

THE 11TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF WESTERN INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

was held in Gloucester on Saturday April 19th 1980. It was eight years since it had last been the turn of our Society to organise this annual event, and it was decided to break new ground, by taking delegates out of the lecture room and into the open. This turned out to be a popular move; with the result that although 150 enthusiasts from I.A. Societies all over the West and South Wales were accommodated, the demand was such, that regretfully 60 applicants had to be turned away, as the lecture room could not accommodate so large a number. At the Wheatstone Hall, Mrs L.T.C. Rolt, Chairman for the day, introduced Mr Hugh Conway-Jones, who spoke on the history of the Gloucester Docks. Parties were then led around the Docks in small parties, in pleasantly bright but windy weather. An interesting "extra" in the Victoria Dock was a working pair, narrow boat and butty, belonging to GSIA member Alan Picken. Ninety people then lunched on board the Barge Semington, and thanks to the kind co-operation of Mr John Rhodes, Curator of the Gloucester City Museum, a further 60 lunched in the City Art Gallery.

In the afternoon a series of most interesting talks, on a wide variety of subjects, were given by members of visiting societies.

The day ended, as usual, with a lively discussion, about I.A. and its future in the region. It was decided that the next Conference should be held in Worcester, which has now been arranged for Saturday April 11th 1981.

DOCKS 400 There were various celebrations in the Docks in June in honour of the 400th anniversary of the Port of Gloucester. It was a great delight to see so many craft tied up at the quays, pennants flying; while the crowds of spectators were sufficiently large to pose considerable circulation problems.