

# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 27

Spring 1998

Number 1

# SIA's 14 DAYS OF SCOTLAND

## CHRISTOPHER MARSTON TURNS A HIS WHIRLWIND REVIEW OF THE 1997 SIA STUDY TOUR

**L**ast September's SIA Scotland Study Tour, initiated years ago by Hank Rentschler [SIA] as a follow up to the 1993 tour of England and Wales, happened to begin during a very momentous week in British history. The tour started just three days after the funeral of Princess Diana and, as it so happened, a day before the vote for the Devolution of the Scottish parliament from Westminster. Mark Watson, historic buildings inspector with Historic Scotland, led the tour and organized a thorough exploration of a full variety of IA, industrial architecture, and museums. We also had the assistance of Margaret Butcher, an experienced Scottish tour guide and geologist, representing Gray Dawes Travel Ltd.

**Day 1:** Forty-three SIA members met at the Roxburghe Hotel on historic Charlotte Square (designed by Robert Adam 1792, completed 1820) in the New Town of Edinburgh. Our first event was a ferry boat tour of the Firth of Forth, starting

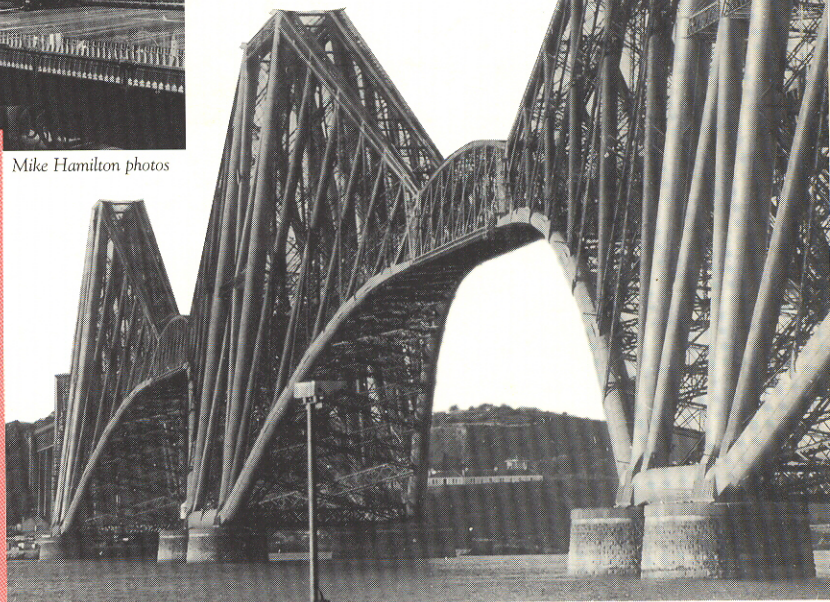


*Platt Brothers mules of 1873 in operation at the Dangerfield Mill in Hawick.*

beneath the historic **Firth of Forth Bridge** (1882-90). It was a lovely clear night for a boat tour, with plenty of historic sites to ponder on either shore including the Forth Road Bridge (1964), a 3,300-ft.-span suspension bridge; Rosyth Royal Naval Dockyard; Charlestown Limekilns; Longannet Power Station; and the massive Grangemouth Oil Refinery (1924).

**Day 2:** We headed south through the Borders, a historic region of southern Scotland named for bordering England and renowned for its wool production. Our first stop was the mill town of Galashiels, also the hometown of our fine bus driver, Gordon Harper. We toured the **Nether Mill** (1804), featuring a restored Leffel waterwheel (1880). The firm dyes and weaves fine wool from Australia, cashmere and silk from China, and mohair from New Zealand. Nearby Selkirk features several mills spread below the hilltop town. The **Whinfield Mill** (1875)  
*(continued on page 2)*

*Mike Hamilton photos*



*The Forth Bridge (1882-1890), a crest of Scotland's industrial greatness.*

**Editor's Note:** The Scotland Study Tour travel log has left this editor somewhat breathless at the pace of the 14-day tour and the geographic density of Scottish historic industrial sites. As the latest of an ongoing series of overseas study tours sponsored by the SIA, the Scotland tour provided its participants not only a chance to view another country's industrial heritage, but to put our own industrial heritage and preservation movement, for better or worse, in perspective. The SIA's upcoming *Whither IA Symposium*, Nov. 12-14 in Lowell (see P. 6) will offer members, among other agenda items, a welcome opportunity to reflect seriously on how we compare with what is being done overseas.