

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Volume One Number 1

January 1972

THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

The SIA is the product of a conference held at the Smithsonian Institution on 16 Oct last, the intention of which was to bring together a group sharing a belief in the need to establish a means for exchanging information and views in the growing field of IA. First proposed by Paul E. Rivard, Director of Old Slater Mill Museum, and organized by Ted Sande, AIA, teaching fellow and doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, and Robert M. Vogel, Curator of Mechanical & Civil Engineering, Smithsonian Institution, the meeting was attended by approximately 50 architectural historians, historical archeologists, historians of technology, museologists, preservationists, students and even a few professed industrial archeologists—a good representative cross section of the sort of people involved in the field.

The discussion developed toward an enunciation of three principal goals, which were felt to be the basis for any common effort to be undertaken:

1. Interdisciplinary exchange of information on those working in industrial archeology and their projects; who requires and who can provide information; and the identification of useful outside sources.

2. As an adjunct to the above, the generation of bibliographical information having pertinence to the field.

3. Education: to create a public awareness of the need for preservation, surveys, and the other objectives of industrial archeology, through schools, museums, etc; and, by public and governmental lobbying, the effecting of such objectives as industrial preservation, appropriation of funds for surveys, etc.

Following extensive discussion on the various means by which these goals might be achieved, a poll of the meeting showed a heavy majority favoring establishment of an entirely new society for industrial archeology as the best solution, hence the SIA. As a means of fulfilling its aims, the Society would publish a newsletter and hold annual conferences.

To carry matters forward, an interim executive committee with the following membership was formed by voluntary selec-

tion, to serve until a formal election at the first full meeting.

Richard M. Candee
Old Sturbridge Village

Richard L. Deily
Iron Bloom

Chester H. Liebs
State of Vermont, Division
of Historic Sites

Vance Packard
Pennsylvania Historical &
Museum Commission

Paul E. Rivard
Old Slater Mill Museum

Edward S. Rutsch
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Ted Sande
University of Pennsylvania

Charles W. Tremer
Muhlenberg College

Robert M. Vogel
Smithsonian Institution

John G. Waite
New York State Historic Trust

R. John Corby, Curator of Industrial Technology, National Museum of Science & Technology, Ottawa, kindly agreed to act as the Society's Canadian Liaison.

Membership in the SIA is open to all who have an interest in IA, without regard to background, professional status or any other consideration. Full particulars on the Society and membership will be found in the accompanying prospectus.

Since the organizational meeting, the executive committee has met twice to work out organizational details. The interim officers are:

President—Charles W. Tremer
Vice President—Ted Sande
Secretary-Treasurer—Vance Packard
Editor—Robert M. Vogel

Incorporation (in the District of Columbia), bylaws, newsletter format, meeting arrangements, and other matters are currently being settled, all of which will be presented to the membership in April at our first conference.

The SIA Newsletter

Undoubtedly an industrial archeology society is long overdue, not only in the US, but probably on an international level as well. The principal reason for the general lag in productive work in IA—at least in this country—has been lack of a medium for the expeditious broadcasting of information on what is being done in the field. We have, for at least a decade—and in some cases for a great deal longer than that—been working very much like a lot of well diggers, each toiling at the bottom of his own pit without a clear idea of what is happening in the others, or if, indeed, there even were any others. If a list were made of all the isolated efforts that could be construed as industrial archeological over just the past five years, it would be, we suspect, of surprising length, variety and substance.

It is probable that much of this effort has been in duplicate or overly laborious for the simple reason that those involved have been unaware of similar efforts elsewhere. Less obvious, and perhaps more critical, because there has been no means of systematic information exchange in the field, many industrial artifacts, structures and sites have succumbed that might otherwise have been put to reuse, and worse, succumbed without having been documented. There have, of course, been the rudiments of an intelligence net in the form of various publications having an associated interest in IA—the National Trust's *Preservation News* is one splendid example—but, not surprisingly, the heart of the net has been the grapevine. Not to say that that medium is not an effective one, and it will probably always be the fastest

means of spreading an occasional alarm, but there is a need for something more methodical and widely distributed. The SIA itself, and its *Newsletter*, will, we believe, fill the need.

A newsletter, of course, has two components. The editor is really nothing more than a cutter and paster; an assembler. The principal component is the gatherer, i.e., collectively, the membership of the Society. If the *Newsletter* is to serve its intended function, it must be richly supplied with material. We expect the SIA to bring together some hundreds of persons having an extremely broad collective background, representative of many professions, interests, skills, talents, inclinations and temperments, and geographical and organizational associations. The SIA's success as a focus of IA intelligence in North America depends wholly upon the energy with which its variegated membership supports it. The base of much of Great Britain's prolific IA activity is the written word: not only the journal *Industrial Archaeology*, but the countless local-society newsletters and bulletins, and the continuous stream of articles, reports and publications of the general and specialized press. These pour forth from amateur and professional alike: young and old; man, woman and child, and do more than anything else to foster the preservation, recording, and examination of the Industrial Revolution's remains, and to assess their effect on our civilization.

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The *Newsletter* is viewed as a flexible medium, whose format will conform to the needs of the Society and its members. This first issue is in many ways a trial, which should be looked at critically by us all. The main value of the *Newsletter* will be to furnish information on actual projects, of all sorts: structures endangered; ones saved—their stories being of potential usefulness in other campaigns; restoration projects; adaptive uses; recording, inventoring and documenting surveys; digs; discoveries; etc. Asking will be as important as telling. The *Newsletter* being a medium of exchange, inquiries are as enthusiastically invited as declarative contributions. Let us hear from you.

Meetings, conferences, publications of interest, and the activities of related organizations will be noted from time to time, and as space permits, articles will be published on techniques, philosophical questions and other matters of common concern. With your news, your comments and suggestions are sought.

NOTES and INQUIRIES

A full Synopsis of the 16 Oct Organizational Meeting, including abstracts of the informal project reports that concluded the proceedings, is available from the editor.

Thought currently is being given to organizing some form of systematic national inventory of historically significant industrial/technological/engineering sites and structures in the US and perhaps Canada. Examples of inventory forms and instructions used in other survey and inventoring projects are sought. Contact the editor.

The series of Annual Fall IA Conferences in Britain that was started about seven years ago, known as the "Bath Conferences," is no longer held at Bath. This year's will be at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, in early Sept. Subject,

dates and other details to follow. (The gyppos have the one-way London air fare down to \$64; the more legitimate houses to \$85: cheaper than staying home.)

The SIA has been noticed for the first time, apparently, in hard print in a *Smithsonian* (magazine) article on IA in Great Britain: "The Fascinations of Discovering Engineering's Past"(!), by Anne Angus. Included are nine good color photos by Terence Spencer, many of relatively obscure monuments such as the five-lock flight on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and a small grain/flint mill with twin, iron, undershot wheels. In coming momentarily down to earth, the article states: "More recently [than in GB], the subject has taken root in the United States. Last fall the Society for Industrial Archeology was formed through the instigation of various interested individuals . . . its first annual meeting will be held in April 1972." A number of inquiries about SIA already has resulted from the article.

For the *Newsletter* masthead the Society is deeply indebted to Janet Stratton of Washington, a free-lance graphic designer, formerly with The Smithsonian Associates. The cut is from a Historic American Engineering Record drawing (1969) of the Troy (NY) Gas Light Company's gasholder house of 1873.

The American Concrete Institute Committee on the History of Concrete will sponsor a one day workshop on 6 Mar at the ACI annual meeting. (Dallas, TX Hilton) Speakers will include Neal FitzSimons, Chairman of the American Society of Civil Engineers Committee on the History & Heritage of American Civil Engineering (oral history and source material); Douglas Griffin, Chief, Historic American Engineering Record (federal and regional historical programs); and Emory Kemp, Chairman, Dept of Civil Engineering, West Virginia Univ. (industrial archeology). The workshop is open to interested non-ACI members.

PROJECTS, SITES & STRUCTURES

Sites & Structures in Danger

UNDER DEMOLITION: Queen City Hotel-Station, B&ORR, Cumberland, MD, 1871-72. The grandest of the type surviving in the nation, after a long, bitter, complex, and at times bizarre fight for its life, is being slowly pulled down. A building of enormous character and potential usefulness to the community, the Queen City had many, but not enough, champions in the right places. The most promising of the abortive 11th-hour preservation schemes proposed its utilization as a center for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The building is on the National Register and was fully surveyed by the Historic American Engineering Record in 1970.

ENDANGERED: A bridge that probably is unique in the world is threatened by the impending demolition of the factory complex of which it is a part. Built by the famed E & T Fairbanks scale works of St. Johnsbury, VT in c1870 to connect its plant with a RR siding across a small river, it is framed in typical Town lattice timber trusses, the center line of trussing between the aisles or passageways reinforced by heavy laminated timber arches. Remarkable is that both arches and trusses are continuous through the bridge's *two stories*. Of additional, architectural interest is the neo-Gothic treatment of the exterior sheathing and windows. The structure was recorded by HAER in 1969 and is now being nominated for

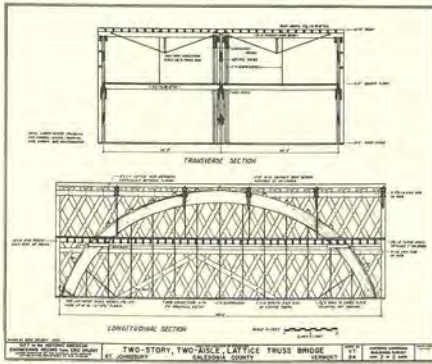
SIA ANNUAL MEETING

The first annual conference of the SIA will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 8 and 9 Apr 1972, at the Cooper Union, Astor Place, NYC (built 1853 by Peter Cooper, one of the first American buildings to employ rolled-iron beams). Formal papers of about 20 minutes and informal work-in-progress and project reports of about 10-15 minutes are invited. Abstracts not exceeding 100

words should be sent by no later than 15 March to the Program Chairman:

Chester H. Liebs
Vermont Division of Historic Sites
Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05602.

Sunday will be devoted to site visits in lower Manhattan and Hoboken. Detailed information will follow.



the National Register by the Vermont Division of Historic Sites, which hopes also to evolve a plan for its on-site adaptive use. If this effort fails, the bridge should, in view of its singular structural and architectural significance, be dismantled (which would be relatively simple) and re-erected in another, suitable location such as a restored village. Contact: Chester H. Liebs, VDHS, Pavilion Bldg, Montpelier, VT 05602.

ENDANGERED: The famed Lombard St Bridge or Waterpipe Truss over Jones Falls, Baltimore, is scheduled for replacement this spring. It was designed and built by Baltimore civil engineer Wendel Bollman, inventor (1852) of the iron bridge-trussing system bearing his name that was the first consistently used in RR service, and founder (1858) of Patapsco Bridge & Iron Works, first commercial bridge company in the world.



The unique span provides dual service: two traffic lanes are carried within three lines of trussing of which the two outer are conventional Pratt-type of cast and wrought iron; while the center line is a bowstring truss with top and bottom chords forming 30-inch watermains, bifurcated at the ends, carrying municipal supply. A scheme for re-erection of the remarkable structure elsewhere in the city is being examined.

Sites & Structures Delivered

Bronson Windmill: One of the few, if not the only, surviving large estate windmills is presently under restoration by a group of private citizens in Fairfield, CT. The handsome enclosed, fish-scale-shingled mill was built in 1890 by A. J. Corcoran of Jersey City to drive a deep-well pump for water supply. With the exception of the sails, most of the mechanical organs are intact, including the wood-stave cistern near the top of the tower. Portions of the heavy-timber frame, however, have suffered considerable rot where the sheathing has fallen away.



Initial plans call for enclosure and frame repairs this winter, other work to follow as funds permit. Prime movers of the project are the Nils Andersons, Southport.

The Crown & Eagle Mill, North Uxbridge, MA, 1825/1829/1851, is widely considered the architecturally most outstanding cotton mill in New England. Long empty and the subject of an extended and deeply discouraging preservation effort by many concerned individuals and institutions, it apparently has been saved from irreversible decay, demolition or radical alteration by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (a.k.a. The Society with the Long Name). SPNEA, which holds a large number of (to date, non-industrial) properties in NE, has taken an option on the mill's purchase with intention to use its considerable space variously for museum storage, a preservation center, and other historically oriented functions. A \$1000 grant from the National Trust will be used for financing, operations, and architectural studies. The venturing of such groups as SPNEA and the Trust into the uncharted waters of industrial preservation and adaptive use is a trend of incalculable importance to the general cause of historical preservation in America, as well as a hopeful sign for IA.

The industrial complex of the former Poole & Hunt in the 19th C industrial enclave of Woodberry in north Baltimore, has recently been purchased by Bilt-In Wood Products Co. of that city, kitchen cabinet manufacturers. Poole & Hunt from 1851 until the 1920s was Maryland's leading builder of water turbines and power transmission, mill and manufacturing machinery. The complex, including the original machine shop of 1851 and a large variety of other 19th-20th C industrial buildings, has lain derelict for about a decade. B-IWP, under its president, Robert Poloway, is sensitive to the site's historical and esthetic character, and plans a studied weeding out of the few insignificant and dilapidated structures, rehabilitating the rest for its own use and industrial rental. This promising project will be watched with interest, as one of enormous potential to the imaginative re-use of early industrial plant.

International concern over the deterioration of one of the world's pre-eminent IA monuments, Coalbrookdale Bridge, 1779, first ever to be constructed of iron, may now be allayed. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Ironbridge, Telford, England, has been formed to take custody of the venerable span and the nearby museum of the Coalbrookdale Iron Works, where the bridge was cast. Neil Cossons, late of the Bristol City Museum and the City of Liverpool Museums and a leading exponent of IA, has, it is agreeable to report, been appointed director. Further information on the Trust's work will follow.

The State of North Carolina has recently commissioned Contract Archaeology, Inc. of Alexandria, VA, to undertake archeological investigation on the site of the Fayetteville Arsenal, burned by Sherman in March, 1865. The Arsenal, built 1836-40, originally was used for small arms storage—up to 15,000 at a time—but during the early years of the Civil War was converted by the Confederacy to the manufacture and repair of small arms using machinery captured at Harpers Ferry and Richmond. J. Glenn Little, Director of CA Inc, states that the goal of the summer 1972 survey is to salvage as much information and material as possible from within the foundations before their partial obliteration by a planned belt highway. The unaffected remains will be exposed and stabilized and the entire site made into a historic area with visitor interpretation. Legend has it, variously, that Sherman dumped the production machinery in the nearby Cape Fear River or that it was similarly scuttled by the Confederacy. There is hope, though, that some may have been left in the buildings. The discovery of even fragments of mid-19th C rifle-making machinery would be of singular importance. The project will be followed closely by all interested in mass production methods of the period.



North Bennington, VT, at the behest of a citizens' committee, has acquired from the state the long abandoned **Rutland RR Station** following its rescue from demolition in the face of a new highway that was subsequently defeated! The group raised money for conversion of the attractive Mansard-roofed brick structure's first floor to village offices and the second floor to rentable offices. Occupancy is expected by summer. A good example of how local and state government, in cooperation with (and at the prodding of) concerned citizens, can effectively preserve an area industrial landmark.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Books & Articles

Neil Cossons & Kenneth Hudson (eds), *Industrial Archaeologists' Guide 1971-73*. David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, England. \$5.00 + post. The second in the series by two of England's leading industrial archaeologists. Emphasis on GB but including a review of IA in Europe and N America. Essential for the serious industrial archeologist.

Kenneth Hudson, *Guide to the IA of Europe*. Adams & Dart, 40 Gay St., Bath, England. \$8.75 + post. Brief accounts of about 30 sites in every European country, both sides of the curtain, with 70 photographs and a gazetteer. (to be reviewed)

Ted Sande (ed), *The New England Textile Mill Survey— Selections From the Historic American Buildings Survey*. HABS, 801 19th St NW, Wash, DC 20006. Paperback. Reproductions of all drawings and selected photographs + historical accounts of 31 mill and associated buildings in NH, RI and MA, surveyed 1967-68.

Jennifer Tann, *The Development of the Factory*. Cornmarket Press, London, 1970. \$36. (Available Cornmarket Reprints, 507 Fifth Ave, NY 10017) A pioneer study containing, in addition to the author's perceptive account, many reproductions of 18th & 19th C engineering drawings from the famed collection of Boulton & Watt papers at the Birmingham Reference Library.

SOME U.S. ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH IA

Shown are annual dues, which include the publications noted. The many covered-bridge and railroad societies are not listed. Information on these and other pertinent groups is solicited.

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. \$12. Quarterly journal: *Technology & Culture*.

Railroad Station Historical Society. Secy: Sanford C. Downs, 901 Dale Dr, Lincoln, NB 68510. \$3. Bimonthly bulletin.

Pennsylvania Canal Society. PO Box 877, Easton, PA 18042.

Friends of Cast Iron Architecture. Secy: Michael Brooks, Rm 20, 44 W 9th St, NY 10011. \$2.

D & H Canal Historical Society. High Falls, NY 12440. \$5. Quarterly Bulletin.

Canal Society of Ohio. Pres: T. H. Findley, 112 Commercial St, New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Journals, Magazines & Misc.

Bulletin of the Association for Preservation Technology. (see Organizations) An informative, important quarterly journal dealing with the physical aspects of preservation, US & Canada. In Vol III No. 1 is an interesting article by Harley McKee: "Early Ways of Quarrying & Working Stone in the US."

Chronicle. *The Journal of the Early American Industries Assn*. Treasurer: John S. Watson, Rotterdam Industrial Park, Bldg 8, Schenectady, NY 12306. Quarterly: \$6, includes SHAVINGS, a newsletter. Deals mainly with handcrafts and their tools but also with semi-mechanized manufacture. Long established, respected publication.

Industrial Archaeology — The Quarterly Journal of The History of Industry & Technology. David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, England. \$6.25. The sole exclusively IA publication. British emphasis but occasional articles and notes from other nations. Nov 1971 issue contains articles on Northumberland iron furnace sites and water turbines, and Hudson, Butt & Donachie's Annual Review of Literature on IA & Industrial History. The quarterly listing of local IA clubs, societies & affiliations in GB is now up to 85!

Maryland Archeological Newsletter. Tyler Bastian, State Archeologist, editor. Maryland Geological Survey, The Johns Hopkins Univ, Baltimore 21218. No. 1, Dec 1971, has just appeared. The MAN will attempt to provide an annual summary of all current projects dealing with any phase of Maryland archeology (including industrial), for distribution to all those involved therewith. No. 1 covers only 1970. News for 1971 will appear in No. 2, late Jan 1972. Deadline for 1971 news was 20 Jan this year, but submit material as it comes up for No. 3.

Millnotes. J. Kenneth Major, principal editor, 2 Eldon Rd, Reading RG1 4DH, England. Thrice-yearly, \$3.75; individual issues \$1.25 incl airmail. A new journal devoted to all aspects of wind and water mills, world over. Vol 1 is out, 12 pp, well illus, containing: an inventory of windmills in one part of France; and articles on some remaining windmills in the US (5½ pp) and the Haverhill Mill in Suffolk + misc notes. Future issues to be 20 pp; MSS being sought in Engl, Fr or Ger but to be printed only in English. This promises to be an important publication in IA, deserving the support of all concerned with mills. The general scope set forth by Mr. Major, an architect and eminent molinologist, is to cover the history, in all aspects, of: wind & watermills as popularly understood for grinding grain; waterwheel-driven plants for other uses; windmills for other uses; grain mills driven by other forms of energy (hand, animal, steam, et al); grain milling processes; and the grain, meal and baking trades.

Technology & Culture — the International Quarterly of the Society for the History of Technology. (see organizations) An eminent journal dealing from time to time with matters of IA interest; would more if they were submitted.

Canal Society of New York State. Secy: R. N. Wright, 311 Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 13202.

Association for Preservation Technology. Secy: Meredith Sykes, Box 2682, Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada. \$10. Informative quarterly bulletin. (see Publications)

Pioneer America Society. 626 S Washington St, Falls Church, VA 22046. \$5. Semi-annual bulletin + newsletter.

Society for Historical Archaeology. Secy: Vincent P. Foley, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 18018. \$7.50. Annual journal + bulletin.

Society of Architectural Historians. Exec. Secy: Rm 716, 1700 Walnut St, Phila, PA 19103. \$15. Quarterly journal + bi-monthly newsletter.

American Canal Society (newly forming). Secy: William H. Shank, 809 Rathton Road, York, PA 17403. \$2.