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News

Nouvelles

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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NEWS/NOUVELLES

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Members of the CSTHA/AHSTC will have received the preliminary call for papers for the Fourth Kingston Conference, now confirmed for the weekend of 25-27 October 1985 (not 1-3 November as originally slated) at the Donald Gordon Centre of Queen's University. The Executive met in December for a first planning session; amongst the areas for which we would be interested to have proposals for papers include:

- the history of nuclear science in Canada
- the American influence on Canadian science
- women and technology
- history of Canadian fisheries
- engineering and public works in Canada
- science in World War II
- science policy in an historical context
- medical technology in Canada

We will, of course, welcome proposals on all topics relevant to the history of Canadian science, technology and medicine. Titles and brief abstracts should be sent to Dr A.W. Tickner, Senior Archival Officer, National Research Council, Ottawa, K1A 0R6. As usual, a preliminary programme and registration information will be sent to all members during the summer of 1985; non-members who wish to be on the mailing list should contact Dr Tickner.

Members of the Association will know that we were asked to name the Canadian delegate to the International Committee for History of Technology (ICOHTEC) by the Canadian National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science. While we could not do so directly (not being represented on the National Committee), Association member Bruce Sinclair was named 1984 delegate. In 1985, when CSTHA/AHSTC has a member on the National Committee, it will appoint the ICOHTEC delegate--tentatively Arnold Roos--to attend the Berkeley meeting of the organization. Bruce Sinclair provides the following report of the 1984 meeting of ICOHTEC:

Ninety scholars from sixteen countries attended the eleventh ICOHTEC Symposium, at the European Academy Lerbach near Cologne in the Federal Republic of Germany, from September 2nd until September 7th, 1984. The theme of the meeting was 'Energy in History' and in selecting it the organizers meant to stress the argument that besides its intrinsic interest, the history of technology also had relevance for the framers of present energy policy. Whether in fact, the papers demonstrated any utility to policy makers is another matter.

The papers of the Swedish and Dutch delegates were in my opinion exceptionally good and there are some German historians of technology pursuing interesting lines of inquiry. Professor Unger, of the University of British Columbia, was unable to attend the meeting, unfortunately,

and as a consequence, Canada was under-represented.

Besides presenting a paper, I chaired the afternoon session on Monday, September 3rd, and as the Canadian delegate attended the Executive Committee meeting of ICOHTEC. Among other pieces of business, the Executive Committee approved the invitation of the Technical University of Dresden (GDR) to have the 1986 ICOHTEC symposium there. Its theme will be 'Technology and Technical Knowledge in History.'

It was an honour to serve as the Canadian delegate to the Lerbach meeting, and I am grateful to the officers and executive of CSTHA for their role in making the trip possible.

We hope to publish Prof Sinclair's Lerbach paper in a coming issue of this journal.

OTTAWA INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION MEETING

On 30 October 1984, a meeting in Hull was called by J.W. McGowan, Director of the National Museum of Science and Technology, with two purposes in mind. The first was for various people in the Ottawa area interested in our industrial heritage to meet with Neil Cossons, presently Director of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, but better known for his work with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. The second reason for the meeting was to focus on the very important industrial site, the Chaudiere Complex, in Ottawa and to discuss various options for this project.

After a brief discussion of the possibilities that the Chaudiere Complex presented within a larger development of other cultural agencies in the Ottawa area, John Corby of the NMST took the chair. He requested and obtained a short statement from those present in regard to their interest in this topic and their particular expertise. A full list of the participants will be circulated. Mr Corby then called upon Neil Cossons to provide us with a brief history of the Ironbridge development.

Cossons placed Ironbridge within the broader context of the large heritage groups that had their origins in the destruction of World War II. He pointed out that Industrial Archaeology (IA) was in conflict with other conservation movements in that it proposed the preservation of things that did not look nice. Because of opposition, those interested in IA had to set up organizations outside the framework. Another factor that forced those interested in this field to look elsewhere was the fact that traditional museums were not equipped to handle the artifacts associated with industrial heritage. This state of affairs, plus renewed interest in heritage preservation by other groups has led to the establishment of a new museum at the rate of one every two weeks since 1970. Ironbridge was one of these new museums created by enthusiasts.

Museums, by definition, are product-oriented and focus upon the interests of a particular section of the population. They cannot help but get bigger as more artifacts are obtained. Disposal of such artifacts becomes a major problem because museums cannot collect new items due to the backlog of the old. The maintenance of such collections requires funding and thus raises questions of public support. As no public organization can afford to fund the large number of museums that have grown up, there must be a weeding-out process.

The question that had to be asked was: who is the market for the heritage preservation business? What emerged was a market awareness and an analysis of how saleable a particular product is. Cossons pointed out that the philosophy of museums is being led by the market-aware organizations. As the heritage business is a major money-generating sector of the economy, such an approach has to be followed if museums, such as Ironbridge, are to survive.

Once a survey of the in situ artifacts had been done at Ironbridge--which confirmed that many were from the 18th and 19th centuries with very little second or third generation industrial development--capital had to be found for the development of the site. Two parallel trusts were created, a museum trust for the actual development of the site and a donor trust. The latter was established to provide major private donors with a feeling of intimate involvement without interference with the developers themselves. The initial fund-raising target was one million pounds; Cossons provided us with a breakdown of the funding sources. In the question period, he also described the approach taken to obtain the financial support from major industrial organizations. One factor that probably helped was the division of the development into discrete sections, each of which was open to individual support. Although this generated funds, it did so only for the more glamorous aspects of the project and not for the equally important infrastructure. Private funding was used as leverage to obtain public money to erect the required infrastructure.

Although it was expected that public funding would eventually grow to supplant some of the private support, this has not happened because of the financial climate of the last four years. Ironbridge still obtains 82% of its funds from gate receipts and money generated from site use, with only 10% coming from the public purse. With regard to other possible sources of money, Cossons mentioned public participation in the processes carried out at the sites. This would be structured as a learning experience for which the public would be required to pay and could extend over several days for any particular group.

Several interesting points arose in the question period. The Ironbridge staff, originally consisting of Cossons and a secretary, has grown to some fifty today, four of whom are curators. Much labour is provided by the organization known as Friends of the Society. Such people act as the interpreters necessary on the site. Actual paid labour also comes from various make-work projects funded by the government. It was pointed out that these programmes have a high turnover rate because the museum has to be ruthless in culling the poor workers. This

rigorous selection process did have a beneficial effect: some of the workers became very interested in the restoration work and decided to make it their vocation.

Ironbridge is not a static site as the factories are in actual operation. The products of these factories are sold on the open market; the profit, if there is any after meeting salaries and overheads, goes to fund the displays in buildings not necessary for the operation of the factory. Other topics such as the economic effect that Ironbridge has had on the area and the attitude of the local population were also discussed in some detail.

Those present decided to call another meeting in about a month to see whether any of the experiences of Ironbridge can be applied to the situation in Ottawa. At the next meeting, a small committee will be established, with representatives from those organizations present, to investigate the options open for the Chaudiere Complex. I gather that the committee will be asked to gather together the various studies produced on the area and also to put together a feasibility study.

Arnold E. Roos

CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PAPERS TO BE

READ AT THE 1985 MONTREAL MEETING

Although the Canadian Historical Association is not devoting sessions specifically to the history of Canadian science and technology, the 1985 annual meeting, to be held 28-30 May in conjunction with the Learned Societies at the Université de Montréal, a record number of papers on closely-related issues will be read. The following are listed in the preliminary programme (there may be withdrawals or title changes later).

Gail C. Brandt (York), 'The Transformation of Women's Work in the Quebec cotton industry, 1920-50'

Marcel Bellavance (Parcs Canada), 'La structure occupationnelle de Montréal en 1871'

John Willis (Parcs Canada), 'L'industrialisation dans la région du sud-ouest de Montréal dans la deuxième moitié du XIX^e siècle'

Bruno Jean (UQRMouski), 'Le "développement" d'une agriculture régionale: le cas de l'est du Québec'

Michel Morissette (Laval), 'Les changements structurels de l'agriculture québécoise au 20^e siècle'

Diane Newell (UBC), 'Canning Communities in Central and Northern British Columbia'

Rosemary Ommer (Memorial), 'The Gaspé Cod Fishery'

Ches Sanger (Memorial), 'Sealing and Whaling in Newfoundland'

Alexander Dow (Stirling), 'Canadian Mining and the Markets for Base Metals, 1900-1950'

J.N. McDougall (Western), 'Transportation as a Factor in Canada's Energy Development, 1867 to the present'

André Bérubé et Roch Samson (Parcs Canada), 'Les forges du Saint-Maurice: un exemple de recherche historique appliqué au développement d'un parc historique national'

Gisele Piédalue (Parcs Canada), 'La recherche archéologique dans la vallée du Richelieu: vingt ans d'activités'

Barbara Schmeiser (Parks Canada), 'Reconstruction and Development of the Port Royal Habitation: A Historical Study'

François Drouin (Laval), 'Centralité, transport et communications au Québec en 1821'

One session is devoted to "Aspects de l'enseignement de la physique au Canada":

Paul Carle (FCAC), 'L'enseignement des sciences au Séminaire de Québec au XIXe siècle: le cabinet de physique'

Yves Gingras (Montréal), 'Emergence et institutionnalisation de la recherche scientifique dans les universités canadiennes: le cas de la physique (1850-1920)'

THESES/DISERTATIONS

Université de Montréal:

Yves Gingras, 'Les physiciens canadiens: généalogie d'un groupe social (1850-1950)' (PhD)

Raymond Duchesne, 'Sciences, culture savante et pouvoir politique: le Musée de l'Instruction publique et l'histoire naturelle au Canada français' (PhD)

Donald MacLeod has informed us that the source from which we obtain disertation titles incorrectly cited the title of his and Diane Newell's dissertations noted in our last number. They should be the following:

Donald MacLeod, 'Miners, Mining Men and Mining Reforms: Changing the Technology of Nova Scotian Gold Mines and Collieries, 1858-1910'

Diane Newell, 'Technology and Change in a New and Developing Country; a Study of Mining Technology in Canada West-Ontario, 1841-1891'

Our apologies to both of them.

CANADIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME GRANTS

Funding for a variety of projects in Canadian studies has been provided for some years by the Department of the Secretary of State in Ottawa, but no large-scale programme has existed and much of the funding was funnelled through the Association for Canadian Studies. Last year, the Department expanded its commitment to the field by substantially increasing the amount of grant monies and by creating a separate Canadian Studies Programme. James Page, formerly Executive Director of the Association for Canadian Studies, was named director. There are several major priority areas, and specific programmes within those areas. Priority One Programmes include projects dedicated to producing learning materials and includes:

- Government of Canada Canadian Studies Writing Awards, which provides up to \$10,000 for two years to underwrite costs of research and writing of textbooks;
- Print Learning Materials Development, providing matching grants to Canadian publishers for developmental costs;
- Film and Audio-Visual Learning Materials Development, a similar programme for non-print materials;
- Computer-based and Computer-assisted Learning Materials Development, for software developments;
- Learning Materials Dissemination/Use, provides monies for the distribution of sets of learning materials and/or for teacher orientation.

Priority Two programmes involve 'Encouraging Learning about Canada,' is aimed at groups and individuals rather than publishers and includes:

- Prizes for Excellence in teaching Canadian studies, worth \$5000, are selected on the basis of nomination;
- Public Education and Distance Learning is aimed at production of materials or projects geared to adult learners;
- Support for Organizations involved in Canadian Studies, to encourage groups to generate Canadian studies projects.

Priority Three, Investments in the Future of Canadian Studies, provides for matching of private-sector grants with a maximum of \$25,000 per project.

The subject categories selected for the early competitions include Canadian social studies, political studies, studies of the economy, of Canada as a northern nation, cultural studies, environmental studies, science curriculum in a Canadian context, and, of interest to our readers, history of Canadian science and technology.

A variety of projects in our field has already been funded or is being assessed by this Programme. Interested persons should contact the Canadian Studies Programme, Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M5; (819) 994-1544.