



## IA in Dixie

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
Southern Chapter

### Fall Tour '99



This year's Fall Tour will take place in the heart of industrial Dixie--Birmingham, Alabama. Capitalists founded this Deep South city shortly after the Civil War and financed heavy industries to extract and process the region's vast fields of iron ore, coal, and limestone. Birmingham grew so quickly during the 1880s it adopted the nickname "Magic City" and became one of the largest iron-making districts in the country and the largest manufacturing center for cast iron pipe in the world. This tour will feature, along with Birmingham's most interesting industrial sites, **HOT IRON** on three of the four days. *Please note the following changes from earlier publications: Foundry workshop will be \$100 and the opening night reception will be held on Thursday, Nov 4.*

#### SATURDAY/SUNDAY OCTOBER 30-31

Those of you making a long trip out of this year's Fall Tour may want to visit the locally produced *Sloss Fright Furnaces* haunted blast furnace at Sloss either night. Please indicate on the registration form and tickets will be set aside for you.

#### TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2-3

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm** Foundry Workshop offered by the Sloss Metal Arts will include a pattern making workshop on Tuesday followed by a mold making workshop on Wednesday. This very interactive art program allows participants to get down and real dirty with the iron founding process. You can sign up with a pattern idea of your own or choose from those provided by Sloss. The fee for the workshop is \$100.00 and includes transportation, lunch, and all materials and instruction to produce up to a 30 pound casting. Additional material fees apply for larger items. Castings will be poured during the opening night reception, Thursday, November 4 and participants will have the option of suiting up and helping run the cupola. This is a real foundry, so hard soled shoes and old clothes are required. Only natural fiber garments are permitted when working near the cupola. All safety equipment will be provided. Attendance is limited. An information package will be sent out to participants prior to the workshop.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

**7:00am-8:30am** Registration desk open

**8:00 am-5:30pm** We will start the day by visiting the ca. 1905 Empire Coke Works, the oldest operating by-product coke plant in the country. Our second tour stop will be the new Mercedes SUV assembly plant and museum. The rest of the day will be spent at USX's Fairfield Works touring the Number 8 blast furnace, seamless pipe mill, and rolling mill. *Note: This will be a long day with lots of walking. Closed toe, hard soled shoes, pants, and hardhats and safety glasses are required.*

**4:30 pm - 6:30 pm** Registration desk open

**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm** Opening night reception at Sloss Furnaces will include an iron pour, an introduction to the Birmingham District, tours of Sloss, and a light meal.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**7:00 am - 8:30 am** Registration desk open

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm** We will begin the day at the American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO) to watch deLavaud centrifugal cast iron pipe production,

cold rolled steel pipe production, and large diameter fitting production. A tour of the Alabama plant of Boral Bricks, the largest brick maker in the world, will follow and include modern brick making and possibly the clay mines too. In the afternoon we'll visit the still-active historic Steward Machine shops, and the melt shop and rolling mills of SMI Steel.

**5:00 pm - 8:00 pm** Dinner on your own

**8:00 pm - 10:00 pm** Show and Tell at the Pickwick

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

**7:00 am - 8:30 am** Registration desk open

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm** Saturday will start off with a tour of the Civil War era Tannehill Blast Furnace followed by a visit to the ca. 1890 Cahaba Pumping Station, the first major waterworks built to service the booming city of Birmingham. Next we'll tour the 1920s Alabama Theater and its Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ, followed by the Barber Vintage Motor-sports Museum and restoration facility, home to the largest private motorcycle collection in the world.

**5:30 pm - 10:00 pm** The closing banquet will be held at Rickwood Field, the oldest professional baseball park in the country. Evening will feature a Southern barbeque, a panel discussion with members of the Industrial and Negro Leagues, and a softball game or two. In addition to Minor League and Negro League games, Rickwood field also hosted championship games of the city's industrial leagues, with teams from such plants as Stockham, Sloss, ACIPCO, Republic, and Woodward.

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**8:30 am - 11:00 am** Guided walking tour of Downtown Birmingham, considered by many to be a museum of the Chicago Style of Architecture. A ride to the airport will be offered.

**8:30 am - 5:00 pm** Guided walking tour of Downtown Birmingham plus stops at the Civil War era Brierfield Furnace and the Shelby Iron Works Park Catalan Forge demonstration described below.

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm** Guided hiking tour of abandoned iron ore sites along Red Mountain and Catalan Forge demonstration. *Note: there will be steep climbs so sturdy shoes or boots are required.*

**2:30 pm - 5:00 pm** Catalan forge demonstration at the historic Shelby Iron Works Park. Shelby manufactured armor plate for the Confederate iron clad *Tennessee*. Following the war, Shelby's modernized charcoal blast furnaces, which operated into the 1920s, were nationally recognized for their innovative practice. Dinner will be included.

#### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

The historic Pickwick Hotel in Birmingham's Five Points will be the tour headquarters. Overflow rooms are available at the Radisson, just two blocks down "two-mule" hill from the Pickwick.

Pickwick Hotel, (800) 255-7304  
1023 Twentieth Street South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205  
SIA Rates: \$82.00, single or double, by Oct. 11, 1999  
(Continental breakfast included. Free airport shuttle available, advance notice to hotel preferred)

Radisson Hotel Birmingham, (205) 933-9000  
808 Twentieth Street South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205  
SIA Rates: \$73.00 single or double, by Oct. 3, 1999  
(Breakfast on your own)

Contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for additional hotel information at (800) 458-8085

**TOUR LIMITS:** 90 people, due to restrictions at Mercedes, Empire Coke, and Boral Brickworks

**REFUNDS:** \$50.00 Refund fee before October 3, 1999. No refunds guaranteed after October 3.

**PACKETS/GUIDE BOOKS** We will be including copies of *Birmingham Bound* with the tour information. This Birmingham Historical Society publication showcases the regional HAER projects conducted from 1977 to 1996. If you already have a copy of this publication please select one of the other publications listed on the registration form.

**MEALS** Pork became a staple food product for the South with the settlement of Jamestown. Pork will make its way into many of the meals we will be serving. We will identify all dishes served that have pork products and will be able to make a limited number of vegetarian meals available. Please indicate your preference on the registration form.

**BUSSES** and vans will pick up from and drop off at both the Pickwick and the Radisson. Because of the location of many of the sites, there will be a couple of long bus rides.

**CLOTHING** Birmingham should be extremely pleasant in November, with temperatures ranging from the 40s to the 80s. We will be doing a lot of walking on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday so wear shoes with good support. Also Thursday and Friday tours will require stiff, closed-toe shoes or boots, hard hats, safety glasses, and long pants. Saturday tours will be casual but dress suitably for softball that evening and bring a mitt if you've got one.

**HARDHATS AND SAFETY GLASSES** will be required on all tours Thursday and Friday. Due to limited supplies at Empire Coke and Boral Brickwork, you will need to bring your own. Hard hats and glasses can be purchased via the registration form if needed.

**TRANSPORTATION BY CAR** Birmingham is conveniently located at the intersection of I-65, I-20, and I-59. The drive is only 2 ½ hours from Atlanta, 3 hours from Nashville, 12 hours from Detroit, Chicago, or Washington, D.C.

To get to the hotels from I-65, take the exit for I-59 North and I-20 East (they share the same roadway through Birmingham) and travel approximately 1 mile to exit 125B for 22nd Street South.

Drive south (one way) on 22nd St. for roughly 3 miles. You will pass downtown, cross the railroad reservation which divides the city into N and S (if you look left from the viaduct, you will see Sloss), and up

through mid-town. Turn right on Magnolia Avenue South (one block south of 10th Ave South).

To the Pickwick: Travel 1 ½ blocks on Magnolia Ave South and you will see a sign for the entrance to the Pickwick parking garage. If you miss the turn, proceed the remaining ½ block to 20th Street South, turn right, and in the middle of that block is the front entrance to the Pickwick.

To the Radisson: Once on Magnolia Ave South travel two blocks to 20th Street South. Turn right, pass the Pickwick, and continue two blocks (down two-mule hill) and the Radisson will be on your left at University Ave. Alternate: Take 22nd Street South to University (8th Ave) turn right, travel 2 blocks to 20th Street and the hotel will be on the left.

**CAR POOLS** If you are interested in car pooling to Birmingham with others from your region please indicate so on the form. We will only give out contact information for people who have indicated that they are interested in car pooling.

**BY RAIL** Birmingham is serviced by the Amtrack Crescent, which provides an excellent "backyard" introduction to Birmingham industry while riding along the tracks that defined the city. Taxis are available at the station.

**BY AIR** The Birmingham Airport is serviced by most major and some minor airlines.

**FOR MORE TOUR INFORMATION** contact Bode Morin at (205) 324-1911/ bode88@compuserve.com or Jack Bergstresser at (205) 934-4690/ drblast@msn.com

Please send checks or money orders payable to:

**FALL TOUR '99**

c/o Ron Bates  
Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
20 32nd Street N.  
Birmingham, Alabama 35222

# SIA FALL TOUR '99 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State/Prov : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Est. arrival date and hotel: \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Event</u>   | <u>Number</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| SIA Membership individual                                | _____         | x \$35      | _____        |
| SIA Membership couple                                    | _____         | x \$40      | _____        |
| Fall Tour Registration                                   | _____         | x \$72      | _____        |
| Fall Tour Student Registration<br>(include copy of I.D.) | _____         | x \$36      | _____        |
| Foundry Workshop   | _____         | x \$100     | _____        |
| Thursday Pre-Tour  | _____         | x \$25      | _____        |
| Friday & Saturday Tours                                  | _____         | x \$45      | _____        |
| Saturday Banquet   | _____         | x \$25      | _____        |
| Sunday Architecture Tour                                 | _____         | x \$10      | _____        |
| Sunday Architecture Tour &<br>Catal in Forge Demo        | _____         | x \$20      | _____        |
| Sunday Iron Ore Site Hike &<br>Catal in Forge Demo       | _____         | x \$20      | _____        |
| After Oct. 3, late fee                                   | _____         | x \$25      | _____        |
| Hard hats and Goggles                                    | _____         | x \$10      | _____        |

Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Loss Fright Furnace? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian Meal? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car pool? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

If you already have a copy of *Birmingham Bound*, please select one of the following for each person registered for the tour on this form:

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Birmingham View* (early photographs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *A Walk to Freedom* (Civil Rights Churches)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Vulcan and his Times* (history of Vulcan Statue)