

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

GSIA is affiliated to the AIA and thus has links with nationwide industrial archaeology. The AIA includes amongst its activities the organisation of conferences and the production of publications. Some of their publications are noted below as are reports on two of the conferences I attended. If you are interested in joining the AIA as an individual member or attending a conference, please contact me.

CONFERENCE REPORTS.

The Affiliated Societies Working Week-end at Ironbridge, 14th - 16th April 1989.

This week-end concentrated on the role of the official bodies (central and local government) in industrial archaeology and their relationships with local societies.

Peter White (English Heritage) spoke on the work of English Heritage which can be divided into broadly two parts: firstly properties in care and secondly conservation, listed buildings, listed building consents, grants, public enquiries, buildings at risk, etc. their records are all on computer now which should assist future developments.

Following on from the use of computers by English Heritage was a more general session on computers. John Crompton detailed the need for a data base for records of industrial archaeology sites.

Then Philip Turner from Hampshire County Council spoke on Local Societies, Local Authorities and Building Trusts. Besides providing some enlightening discussion on the above topics he had also brought a long a book giving more details on the subject. It is entitled Hampshire Heritage and a Policy for its Future published by Hampshire County Planning Department. Although it related specifically to Hampshire it is a good example of a description of a county's heritage and it provides much valuable information on listed building consents, conservation and preservation and useful notes on relevant legislation.

Keith Falconer spoke on the RCHM (England) and the work it does. Again there was a booklet to take away, which although a review for 1987/88 shows the structure of the RCHM and refers to specific aspects such as computerisation, national and local records, the architectural survey and records, aerial survey, archaeological investigation, threatened building recording, etc. A number of individual examples appear in the report and it is pleasing to note that Stanley Mill features in the

report. (There is also a report on Stanley Mill in Post Medieval Archaeology.)

Finally Jane Grenville gave a dynamic talk on the CBA and Listed building Applications which relate to industrial archaeology sites.

There were discussion sessions and time for delegates to visit the various museum sites. A particularly noteworthy feature was the joint dinner with delegates from the Council of Europe Conference on Industrial Archaeology who spent the final days of their peripatetic conference at Ironbridge. It provided an opportunity for discussion and for people to try out their linguistic skills.

AIA Annual Conference 1989 at Huddersfield West Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire is an area of contrast: beautiful open moorland where one might forget industrialization ever existed and then towns crammed with textile mills railway lines, canals and engineering works and brick works and the remains of coal mines etc are also to be found in the region. A great deal to be seen and a week was hardly long enough.

This year the additional programme was before the main conference, with delegates arriving from Monday 11 September onwards. the first visit was on the Monday evening to the Bradford Industrial Museum which was opened specially for us. the visit provided an introduction to the textile industry of the region.

The main part of the programme began the next day with a whole day visit to Dewsbury and Leeds. Some delegates went to Harrison's Lathe Works but I opted for the tour round Dewsbury. (Pevsner scathingly comments that 'there are absolutely no houses worthy of mention' at Dewsbury.) Could the town really be so terrible? Unfortunately the weather was not at its best, pouring with rain at times, but despite this there are some impressive commercial premises and from my point of view worth a return visit.

After lunch we visited Thwaite Mills. Putty was manufactured there until 1976, however, the majority of the building dates from the 1820s. The mill is being opened as a museum. There are displays on the process, but there are working sections too such as the water wheel and the grinding of the putty. After our visit to the mill we went with a short stop at the Middleton Railway to Armley Mill which houses Leeds Industrial Museum. At one time this mill was the largest woollen mill in the world. It is an impressive building and the galleries cover the main

Leeds industries including of course textiles and clothing, heavy engineering, etc.

In the evening there were lectures on Transport and Technology in the Mid Pennines and on the Buildings of the woollen industry. Both provided additional information on this complex industrial region.

Wednesday we made an early start for the Colne Valley. First was a visit to Low Westwood Mill, a stone building with the water supply powering a generating turbine. The mill is currently used for processing cotton waste into shoddy. Along side the mill and its reservoir runs the recently restored Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Next we went to the Colne Valley Museum which is housed in three adjacent weavers cottages. besides hand textile machinery it also contains a cloggers workshop. Finally in the morning we went to Heath House Mill owned by T.W. Thorpe Ltd and still working, undertaking all the processes necessary to turn wool into woollens, with the exception of dyeing; worsteds are also produced but the yarn is bought in. we spent some considerable time going all round the processes from the department designing the fabric pattern, and the raw wool to mule spinning and finishing.

Lunch was at the Great Western Hotel at Stanedge (roast beef and Yorkshire pudding). by the end of the meal it was pouring with rain, but despite this a number of the group elected to walk to Marsden, where we visited the Tunnel End, its little museum and the British Waterways board maintenance depot housed in an original stone building. We returned to Huddersfield via the old turnpike roads.

In the evening were lectures on Quarrying in West Yorkshire and the Leeds Clothing industry.

Thursday started with a visit to Pawson's Britannia Quarry where we saw blasting of the stone, worked as Coal Measures Sandstone. then we saw the processing of the stone through to the finished product which is sold as York stone. Next we visited Batley where we looked at mid 19th century warehouses used by mungo and shoddy merchants.

After lunch (of fish and chips) we visited Stanley Ferry Aqueduct and then to the small, working Hoffman kiln at the Normanton brick works. Much of the 19th century machinery is still used for brick moulding. It was certainly well worth a visit. We then went via New Sharlston mining village to Wakefield and the Calder Navigation and finally to the Saville Basin of the Aire and Calder Canal at Dewsbury.

The evening lectures were on the Water Resources in the Pennines and Industrial Settlements in West Yorkshire.

Friday started with a visit to the model community of Ackroyd with a brief viewing of sites in Queensbury on the way there. we then went to Halifax to the Piece Hall and the Pre-Industrial Museum and the Calderdale Industrial Museum, both interesting. After lunch some delegates returned to Huddersfield to prepare for the main conference whilst the rest visited Washpit Mill, Holmfirth and its working steam engine, as well as other sites in Holmfirth.

The main conference started appropriately with a lecture on the Industries of West Yorkshire by Robin Thomas. Then there were short talks on the work of the Royal Commissions. They were given by Robin Thomas on the English Commission; Stephen Hughes and Hilary Malaws spoke on The Welsh Commission and Miles Oglethorpe spoke on the Scottish Commission.

On the Saturday morning two of the three lectures concentrated to a great extent on the industries of Leeds: the Mechanisation of the Woollen Industry in West Yorkshire and the Beginnings of Engineering in Leeds, and finally the West Riding coal Industry. All provided a more detailed insight into the industrial development of the region. After lunch there was a choice of three coach trips; a) Saltaire, Bingley and Little Germany, Bradford; b) Providence Mill and Cap House colliery; c) the Colne Valley. I decided to stick with the textile theme and having visited Colne Valley in the week, chose Saltaire, etc. first stop was to Bingley Five Rise Locks on the canal, with the Damart Mills in the background. Then we went on to Saltaire with its mills and workers housing and a bookshop suitable for industrial archaeologists and which experienced a sudden and no doubt unexpected business on what would normally have been a quiet Saturday afternoon. Finally we went to the magnificent warehouses of Little Germany in Bradford.

Back at Huddersfield there was the Conference dinner at which the Dorothea and the Field work and Recording Awards were presented. Afterwards there were some excellent members contributions.

Sunday there was a Forum for open discussion and then the AGM. With that business complete, delegates were able to hear Ken Powell, architectural correspondent for the Daily Telegraph give the Rolt Memorial Lecture on the Creative Re-use of Industrial Buildings: principles and practice. It was a fascinating talk with some interesting examples from both England and abroad. With lunch came the conclusion of the main programme, although after lunch there was a walk round Huddersfield for which I unfortunately did not have the time.

It was an enjoyable conference and thanks are due to Bill Thompson as the local organiser and to the AIA conference secretary David Alderton. And as usual there was an excellent conference booklet, A Brief Guide to the Industrial Heritage of West Yorkshire, with Bill Thompson as the general editor.

If you are interested in coming to next year's conference which is to be held at Guildford, starting on 7 September 1990, please let me know.

Amber Patrick

AIA PUBLICATIONS.

The AIA produces two types of publication: the Bulletin which comes out four times a year and of which GSIA receive several copies as an affiliated society (If you would like to have a look at one please contact Ray Wilson.) They have short articles on a variety of topics and a diary of events.

The Industrial Archaeology Review is an academic publication of high standard. The spring issue included Neville Crawford's paper on Thomas Telford and the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal, and Mary Miles paper on the Halse Maltings. The autumn volume is devoted to metalliferous mining, with paper on mining aspects in England and further afield, in Spain and South Australia. Also included is a paper by David Bick on the Beam Engine House in Wales.

It is nice to know that our members are contributing to the Industrial Archaeology Review.

I have already mentioned the conference booklet which is produced for each annual conference.

Finally, I must mention a useful publication produced by the Ironbridge Institute: Guide to Producing Archaeological Reports by Michael Truman, Janet Markland and John Powell, 1987 and available from the Institute. A useful guide for those of us who write up reports, including sections on drawings, photographs, referencing text layout, etc.

Amber Patrick