

# ICOHTEC

# NEWSLETTER



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## Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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### Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This Newsletter introduces a new feature, which will appear as often as feasible: *ICOHTEC's Leadership Corner*. In this feature, launched by our president, officers and members of the executive committee are invited to offer comments from time to time on new developments, issues and questions concerning ICOHTEC as well as questions concerning the history of technology. The idea is to establish a forum for discussion in the Newsletter, and it will be a pleasure to publish comments and remarks from all members in response.

Thanks to James Douet, the editor of TICCIH's bulletin, this newsletter gives detailed information about *The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage* (TICCIH) and TICCIH's work to protect the industrial heritage.

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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### I. ICOHTEC's Leadership Corner

Mel Kranzberg's fifth law of technology – “All history is relevant, but the history of technology is the most relevant” – has been rattling around in my mind ever since our excellent joint conference with TICCIH in Tampere, Finland. I keep thinking how essential the history of technology truly is for understanding our world and our selves. What other aspect of human life connects people with their world and with each other more ubiquitously than technology? And, if this is so, why in heavens name do we historians of technology keep it largely to ourselves?

In Tampere, the reuse of the industrial past in the form of rehabilitated industrial sites now used in new day-to-day activities and the superb museums we visited still stand out to me as examples of our getting outside our studies, archives and libraries and sharing technology and our knowledge about it. And this sets me to wondering what more can we historians of technology do?

It seems to me that it's not good enough for us to just chronicle and report change over time in the past. To be sure we should make the stories we unearth more available to the general public, but what more? Must we not take risks to say what we know, to say that the history we understand has predictive value, to say that what we study really can offer guidance to the greater world?

I suspect most of us might answer my questions affirmatively, but then what do we do?

I'm not sure I have any answers, but I throw out this challenge to ICOHTEC members. What might ICOHTEC be doing to say what we know to a broader audience? What might we do to be a bit predictive? What might we do to make Mel Kranzberg's fifth law more relevant? Most relevant?

Best wishes to all for the fall and winter seasons and make your travel plans early for our symposium in Glasgow, August 2-6, 2011.

James Williams

## II. TICCIH and the International Conservation of Industrialisation

James Douet, Invenscan.com, Editor *TICCIH Bulletin*, [douet@ono.com](mailto:douet@ono.com)

The expression 'fighting above your weight' is taken from the world of boxing and refers to a boxer who wins more fights than you'd expected, judged solely by his size. The phrase has sometimes been used to describe TICCIH, the organisation that represents industrial archaeology at the global level, and which defends and promotes the conservation of the physical heritage of industrialisation and the society that has developed around it.

TICCIH's stated objectives are 'to study, protect, conserve and explain the remains of industrialisation'. Let's look at them one by one. As a way of bringing together the industrial archaeologists, historians and conservation specialists scattered unevenly around the world, it does a good job, helped in recent years by the development of digital communications and the Internet. The number of conferences organised or sponsored by TICCIH has grown markedly. In 2002 there was one meeting of the TICCIH Textile section, in Lodz, Poland. By 2007, TICCIH gatherings were being held in Argentina, Rumania, Germany, Portugal and Wales, there were two in France and one shared between France and Switzerland, and three in Mexico. Most of these are regional or thematic conferences, organised locally and to which TICCIH lends credibility, an international scope, and visibility. Closely related to this growth in professional meetings is the research goal. The number of papers presented and, usually, published after these events shows that TICCIH is the motor driving the international exchange of research in industrial heritage.

Intervening directly to protect threatened sites presents more difficulties, and highlights the advantages of a permanent secretariat that can manage the logistics of casework. There are two or three appeals for help each year which are usually answered by a formal letter from the President.

TICCIH's role in education, too, is hard to assess, but the large number of TICCIH members who work in universities suggests that it makes an indirect but useful contribution to furthering training, especially at post-graduate level.<sup>1</sup> And the TICCIH Nizhny Tagil Charter, of which more below, is the only doctrinal text specifically dedicated to the heritage of industrial production and increasingly used in training of professionals and for education.

TICCIH's field of activity, then, is quite clearly defined, even if there has always been and still is a vigorous debate about what is this thing that we call industrial archaeology (IA). For most of us it is firstly a period study which starts in the late-18th century. The importance of this date is not any particular technical breakthrough so much as the beginning of the creation of industrialised societies – urbanised, capitalist, and with a shrinking proportion who earn their living from farming. And the constantly advancing *terminus ad quem* for industrial archaeology has to be, as Barrie Trinder maintained, the moment when today's industry becomes obsolete.<sup>2</sup> Secondly, because we have a special interest in physical evidence, in

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<sup>1</sup> See af Geijerstam, Jan, ed. 'Transcripts of the Stockholm seminar on training in industrial archaeology, 2008, <http://www.mnactec.cat/ticcih/documentation.php>.

<sup>2</sup> Trinder, B, Blackwell Encyclopedia of Industrial Archaeology, Oxford, 1992, p 350.

tools, machines, mines, factories, settlements, landscapes and so on, it uses archaeological techniques of study, fully informed by the wealth of documentary evidence that archaeologists of earlier periods are usually unable to call on.

So that is broadly the conceptual area in which TICCIH and its members operate, and clearly it is one that is shared, at least in part, by other organisations, both national and international. Our period overlaps with historical and post-medieval archaeologists, cultural historians of the modern period, and conservation groups of 19th and 20th century buildings. There is considerable scope to collaborate with historians of technology, as well as specialists in water mills, mining, metallurgy, landscapes, the history of architecture and construction, work and labour, and many others. In terms of cultural interpretation, there is overlap with ICOM and the industrial museums, while in conservation, we obviously have close ties with ICOMOS, the international umbrella for conservation of historic sites, and with which we have a special relationship, as we will see.

The initiative to bring together this growing collective of industrial archaeologists into a permanent group followed the first International Conference for the Conservation of Industrial Monuments (ICCIM) in 1973. The Proceedings<sup>3</sup> are a rich source for anyone interested in how industrial archaeology developed. The debates included arguments that are now calm, such as the ethics of dismantling historic structures and conserving them on open air museums. Others are still generating plenty of heat: how, for instance, to set the balance between conserving old technical objects and using them so the public appreciate what they were for, or even the intellectual validity of the expression 'the industrial revolution'.

The Second International Conference for the Conservation of Industrial Monuments (SICCIM) was held in Bochum in 1975. At the third meeting in Stockholm in 1978 the more general and inclusive 'heritage' replaced 'monument' and the acronym sharpened to the snappier TICCIH. Statutes were signed and The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage had arrived.<sup>4</sup> The pattern of triennial congresses was also established, which have included Moscow and the Urals (2003), Terni in Italy (2006) and last year Agricola's old homeland around Freiberg, Saxony.

President Professor Louis Bergeron's contacts in Paris helped TICCIH take an important step toward international recognition in 2000 with the signing of an agreement with ICOMOS that recognised TICCIH as its specialist adviser on industrial heritage, confirming the young organisation as the international point of reference for the conservation of industrial heritage. An impressive series of contextual guides started to appear in 1994, including canals, railways and coal mines, for evaluating industrial and technical candidates for the World Heritage List, an area which UNESCO recognised in its 2004 *World Heritage List – filling the gaps* to be underrepresented. Experts from TICCIH continue to help evaluate candidates for the World Heritage laurel.

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<sup>3</sup> The Centre de Documentació at the Museu de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya (MNACTEC) has all TICCIH conference proceedings and published papers.

<sup>4</sup> TICCIH's statutes can be found on the web page, [www.mnactec.com/ticcih](http://www.mnactec.com/ticcih).

Bergeron's successor, Eusebi Casanelles, was director of the national technical museum of Catalonia. He inaugurated a development strategy along three lines: build up thematic sections to provide more international contacts between specialists; extend TICCIH outside its heartland in Europe and North America, with Latin America a special priority; and create more mechanisms and occasions for contact and exchange between the members. A revised bulletin was central to this approach. The original idea was to carry news of members' activities, but this journalistic material proved difficult to collect, and of limited interest at a global level. So we shifted the emphasis towards methodologies and techniques, ideas that were being used successfully in one country that could be swiftly transmitted through a quarterly newsletter and usefully applied elsewhere.

Professor Bergeron, meanwhile, had launched TICCIH's, *Patrimoine d'Industrie / Industrial Patrimony*. Published twice yearly, it is the only journal with a consistently global ambit, carrying articles in English, French, Spanish and sometimes Italian.

The TICCIH logo appeared at the same time, to contribute to the greater recognition that Casanelles was striving for, and the web site was launched in 1999. It aspired to become the 'portal' to industrial heritage, but as the portal concept has faded under Google's effectiveness, the TICCIH site now aims to provide information on the organisation itself, a page on the IA situation in each country, contacts and conference news, and a repository for key texts and documents.

TICCIH has the legal status of a not-for-profit entity registered in England. It is built around national representatives. They choose the TICCIH Board, its governing body, and are themselves chosen by national associations or, when there is no separate industrial heritage society such as in Germany, Australia or Mexico, the local TICCIH committee. Today there are some 350 individual and corporate members, almost all professionally involved in conservation, research or teaching industrial history or heritage. As for their distribution, they are found in about forty countries in Europe, North and South America, with considerable growth in recent years in Asia and Australia. But we have none at all in the Arabic countries or Africa away from its southern tip. But all of the twenty or so permanent national industrial heritage societies are members of TICCIH, and through them we reach more like five thousand people indirectly associated, through CILAC (France), AIA (Great Britain), SIA (US), TICCIH España, AIPAI (Italy) and so on.

In the eighties and nineties, membership used to shoot up with the triennial Congress and then fall away for a couple of years until the next meeting. The thematic sections have been a means of keeping people involved in between through specialist conferences. The first textile and mining section meetings were organised in Barcelona in 2001, and others have been held in Germany and Slovakia. The food industry section in Reims in the spring of 2007 was a big success, and over a hundred people came to the conference on water in Porto. The Latin American industrial heritage conferences have been a very effective format since the first one was held in Cuba in 1998. They have been so popular that there is now one each year, with the next in Brazil in the spring. Joint conferences with other organisations

have been discussed (ICOMOS's section for documentation, for instance) but this summer's event in Tampere was a generous and welcome initiative from the historians of technology.

After the XII Millennium Congress in London in 2000, President Eusebi Casanelles initiated the process of writing a Charter which would state the basic principles for the recognition and conservation of industrial heritage. This is part of a current in recent years to define key concepts underlying different types of cultural property in doctrinal texts, from underwater archaeology to gardens. TICCIH's was accepted three years later during the XIII Congress in Russia, and is known as the Nizhny Tagil Charter after the capital of Soviet heavy industry in the Urals where it was signed.<sup>5</sup> ICOMOS is currently working with us to draw up 'guidelines' for conserving industrial sites, based on the Charter that can be approved at their next General Assembly.

Recognition by ICOMOS, a regular newsletter, a busy programme of meetings and conferences and, until last year, sponsorship from the Museu Nacional de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya, have been the ingredients that have contributed most to consolidating TICCIH's position over the last decade in the firmament of international conservation organisations. The big challenge now is to try and achieve the take-off to self-sustained life, to adapt Rostow's famous definition of industrialisation. Other specialist conservation associations have achieved it. DOCOMOMO, the international society dedicated to twentieth century architecture, has apparently closed the virtuous circle of running a programme of activities big enough to attract enough members to (largely) support those activities. The gaps identified in the UNESCO World Heritage, the absence of industrial sites from the tentative lists of major industrialised countries like the United States or Russia, public unawareness or the ignorance of industrial heritage evident among conservation organisations like World Monument Watch demonstrate how important this will be.

Participating in the conceptual debates on industrial archaeology and heritage, or at least communicating the arguments in different countries, is another big challenge. As long ago as the 1997 TICCIH congress in Greece, Michael Stratton complained that 'TICCIH is not encouraging progressive discussion about critical issues of methodology, interpretation and preservation. Conference programmes are being swamped by essentially factual papers'. Despite the TICCIH charter of principles, this is still true and should continue to focus the direction of our work.

### **III. Conference Announcements**

**12 – 15 Oktober 2010**

**Colours in Culture and Science - Farben in Kulturgeschichte und Naturwissenschaft**

200 Jahre Goethes Farbentheorie / 200's Anniversary of Goethes Theory of Colours

50 Jahre Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften an der Universität Hamburg / 50's Anniversary

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<sup>5</sup> The Charter can be downloaded from the TICCIH web site and there are versions in French, Hungarian, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek.

of the History of Science at Hamburg University  
Interdisziplinäres Symposium, Hamburg

Please visit the program on: <http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/spag/ign/events/farben-symp2010.htm>  
<http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/spag/ign/events/pdf/colours-abstract.pdf>

Please contact the organizer: Gudrun Wolfschmidt, Hamburg University,

#### **14 October 2010**

**Witness Seminar: The Green break-through of 1989: meaning, significance and legacy**  
Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London

This witness seminar seeks to consider and contextualise the 'break-through' year of 1989 in the British environmental movement, through the testimony of leading figures of the time, and participation from the seminar's audience.

The seminar will examine the remarkable growth of the environmental movement in the late 1980s (seen through the flourishing income, profile and supporter base of leading NGOs such as Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and WWF), culminating in 1989. It will explore how far NGOs were masters of their own destiny, or to what degree they were simply beneficiaries of a unique confluence of trends and circumstances. Finally, it will seek to understand why the break-through was not sustained into the 1990s, and assess what overall significance should be attributed to these years in the history of the British environmental movement.

A Briefing Paper (PDF) is available from:

[www.ngo.bham.ac.uk/Witness\\_Seminar\\_Green\\_break-through\\_of\\_1989.htm](http://www.ngo.bham.ac.uk/Witness_Seminar_Green_break-through_of_1989.htm)

The seminar will be held on Thursday 14th October, 2010 13:30 - 18.30.

Places are limited and pre-registration for this event is essential. To register, please contact Herjeet Marway, [h.marway@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.marway@bham.ac.uk).

For further details about the event, please contact Herjeet Marway as well.

#### **4 – 7 November 2010**

**History of Science Society**  
**HSS 2010 Annual Meeting**

Montréal, Quebec

Deadline for early registration **3 October 2010**

Please find the program on <http://www.hssonline.org/Meeting/2010HSSMeeting/index.html>

**1–2 April 2011**

**Fifth annual Southern regional conference for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine**

Auburn University, USA

CFP – Deadline **1 December 2010**

Auburn University proudly announces it will be hosting the fifth annual Southern regional conference for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine on April 1–2, 2011. In an attempt to combine the traditions of other regional conferences, such as the Midwest Junto and the Columbia History of Science Group at Friday Harbor, SoHoST provides a welcoming environment for graduate student presentations along with more established scholars as well as a collegial venue to allow the growing community of scholars in the South to present new material.

Faculty and graduate students are invited to submit paper or session proposals addressing all themes, time periods, and geographical regions in the history of science, technology, and medicine. Those interested in participating should submit a 200-word paper proposal or 300-word session proposal with a brief biographical sketch to Michael Johnson at [mpj0001@auburn.edu](mailto:mpj0001@auburn.edu) by 1 December 2010.

More detailed information about the conference will be posted soon on the Auburn University Department of History website at: <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/history/>.

Please contact Michael Johnson, Auburn University, [mpj0001@auburn.edu](mailto:mpj0001@auburn.edu)

**10 – 11 March 2011**

**Ideologie und Innovation –**

**Die Technik und der nationalsozialistische Vierjahresplan / Ideology and Innovation. Impacts of the National Socialist's Four-Year Plan on the Development of Technology in 1930/40s Germany.** Annual Conference of the History Group of the Association of German Engineers VDI

Ruhr-Universität Bochum

CFP – Deadline **30 October 2010**

Please find the call for papers on <http://www.vdi.de/43301.0.html>

Please contact Helmut Maier, Ruhr University Bochum, [helmut.maier@rub.de](mailto:helmut.maier@rub.de).

**18 – 20 April 2011**

**History of European Universities. Challenges and transformations**

University of Lisbon

CFP – Deadline **15 December 2010**



We would like to call your attention to the meeting History of European Universities. Challenges and transformations, to be held on 18-20 April 2011 at the University of Lisbon Campus. Joint organization of the University of Lisbon Centennial and International Commission for the History of Universities (ICHU) The website is now updated with new details concerning accommodation and registration form.

For further information we invite you to visit <http://centenario.ul.pt/conferencias/history-of-european-universities>

For any inquire don't hesitate in contacting the Secretariat (Fatima de Haan) at [occoe@occoe.pt](mailto:occoe@occoe.pt)

Ana Simões

On behalf of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee

**14 – 16 April 2011**

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic & Business Historical Society Conference**

Columbus, Ohio, USA

CFP – Deadline **10 January 2011**

Proposals are now being accepted for the 36th annual conference of the Economic and Business Historical Society (EBHS), to be held at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio. Proposals for presentations on any aspect of economic or business history are welcome.

The EBHS conference offers participants an opportunity for intellectual interchange within a collegial interdisciplinary group of scholars from around the world (a typical mix of participants includes around half from economics departments and half from history/economic history departments). *This year's keynote speaker will be Richard Steckel (Ohio State University).*

The society prides itself on being welcoming toward new members and offers *reduced conference fees for graduate students and early career researchers* (four years or less since doctorate earned).

Papers presented at the conference may be submitted for consideration by the EBHS's peer-reviewed journal, *Essays in Economic and Business History*, edited by Janice Traflet (Bucknell University).

The society seeks proposals for individual papers and/or for panel sessions. Proposals should include an abstract of no more than 500 words, a brief curriculum vita, postal and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. Panel proposals should also suggest a title a panel chair. Submissions are welcome from graduate students and non-academic affiliates.

Please visit: <http://www.ebhsoc.org/papers.html>

If you have further questions about the meeting or organization please contact:

Jason E. Taylor (Central Michigan University)

2010-2011 President, Economic and Business Historical Society

[Taylo2je@cmich.edu](mailto:Taylo2je@cmich.edu)

## **2 – 4 June 2011**

### **Rationalisierung in Handwerksberufen /Rationalisation under conditions of handcraft's work. 30. Gesprächskreis Technikgeschichte**

LWL-Freilichtmuseum Hagen, Germany

CFP – Deadline **15 November 2010**

Please find the call for papers on <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=14681&count=9&recno=2&sort=datum&order=down&current=1&search=technikgeschichte>

Please contact Anke Hufschmidt, Vice-Director, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), LWL-Freilichtmuseum Hagen, [anke.hufschmidt@lwl.org](mailto:anke.hufschmidt@lwl.org) or Peter Theißen, Museum Voswinckelshof, [peter.theissen@dinslaken.de](mailto:peter.theissen@dinslaken.de)

## **28 – 31 July 2011**

### **International Conference for Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars**

Center for the History of Physics, Washington DC

CFP – Deadline **15 January 2011**

The Center for History of Physics is pleased to host an international conference for graduate students and early career scholars, to be held July 28 – July 31, 2011 in Washington, DC, on the theme: Continuity and Discontinuity in the Physical Sciences since the Enlightenment. The goal of this conference is to foster communication and collaboration amongst junior scholars in the history of the physical sciences. It provides an opportunity for graduate students and scholars to discuss their work and exchange views on current issues in the history and historiography of the field. The conference will also provide an opportunity for junior scholars to interact with invited senior scholars.

The central theme of continuity and discontinuity is organized around three sub-themes relevant to contemporary historiographical concerns:

- Theory and Practice — including conceptual tools and frameworks, experimental methods, laboratory practices, instrumentation, and their relations;
- Disciplines and Communities — including issues of disciplinary identity, and how the development and interactions of scientific communities affected scientific discourse; and,
- Transfer and Transformation of Knowledge — including issues of how knowledge of natural phenomena is disseminated and transformed within and across cultures.

We welcome submissions, including works-in-progress, from all areas of the physical sciences—including, but not limited to, physics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, and space sciences—related to these themes.

For more information please visit <http://shotnews.net/?p=1541>

Please contact [afisher@aip.org](mailto:afisher@aip.org).

## IV. Miscellaneous

The British Newcomen Society publishes a new journal, the *International Journal for the History of Engineering & Technology*, formerly *Transactions of the Newcomen Society*. The journal will be published in two issues per year and emphasises how engineering and technology have historically influenced, and in turn been influenced by, changes in the economic, social and cultural context. Please find more information on the homepage of the society [www.newcomen.com](http://www.newcomen.com).

## V. Recently Published Books

**Dinhobl, Günter and Haehnel, Birgit (eds.):** Panorama Welterbe Semmeringbahn. Stand der Dinge. Studien-Verlag, Innsbruck a.o. 2010.

The editors published a book and a panorama dedicated to the first railway line passing the mountains, the Semmeringbahn, which connects Vienna and Trieste. The Semmeringbahn became a world heritage site a few years ago; Dinhobl and Haehnel had been involved in this process. Their idea to combine the book with a panorama picks up a kind of visualization of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The new panorama visualizes the history of the 150 years old site by the help of photos and drawings from different periods. The book gives an insight in the construction of the line in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the development of a tunnel project in the beginning of this century, and the approaches to handle the railway line as historical monument.

## VI. Join ICOHTEC

An ICOHTEC membership makes you a member of the scholarly network of the UNESCO-based International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC.

The membership includes:

- Reduced fees for ICOHTEC's conferences
- ICOHTEC's reviewed journal ICON (published annually, ca. 200 pages)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

## Subscription Form

I wish to become a member of ICOHTEC and pay my annual subscription

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**Please, return this form** with a cheque of an appropriate sum made out to "ICOHTEC, Patrice Bret" and send it either to

**Dr. Patrice Bret, IRSEM, Case 46, 1 place Joffre, F-75700 Paris SP 07, France or to**  
Professor Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finnish History, School of History,  
FI-20014 Turku, Finland

You can also transfer the dues by international money transfer to our ICOHTEC account:  
"ICOHTEC":

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N.B. Do not omit to indicate the membership year(s) together with your name and address.