informed bulletin. In comparison with these developments, British industrial archaeology has come to look somewhat narrow and parochial with too great a dependence on amateur enthusiasm.

This is not intended in any way to dismiss the undoubted and, indeed, indispensable service of amateur enthusiasm to industrial archaeology. There will always be a need for such effort. But the fact is that without adequate co-ordination the labours of local stalwarts become narrow in focus, bearing no relation to work in similar fields in other parts of the country, tending to repeat both successes and mistakes, and failing to draw on expertise which could easily be made available in the conservation of industrial monuments.

Consciousness of these inadequacies has been growing amongst British industrial archaeologists in recent years. An awareness of the need for regular consultation contributed to the success of the annual conferences, which were started at the University of Bath in 1966 and have now become institutionalised as a peripatetic national conference held at a different place in Britain every September. This annual assembly seemed the most appropriate body to consider the sort of steps which were necessary to strengthen the national interest of industrial archaeology, and it was here, amongst conference members and the special committees set up to carry out continuing detailed investigation, that the plans to form a national organisation were matured.

The decision to establish an Association for Industrial Archaeology has not been taken lightly. It was important, first of all, to make sure that there was no existing organisation which could fulfil the required purposes without adding further to the number of institutions in the field. There were two possible candidates, the Newcomen Society and the Council for British Archaeology. The former made it quite clear that it considered its role as the leading learned society in the history of technology prevented the development of the Society into a more broadly-based movement, and this point of view will be widely approved and respected. As for the CBA, it has already established a Research Committee on Industrial Archaeology which had, with the aid of financial support from the Department of the Environment, undertaken a National Survey of Industrial Monuments. Over the last ten years the Research Committee has become a most useful channel between regional societies and the government, serving as a means of making recommendations for official scheduling and listing and recognised by the DoE as an agency for this purpose. The CBA Survey Officer has been accepted as an important link in the process of securing better protection for ancient monuments.

There is no question about competing with the CBA Research Committee and its Survey Officer in the continuing performance of these functions. The procedure has been gradually improved over the years and it now operates very smoothly as a way of making official recommendations and of providing an early warning when important industrial monuments are threatened by redevelopment. There are, however, serious objections to extending the functions of the CBA in an area which is only one of several important concerns to the Council, and it seemed preferable, therefore, to maintain the CBA set-up as at present constituted while creating a separate but related organisation to attend to the other functions required of a national industrial archaeological body.

What are these functions? While it is possible to consider the creation of a national organisation in very general terms such as the need to encourage co-ordination, and to observe that no existing bodies are able fully to perform this, it is important to be clear about the more precise objects of such an organisation. However these are expressed in the formal style of a constitution, it is possible to define three specific functions. Beginning with the most general of these, the pursuit of a higher degree of co-ordination between industrial archaeologists requires a greater measure of liaison through regular publications, consultations, and conferences than has been achieved hitherto. There is an important place here for the journal 'Industrial Archaeology', although it needs supplementing by an up-to-date information service. The minimum requirement is thus for an organisation to supervise the arrangements for the annual conference and to make available to local fieldworkers a flow of news and information about industrial archaeology.

Secondly, it is becoming a matter of great importance and urgency to secure a professional standard of recording for industrial monuments, and particularly for those in imminent danger of destruction for which a good set of measured drawings will be the only surviving record for posterity. So far this has only been achieved on a small scale and piecemeal basis. The National Record of Industrial Monuments (NRIM), which sprang out of the CBA Survey and retains a close link with the work of the Survey Officer, is setting up a site record which will be of increasing value as it approaches completion, but by the very

nature of the summary card entries it can never be much more than this. There is thus a pressing need for a systematic and highly professional approach to industrial recording, and this will have a high priority amongst the aims of the AIA.

The third function for which it seems necessary to create a new association is that of achieving rational and effective conservation policies for industrial monuments. This is far from having been achieved at present. The CBA Research Committee is endeavouring to construct a 'safety net' of official protection for important monuments, but this cannot hope to be completely effective as it can do little more than monitor the fate of protected monuments and make protests to official enquiries when they are in danger. What is now needed is a body which can determine some sensible national criteria for preservation and then deploy resources of cash and expertise to ensure that the best possible selection of industrial monuments is conserved in a very positive manner. This is an ambitious objective, involving the creation of a national fund for industrial conservation which it is hoped could be drawn from both public and private sources, and a body of expert opinion which would be acknowledged by all parties concerned. It could involve the outright purchase of important monuments, or finding means of putting them in the charge of a responsible local authority, trust, or museum. It can certainly only be achieved on the basis of widespread support for the body administering such a national fund, so that support for the AIA could be a matter of quite crucial importance for the future success of industrial archaeology in this country.

The Association for Industrial Archaeology thus presents itself to the public as a body anxious to achieve some specific and important objectives which are at present not being systematically pursued by any other body. It calls upon all those amongst the public in general and amongst industrial archaeological practitioners in particular, who approve of these objectives, to support the Association with their membership and participation. There is much to be done if the industrial heritage of this, the First Industrial Nation, is to be adequately recorded and selectively preserved in a meaningful and useful way. May we ask you to support us in this important exercise?

THREATENED MONUMENTS

Some space in each issue of the Bulletin is to be devoted to a feature on industrial monuments currently being threatened by demolition, alteration or neglect. Such monuments must fall into one of two distinct categories - they are either protected by legislation or are unprotected. This distinction is crucial in determining subsequent courses of action; therefore, the categories will be dealt with separately.

Protected Monuments. There are two main types of protection afforded by Legislation. Monuments can either be included in the Statutory List of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Importance or they can be included in the Schedule attached to the Ancient Monuments Acts. The former are commonly known as 'listed buildings' and are accorded a grade to indicate their significance (Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II in descending order of importance), while the latter are simply called 'Scheduled Monuments' without any qualification.

In the case of listed buildings, formal Local Authority permission must be sought by the owner prior to any alteration or demolition - a procedure known as applying for Listed Building Consent (LBC). The Local Authority is obliged to notify the following six national bodies of all such LBC applications:

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
(or their counterparts in Scotland and Wales)
The Ancient Monuments Society
The Council for British Archaeology
The Georgian Group
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
The Victorian Society

As each of these national bodies has a somewhat different procedure in dealing with these notifications there is adequate opportunity for consultation and representation. The Council for British Archaeology, for example, disseminates copies of the notifications to designated officials in the relevant county archaeological society while in addition all applications with industrial archaeological implications are forwarded to the Industrial Monuments Survey. The recipients of these notifications are normally requested to tender their observations and/or objections to the appropriate County Planning Department within 21 days of dispatch of the notification. Should Listed Building Consent be granted the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments have a statutory right of access to record the building.

The Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, part of the Department of the Environment, has the right to override any Local Authority decision and indeed in those cases where the Local Authority is itself the owner the Directorate must make the initial decision. In the case of a scheduled monument all decisions are taken by the Directorate and the owner of such a monument must give three months notice of any proposed interference with the monument.

The next issue of the Bulletin will review some of the recent applications for Listed Building Consent and give an indication of the variety of problems that these pose.

Unprotected Monuments. These can be divided into those monuments which have already been officially assessed and have not yet been accorded the benefit of legislative protection, and those monuments that have not been assessed. The assessed monuments can either be those included in the Local (formerly Supplementary or Grade III) Lists attached to the Statutory Lists of Buildings or those sites which have been considered by the CBA Advisory Panel on Industrial Monuments. In the latter case, if the recommendation of the Panel was favourable, the transfer of the monument on to the lists of protected monuments is greatly facilitated.

However the majority of sites of industrial archaeological interest would fall into the category of sites which have not so far been officially assessed. It may be that the significance of these sites has for many years been recognised by local experts or specialised bodies without an official agency being approached or it may be that the significance of the site has only recently been appreciated. These sites are very much at risk as no official permission is needed to demolish or clear a site but only for subsequent development.

Throughout the whole of this field the Association has an important role to play. It can seek recognition for unprotected monuments and exert pressure on official bodies to accord protection. It can publicise threats to monuments and make submissions in respect of applications for Listed Building Consent. Should that consent be granted the Association can seek to persuade the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments to exercise more rigorously its right to record such monuments prior to demolition. In the case of unprotected buildings the Association itself should endeavour to ensure that adequate records are made.

To further these aims the Association intends to establish a network of watchdogs to report on threats to monuments and a complementary network of recorders who would take responsibility for ensuring that a record of the monument either already exists or that one is made.

Pending the establishment of these networks details of cases causing immediate concern should be communicated to:

Keith A Falconer
CBA Survey Officer
Industrial Monuments Survey
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Bath
Bath BA2 7AY

FORGE MILL, REDDITCH

An Appeal Fund has been launched by the Chairman of Redditch Urban District Council to aid the preservation of the buildings and needle-making machinery of Forge Mill. The buildings are of various dates but have remained substantially in their present form since 1828. The west mill contains the scouring shops, barrelling shop and stone crushing mill; the east mill a pointing shop and polishing or furnishing shops. Between the two mills is the great wheel, 14 ft in diameter, installed about 1830 by the firm of Edward White, Engineers. The scouring process carried out at the mill gave Redditch needles a high quality and finish.

Volunteers from the Wind & Watermills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings are restoring the machinery to working order. Money is required for repairs to the machinery and for conservation work made necessary by woodworm infestation. In all some £25,000 will be required. Redditch Council, which has spent large sums on repairs, is making a substantial contribution, and the surrounding park will be its responsibility. The Council have set up a trust which will authorise the spending of money only for the purpose of this Appeal. Contributions should be sent to the Appeal Fund, Forge Mill Needle Museum,Redditch, Worcestershire.

CAST-IRON FRIENDSHIP

Iron buildings, most of them over a hundred years old, stand in the older commercial sections of American towns and cities looking so much like stone that most passers by have no idea that they are iron. Many are decorated with what appears to be elaborate and expensive carving and most are painted to simulate stone. These iron buildings are all early pre-fabs, their modular parts having been cast in iron foundries, then transported, often over vast distances, to sites for assembly into finished structures. They are the lineal ancestors of today's curtain wall skyscrapers and the direct descendants of the 1797 flax mill in Shrewsbury, designed by Charles Bage, the first iron-framed building in the world. New York City has the greatest concentration of iron-front buildings anywhere and they are numerous in Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Savannah. Even the dome of the US Capitol in Washington is of cast-iron. Whilst these were being built cast-iron structures were going up in Australia - mainly of British origin - some iron palaces were erected in India, Les Halles markets were constructed in Paris and the Crystal Palace in London. In Britain, Bristol, Glasgow and Liverpool were major producers of large cast-iron buildings; so too on a smaller scale was the Coalbrookdale Company in Shropshire. Even today in Liverpool part of the water-front is called 'the cast-iron shore', a reminder of this once thriving trade.

In order to preserve this aspect of our architectural heritage, to identify and list iron buildings and to urge owners to maintain them well and protect them against deterioration, a new organisation has been established - The Friends of Cast-Iron Architecture - with Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Sir Nicholas Pevsner as honorary chairmen. If you wish to befriend cast-iron buildings, and there are a surprising number in Britain as well as the United States, send two dollars to the Secretary, Friends of Cast-Iron Architecture, Room 30, 44 West Ninth Street, New York, NY 10011, United States.

THE CRISIS AND PRIME-MOVERS

Back to wind and water power'. This was the lesson for many firms during the crisis at the beginning of the year when electricity shortages were so great. Some ingenious managers used a combination of wind and water power, others used water power alone to prevent men being laid off, and one of the most enterprising was Wilson & Co, Snuff Makers of Sheffield, a firm which goes back to 1737. Their waterwheel provided power for about fifty per cent of the snuff-making process. Powered by water from the River Sheaf, it ground, sifted and mixed snuff on days when electrical power was not available. On the days when the works was allowed to use electricity, its electrically-operated machines packed and wrapped the snuff. The firm's production runs into hundreds of tons of snuff, about one-fifth of which is exported.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF THE WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

The Council of Management of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum has appointed Mr Christopher Zeuner, at present Keeper of the Museum, to be Director of the Museum from 1 April 1974.

Mr John Lowe, who has been Director of the Museum since April, 1969, will retire at the end of March but will remain on the staff as Consultant to the Museum.

With the extremely rapid development of the Museum in the past year (111,042 visitors at the museum in summer 1973), the Council of Management has decided that the time has come to appoint a full-time Director. When Mr Lowe took on the Directorship of the Museum in April, 1968, he was employed on a part-time, consultancy basis and at that time he made it clear that his job was to establish the museum on firm foundations and that when this was achieved he would wish to hand over to a full-time Director. Mr Lowe is Principal of West Dean College, consultant to a large Japanese company, organiser and leader of foreign tours for Twickenham Travel Ltd, and part-time journalist and publisher. With these interests Mr Lowe does not feel he can give enough time as Director of the Museum but that he can still act as Consultant, with special responsibility for public relations, fund raising and administration of the Friends association.

Mr Christopher Zeuner is aged 28 and lives at Lavant, not far from the Museum. He was trained as a school teacher and taught for several years. Some time ago he became one of the museum's most active volunteer workers until in 1971 he was appointed Honorary Curator of Crafts and Craft Equipment, being responsible for the museum's growing collection of rural craft items. His service to the museum as a volunteer led to his appointment in 1972 as Keeper of the Museum, with overall responsibility for running all activities on the museum site. In this post he has had a wide experience of the museum from the re-erection of buildings on site to administration and the organisation of the volunteers, a body who have contributed so largely to the rapid development of the museum.

EXHIBITION AT IEE

To launch the National Archive for Electrical Science and Technology (NAEST) an exhibition will be held at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in June 1974.

The exhibition will cover the aims and objects of NAEST and a 'before' and 'after' restoration of some of the archival material. After its close, it is hoped that a similar exhibition will be held in other places in the United Kingdom.

The formation of NAEST was approved by the Council of the IEE in September 1973 and comes under the general supervision of the Director of INSPEC, the IEE's International Information Division.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Press Officer, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R OBL

BRUNEL EXHIBITION PROJECT, ROTHERHITHE

Most people will realise that the run down of London's docks and the general rise in land prices along the Thames threaten to disburb traditional neighbourhoods and to erase an important part of London's history as a great port. The Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Society are sponsoring a Brunel Exhibition Project in the hope of encouraging interest in their local area. They propose as a first step towards preserving some of the buildings of the area to set up a museum concerned with the life and achievements of the Brunels. A number of organisations have expressed interest because, of course, the Brunels were concerned with the building of the Thames Tunnel which connects Rotherhithe and Wapping.

A touring exhibition was arranged by Michael Lloyd at the Spa Road Library in Bermondsey in February, and it is to be hoped that the Department of the Environment will take an interest in this area.

CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY 1974

The first national conference under the auspices of the AIA will be held at Keele University, Staffordshire from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 September 1974.

Following the pattern set by previous conferences in Bath, Bradford, Glasgow and the Isle of Man, the papers to be presented will deal principally with the local industries, and tours on the Saturday afternoon will give conference members an opportunity to see at first hand some of the major industrial monuments of the area. Time has been allocated for those attending to present their own contributions, and space will be available for displays. The first annual business meeting of the AIA will be held on the Sunday morning.

Speakers at the conference will consider the raw materials of the pottery industry; the North Staffordshire coalfield; the country house as factory; and the career of James Brindley, millwright, canal builder, and engineer. The field tour will visit some of the more important sites in the area, including the restored Cheddleton flint mill; Etruria, the site of Josiah Wedgwood's famous factory; the Caldon canal; Hanley Deep Pit, where headgear has been preserved and spoil heaps landscaped to form the Hanley Forest Park; and, it is hoped, the Gladstone Pottery, in which a museum of the ceramics industry is being established. For conference members who have already visited Cheddleton, or who are more interested in the iron and steel industry, an alternative tour is planned to the Apedale and Silverdale area.

Residential accommodation will be available at Keele University, and it is anticipated that the conference fee, including residence and meals from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime, will be approximately £12.

Final arrangements for the conference are now being made. All those interested in attending are invited to contact the Association's Conference Secretary, Michael Bussell, 23 Fitzgeorge Avenue, London W14 0SY. Detailed information and booking forms will then be mailed when arrangements have been completed.

SCOTTISH RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Scottish Railway Preservation Society has a depot at Falkirk which houses one of Britain's finest all-round collections of locomotives, rolling stock and ancillary equipment. Many of these items have been restored to working order by volunteer members, and help is sought from volunteers who are willing to travel to Falkirk any Saturday.

Plans are afoot for a steam railway between Alloa and Dollar, and the Society provides a very comprehensive service to its members. Membership costs £1.50 a year from July to June (half rate after 1 January). Full details are available from Mrs I Gollan, 16 West Relugas Road, Edinburgh EH9 2PL.

CONSERVATION READING

Scheduling and Listing

'A Guide to Historic Buildings Law' published by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Planning Department.

'Twenty-five Years of Listing' by Angus Acworth and Anthony Wagner, Architectural Review, 148 No. 885, November 1970, pp. 308-10.

England and Wales: 'Protecting Our Historic Buildings, a guide to the legislation', from the Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London, S.W.1.

'Scotland's Historic Buildings, a guide to the legislation which protects them', from the Scottish Development Department, Room H 607, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SF.

Reports and details of award schemes

The Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AW.

The Prince of Wales Awards, 15 Wellifield Court, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

Highland Village Schemes, Crofters Commission, 8 Ardross Terrace, Inverness.

Better Britain, a competition for young people, The Nature Conservancy, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Salop, SY4 4TW.

Grants

Civic Trust Newsletter, July 1972/32.

General Improvements Areas

Department of the Environment Circular 65/69.

Civic Trust Newsletter, May 1972/31.

Street Improvement Schemes

'Pride of Place', a manual for those wishing to improve their surroundings, published by the Civic Trust, London.

Stone Cleaning

British Research Station Digests Nos. 113 and 125, HMSO.

The Architects' Journal: Technical Studies, 1, 2 and 3 in issues 28 August 1972 and 30 August 1972.

Street Lighting

Civic Trust Newsletter, September 1972/33.

Trees

'Trees Sense', the Council for the Protection of Rural England, 4 Hobart Place, London, SW1 0HY

'The Care of Trees', the Scottish Civic Trust, 24 George Square, Glasgow C2.

Organisation of local amenity societies

'How to start a Civic or Amenity Society', the Scottish Civic Trust.

VACATION WORK

Two vacation posts are available with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust for Summer 1974. Work will entail the surveying and measuring of historic buildings in and around Ironbridge and the preparation of plan and elevation drawings. In addition it is likely that more generalised museum work at various of the Trust's sites will be possible for part of the period. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced students who should write, enclosing a sample of drawing work, to the Director, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Church Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, TF8 7RE

AIA Bulletin is published six times a year 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 interests 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 Secretary, Association for Industrial Archaeology, Church Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop, TF8 7RE, England (095-245 3522)