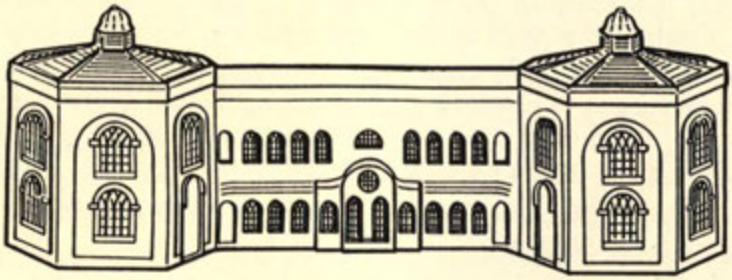
RETORT!

THE BULLETIN OF THE WARWICKSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



WINTER 1993 - 94 ISSUE THREE

RETORT!

The Bulletin of the Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society

ISSUE NUMBER THREE
WINTER 1993-1994

EDITORIAL

The third issue of **Retort!** is long overdue. Far from producing four issues in the first year, we managed only two. This third issue continues in its aim of publishing four issues a year, although there should be no false expectations of what is likely to emerge from the printing press.

This issue takes a particular theme. Ever since the Society was formed, the question of **recording** has been mentioned at every meeting. Plenty of words have been spoken, but very little action has been taken. and it is time that this was rectified. If we are to set ourselves up as a Society genuinely concerned with industrial archaeology , then we must improve the coverage of our recording of the sites within Warwickshire. Much of this issue is dedicated to this aim. As always, the success of the programme depends very largely upon your response.

These comments are not intended to present a gloomy picture of the work of the Society. In many ways, the Society grows in stature. Membership increases; the lectures given by visiting speakers have been of a high quality; and the contributions of members have been greatly valued. Our aim is to build upon these strengths.

Martin Green

Some exciting times with IRIS

Many members of the Association for Industrial Archaeology are getting rather tired of jokes about **IRIS**. The term is an abbreviation for the **I**ndex **R**ecord for **I**ndustrial **S**ites. This is an attempt to carry out a national, comprehensive survey of the industrial sites that exist in England, and to co-ordinate these via the Sites and Monuments Record. This is not an easy or short-term project, but it is one that will bring enormous benefit to students of the subject in the future.

It is important that we are part of this process. To that end, the Chairman, Lyndon Cave, and the Secretary, Martin Green, met with the (recently appointed) Sites and Monuments Record Officer for Warwickshire, Ms. Emma Jones, and the IRIS Project Assistant Ms. Jane Robson (from Lancaster University) on February 25th. 1994.
Several important conclusions were reached in the course of this meeting:

1. *Any* contribution to the record would be of value.

2. The *listing* of a considerable number of sites in the record was, at this stage, more important than a *detailed survey* of a small number of sites.

3. The Society's responsibility would, for the moment, be those sites which lie within the current boundary of the county of Warwickshire. Much discussion took place over the importance of Coventry in the industrial development of the county, and contact needed to be made with those responsible for the listing of sites in Coventry. There would be nothing to stop members completing forms for sites in Coventry, but they would need to be sent to the West Midlands co-ordinator in the end.

4. Martin Green agreed to be the co-ordinator of IRIS for the Society. *All* forms should be sent to him. He will then retain a copy for the Society's records, and then pass the forms to the Sites and Monuments Record Officer for Warwickshire (or elsewhere where relevant).

5. A consistent approach is vital, and the IRIS form goes to considerable trouble to achieve this. (see below)

6. To encourage participation by members, the most suitable approach might be to select activities/industries that were generally well known, and were likely to have an existing presence on the Sites and Monuments Record. These might include:

a. railways
b. canals
c. brickworks
d. wind and water mills

Once it was established what did exist on the record, then members could add to, correct or modify the list according to their own knowledge and research.

7. This procedure in no way prevents any member from recording items from other industries, or from adopting a parish-based approach, but Martin Green needs to know what you are doing in order to avoid duplication and wastage.

So, how do I go about participating in the IRIS survey?

STEP ONE

☞ Make sure that Martin Green knows

i. you are willing to participate
ii. the sites you would like to record

STEP TWO

☞ You need to familiarise yourself with the **IRIS form**.

This is best done by studying the **IRIS Handbook**, and these notes provide a simple introduction to it. Copies of the handbook are available for borrowing.

The IRIS form is a two-sided A4 sheet, with seven boxes distributed over the two sides. Reduced-size versions of the form are included below. Within each box, there are certain items which are underlined. These are **mandatory** items which have to be completed.

The mandatory items are:

1. Site name.

2. Address.

3. IRIS Number

This will be a unique number attached to each site, with the number consisting of three parts.

1. County - Warwickshire - abbreviated to **WA**
2. Society - Warwickshire I.A. Society - abbreviated to **WIAS**
3. Compiler - L.F.Cave - abbreviated to **LFC**

If this was the 23rd. site recorded by L.F.Cave, then the IRIS number would become:

WA / WIAS / LFC23

4. National Grid Reference. (Something about going into the house before going up the stairs.....)

5. Class.

6. Site Term.

The main body of the Handbook consists of a list of **Class** and **Site Terms.** This appears rather daunting at first, but is simply to assist in the identification of a site, and to ensure consistency.
Without going into too much detail - you need to look at it yourself - a cement works of the 1880s would be recorded as

Class Mineral Products - Stone
abbreviated to **MNRLSTN/1880s**
Site **Cement Products Works/1880s**

Later in the form, you can include the various **components** that make up the site. These are also listed in the handbook.

7. Site Significance.

8. At Risk?

9. Site Details.

STEP THREE

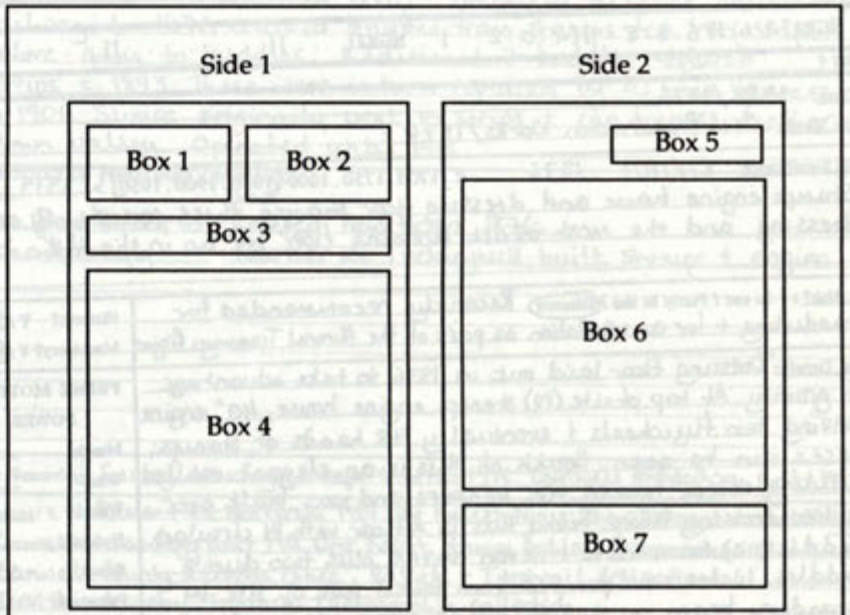
☞ Once you have mastered the form, it is time to step out into the great unknown. You may choose to take rough notes whilst out on site, and complete the form in the comfort of your own home. Always use black ink on the form.
Our first attempts at filling in the forms are included as examples, together with the work of the experts.
We hope you will not be put off - the more forms you complete, the easier it will become!

STEP FOUR

☞ Send in your completed form to Martin Green.

Summary of the Form

The form has two sides and seven boxes with the headings of mandatory items underlined:



Box 1 - Site name, address, district/borough, parish/township.
Box 2 - IRIS number, cross references, SMR/NMR numbers.
Box 3 - National Grid References.
Box 4 - Core information about the physical remains on the site, including class, site terms, site significance, site details and component terms.
Box 5 - IRIS number.
Box 6 - Additional information about the site, including status, site history, associated persons/companies, sources, site recording, site visits and compiler.
Box 7 - For continuation of any of the preceding information.

AIA - Index Record for Industrial Sites

Box 1

SITE NAME: WEST BASSET STAMPS

Address: In Carnkie village, south of Camborne

District/Borough: Kerrier

Parish/Township: ILLOGAN

Box 2

IRIS NUMBER: CO / AIA / MP 2

Part of:

Associated with:

SMR no:

NMR no:

Box 3

NGR1 [S W][1 6 . 8 . 8 .][4 . 0 . 2 .] **NGR2** [.][. . .][. . .]

Box 4

Class: N Pre/1876

Site Term: Ore Preparation Works/1876

Site Significance: L/R/N/I 1876 <.1700.1750.1800 [1850.1900.1950] > 1919

Stamps engine house and dressing floor showing three periods of ore dressing and the most intact dressing floor for tin in the U.K.

At Risk?: In use / Partly in use / (Disused) Recently recommended for scheduling + for consolidation as part of the Mineral Tramways Project

Fixtures? Y / (N) / U

Machinery? Y / (N) / U

Site Details: Dressing floor laid out in 1876 to take advantage of gravity. At top of site (N) stamps engine house, 40" engine driving two flywheels + eventually 48 heads of stamps; bases can be seen. South of this is an elegant walled building which housed five vanners and was built over earlier dressing floors. Below this is a floor with 14 circular buddles, seven concave + seven convex, plus two dumb buddles. Water was pumped from lowest part of site by secondary beam on stamps engine, hence rear wall of house also a bob wall. To west of buddle floor is double Brunton calciner + flue to stack.

PRIME MOTIVE POWER

Muscle	
Wind	
Water	
Hydraulic	
Steam	✓
Pneumatic	
Electric	
Combustion	
None	

SITE COMPONENTS

No	Component Term	Period	Form	Importance	Status
1	Stamping Mill	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
2	Dressing Floor	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
3	Buddle Floor	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
4	Arsenic Calciner	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
5	Chimney	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
6	Boiler House	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
7	Chimney	1876-1919	Structure	(H)/M/L	(E)/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N

IRIS NUMBER: CO / AIA / MP 2

Box 6

Other Status:

Site History: New Cornish stamps + dressing floors were erected by West Wheal Basset Co. on the former northern part of North Wheal Basset sett. (abandoned 1866) + connected to other shafts by railway. In 1876 crushed tinstone from stamps fed into strips before going to buddles. Additional 7 buddles replaced strips c. 1893. These were in turn replaced by 20 Frue Vanners in 1901. Slimes originally went to strips + rag frames further down valley. Operated until 1918.

ASSOCIATED PERSONS/COMPANIES

Name	Details
West Wheal Basset Co.	Erected new floors 1876.
John Hocking	Founder at Tuckingmill; built stamps + engine.

Site Recording: Survey drawings + report LIHS 1976. Cornwall Archaeology Unit 1992.

Sources:
1. N. Palmer + P.A. Neaverson 1987. The Basset Mines: Their History + Archaeology.
2. Cornwall Archaeology Unit 1986. West Basset Stamps Arch'eal Assessment (NMRS No. 32)
3. Cornwall County Records Office. Basset + Trestrail Collections.
4. Trevithic Society, Trounson Photographic collection.
5. Royal Institution of Cornwall Photographic collection.

Date of Last Visit: 1992 **Reporter:** Marilyn Palmer + Peter Neaverson

Compiler: Marilyn Palmer **Date:** 17/5/93

Society: AIA

Box 7

Continuation Box: The site was resurveyed in 1992 by Cornwall Archaeology Unit for Kerrier District Council.

AIA - Index Record for Industrial Sites

Box 1

SITE NAME OFFCHURCH BURY ICE HOUSE

Address: OFFCHURCH BURY PARK

District/Borough: OFFCHURCH

Parish/Township: LEAMINGTON SPA

Box 2

IRIS NUMBER WA / WIAS / PFC 1

Part of:

Associated with:

SMR no:

NMR no:

Box 3

NGR1 [S P][3 5 4][6 5 9] NGR2 [ ][ ][ ]

Box 4

Class: OTHRIND - ICE

Site Term: ICE HOUSE

Site Significance: (L) / R / N / I < . 1700 . 1750 (1800 . 1850 . 1900) 1950 . > ?

At Risk?: In use / Partly in use / (Disused) STILL IN FAIRLY GOOD STATE OF PRESERVATION

Fixtures? Y/(N)/U

Machinery? Y/(N)/U

Site Details: THE ICE HOUSE IS SITUATED ON A BANK ABOUT 20 YDS. ON WESTERN SIDE OF THE RIVER LEAM. THIS POSITION GIVES THE ICE HOUSE A GENERALLY SHADED LOCATION AND WELL ABOVE RIVER TO GIVE GOOD DRAINAGE. IT HAS THE USUAL EGG-SHAPE INTERNALLY, APPROX 16 FEET DEEP AND 11 FEET IN DIAMETER AT ITS WIDEST. THE HOLE AT THE TOP (FOR FEEDING THE ICE) IS CIRCULAR OF 2' 6" DIAMETER AND THE ENTRANCE (THOUGH SOMEWHAT DECAYED) FOR RETRIEVING THE ICE IS ABOUT 3 FEET WIDE AND WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE HIGHER. THE STRUCTURE IS BELOW GROUND LEVEL. IT IS OF COURSED RED BRICK CONSTRUCTION LAID IN A RANDOM WAY, BUT GENERALLY 3 COURSES OF HEADERS TO ONE OF STRETCHERS. THE FOOTWAY/STAIRWAY TO IT HAS GONE, BUT A SECTION OF BRICK WALL REMAINS.

PRIME MOTIVE POWER

Muscle	
Wind	
Water	
Hydraulic	
Steam	
Pneumatic	
Electric	
Combustion	
None	✓

SITE COMPONENTS

No	Component Term	Period	Form	Importance	Status
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N
				H/M/L	L/S/G/N

IRIS FORM ver 2

Railway Bookshelf

1. LNWR Branch Lines of West Leicestershire & East Warwickshire by Geoffrey Hurst (ISBN 0947796169)
Published 1993 by Milestone Publications £7.95 (pb)

I have no right to comment on railway books, and there are many members who are infinitely better qualified, but I was attracted to this book because it covered the Leamington - Rugby Line, plus the route from Marton Junction to Weedon. The book includes a large number of photographs, plans of the various stations, plus a lengthier text than is often found in books of this type. The text tends to be a succession of points, rather than an unfolding story, but perhaps this is inevitable given the subject matter.

An extremely useful book for anybody with a serious interest in the history of railways in Warwickshire. Apart from the lines mentioned above, it also covers the Leamington to Coventry line; Coventry to Nuneaton; and the Trent Valley Railway.

MJG

2. Railway Nostalgia around Warwickshire
Compiled by D. Hibbs (ISBN 0951855743)
Published by W.D.Wharton, Wellingborough £16.99 (hb)

This is a marvellous collection of photographs, including not only the county itself - chapters on Nuneaton, Rugby, Leamington, Stratford - but also Coventry, Birmingham, the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway and a chapter on industrial locomotives.

Ms Hibbs currently owns the land that was Flecknoe station.

I hope this does not sound like sacrilege, but I sometimes found the pictures which included more than just the train - or even no train at all - of greater interest than the shots provided for the steam experts. You probably need to know your trains well to get the best out of this book. There is a brief description attached to each picture, but no lengthy text.

It is a excellent book to have on the shelf, and if you are at all hesitant about purchase, then why not persuade someone else to give it to you as a present!

MJG

AIA Annual Conference

The Society belongs to the Association for Industrial Archaeology, and one of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference of the Association held in early September at a different location each year. The past three Conferences have been at Dudley(1991), Cirencester(1992), and Ambleside(1993).

John and Valerie Selby have been our regular representatives at the Conference and I include their report from Ambleside in the hope that it might tempt more members to make the trip in future years.

21st. AIA Conference 1993 Ambleside, Cumbria

The Conference Centre was the Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, part of Lancaster University, and the programme was organised by Chris Irwin and Cumbria Industrial History Society. The main conference was over the week-end 10-12 September, but there were additional programme activities from 8-14 September. My wife Valerie and I attended all the days except the last day (Tuesday) which was geared to younger delegates as it included fell walking to mining sites. We took the softer option by becoming 'tourists' and visiting Beatrix Potter museums!

On the way to the Conference on the previous Wednesday we met at the Lune Aqueduct, Lancaster Canal, followed by a stroll up the locks in threatening weather conditions. A last visit of the afternoon had been arranged to Hincaster Tunnel, but in view of the weather, we decided to head straight for Ambleside. Perhaps a wise decision - the rest of the party returned (extremely wet) some time later. There was an excellent talk in the evening by Alan and Glenys Crocker on Lakeland gunpowder manufacture (with a visit for some of the party on Thursday to the Low Wood gunpowder works site).

Our Thursday programme began with a visit to the Stott Park bobbin mill, where we had a conducted tour of the site including a

demonstration of bobbin-turning. We then went to Lakeside to view the slipway still in use for the winter overhaul of the Lake steamers. We were fortunate that the engineers were able to show us the operation of the winch and cradle for hauling the boats out of the lake. We then had a tour of the station, now much demolished, but an excellent model gives an indication of what it was like in its 'heyday'. Lunch was taken in the 'Steamer Restaurant' overlooking Lake Windermere.

We then rejoined our coaches for the journey to Kendal where at Canal Head the party split - Valerie joined the tour of the paper mill of James Cropper, and I joined the tour of the Gilkes' water turbine factory. Amongst the buildings on their site is the former canal warehouse, its features looking strange amongst the modern 'high tech' machines.

The day was rounded off in the evening by a talk by John Gavin on paper making, with special reference to Lakeland.

Friday began with a visit to Barrow in Furness, still a company town dominated by the shipbuilding complex where nuclear submarines are constructed. We went first to the Record Office where the staff had laid out maps, documents, and photographs of the shipbuilding and the (former) iron and steel works. The area, rich in Haematite ores, produced iron from the bloomery period in charcoal furnaces, followed by steel blast furnaces in the late nineteenth century (with output reaching at one stage over 4000 tons a week).

After lunch at the Michaelson House Hotel, Docks Superintendent Captain Green and Docks Engineer Frank Ince gave us a talk and slide presentation on the present docks and the building of the new lock into the dock basin. The docks currently exist for two purposes - nuclear submarines and ships carrying nuclear fuel from Sellafield to Japan - but there is also an interesting trade in high quality limestone (steel making flux) and during our visit a small bulk carrier passed through the lock on its way to Sweden. British Gas also use the quays for their Irish Sea gas operations.
We then rounded off the afternoon , in a gale, out on Roa Island

Pier, which was used at one time by the Furness Railway as a steamer connection to Lancashire and Scotland.

In the evening, the Main Conference started and Michael Davies-Shiel gave an excellent talk on the historical background to the area. I was also able to give a ten-minute Members' Contribution on Fenny Compton Tunnel and Brick Kiln.

Saturday morning was occupied by two talks - 'The Problems of Industrial Archaeology in a Rural National Park' by Andy Lowe of the Lake District National Park - and 'Whitehaven - Cumbrian Port' by Harry Fancy. The afternoon brought a trip on the steamer from Bowness to Lakeside, and then a transfer on the steam train from Lakeside to Haverthwaite, with a brief look at the rolling stock in the yard and sheds.

The day was rounded off in the rain with a visit to the Newland Furnace, a former charcoal furnace being restored by the local society. There is also the remains of a former blacking mill, with one of its bricks now resting with the Chairman of WIAS.

The evening was the occasion of the Annual Dinner, with the presentation of awards, and the opportunity to renew friendships from previous conferences.

Sunday is the business day of the Conference, with the Rolt memorial lecture given by Dr. Marilyn Palmer on 'Industrial Archaeology'. It was good to see Sonia Rolt again after several years absence from Conference.

The weather - for a change! - was sunny, and it gave Valerie and I a chance to walk along Ambleside, plus an arranged visit to the Armitt Library, which has much material of interest to the industrial historian and houses over 400 Beatrix Potter drawings and paintings.

In the evening, we had a light-hearted talk on the 'Political Scandals of a Victorian Branch Line' by Prof. R.A.Fawthrop,

dealing with the machinations of the LNWR and the little North Western Railway.
Monday - wet and windy again - was our last day and we spent it in one of the oldest industrial areas of Cumbria. Our first port of call was Whitehaven, largely a planned town built on the profits of the coal trade. Our tour of the town gave the feeling of former glories, with its rather run-down appearance and derelict harbour. The town museum provided some insight into these more successful times.

We were then taken to Sellafield and had a special conducted tour behind the scenes. We put on protective clothing, passed through the barrier, and observed the working of the plant from behind glass screens. We saw some of the THORP complex and had a talk on its operation, and the need to get the 'go-ahead'. It is rather ironic to see that they have built a new gas-fired power station (with gas from the terminal at Barrow in Furness) to cover the power requirements of the plant, as they have not been able to expand the nuclear!

An enjoyable Conference in an area not usually associated with industrial history and present day industrial activity. An excellent guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Cumbria was produced for the Conference, and is a must for any visitor to the area with an interest in the subject.

John and Valerie Selby January 1994

I hope the report gives members some flavour of the nature of the Annual Conference. John and Valerie have been regular visitors over the years, and I know they would be willing to give any further information should you require it. The Society has a copy of the guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Cumbria.

Advance Notice:
1994 Conference 9 - 11th September
Sparsholt College, Winchester.
Further details from Martin Green.

Further Thoughts on Belfast Roof Trusses

by

L.F.Cave

Following the Society's visit to the Webster Hemmings & Sons Brickworks in Coventry last year Roger Cragg paid a further visit to the works to look at the roof trusses in more detail and confirmed that almost certainly these are genuine Belfast roof trusses.

There appeared to be twenty-two trusses on site; four in the Mill Building of about 62 ft. span and eighteen in the Drier Shed of about 53 ft. span. Mr. Hemmings junior thinks that these buildings were rebuilt about 1938/9 from another part of the site, but he is not sure if the trusses were new or re-used. The location of these trusses was unknown to the researchers at Belfast University and information on the location of further examples in the Midlands area is still welcomed.

Arthur Astrop, another of our members, recollects that in the 1960s a complete bay of the Tangye Works in Birmingham also had a similar type of roof, and there may possibly have been some Belfast trusses over part of the Bellis and Morcombe Works, also in Birmingham.

While considering Belfast trusses, it must be remembered that this type of truss was developed by a Belfast company to carry a roof covering of timber boards finished with bituminous roof felt manufactured by the same company. This was at the time a cheap type of roof suitable for the large open spans used for factories and storage sheds, which was later used for aircraft hangers.

Ashphalte roofing was probably first used as early as 1792 on a warehouse in Greenock by William Briggs who developed the manufacture of bituminous roofing felt in the Dundee area. Early in the nineteenth century he formed the British Ashphalte Company. The firm of William Briggs is still in existence and well

known for the manufacture of bituminous felt which is widely used in the building industry. John Loudon in the 1842 edition of his 'Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farmhouse and Villa Architecture, first mentions the use of ashphalte for roofs, but due to the fire risk other materials such as corrugated iron sheets began to be used. First developed in 1833, this type of sheeting was described as being an economic material for roofing and walls.

Members might keep their eyes open for early examples of corrugated iron sheets. They are not all of the same pattern and early sheets have larger corrugations and less to a sheet than modern examples. An early example of corrugated iron being used on a large scale in the Midlands was for roofing part of the original New Street station in Birmingham. The roof was 840 ft. long with a clear span of 212 ft., having the centre portion glazed.

The same applies to corrugated asbestos sheets first successfully manufactured in 1900 using 85% cement to 155 asbestos with the earlier sheets being smaller than modern examples and only had five corrugations per sheet, with the modern sheet size and section being introduced about 1924.

Further Thoughts onCorrugated Iron

Reading Toby Cave's article on Roof Trusses soon after returning to England from a recent visit to New Zealand reminded me of the contrasting role that corrugated iron has played in the building and architectural history of the two countries. In the UK, corrugated iron seems to have been regarded as an inferior material, best reserved for temporary structures, out-buildings or fences. There are exceptions to this rule - Alan Flint has provided members with details of various examples - and the agricultural sector has made widespread use of the material, but not many of us seem to have much affection for it.

This provides a stark contrast with New Zealand, and I include some excerpts from 'Old New Zealand Houses' by Jeremy Salmond to make the point.

"Corrugated iron was brought to New Zealand in the early days as a temporary roofing material, but, along with weatherboard walls, corrugated iron roofs soon became a characteristic feature of nineteenth century New Zealand houses.

It was not produced in New Zealand itself until 1869. Corrugated iron was cheap, light, strong, fireproof, and easy to fix over a simple framed roof. If the roof was unlined beneath the iron, the house became an oven in the sun, a drum in the rain, and a percussion band in a hailstorm. Lined ceilings softened these effects and many New Zealanders raised in an old house still find the rattle of rain on an iron roof a pleasant and comforting sound.....

..... The iron sheet imported to New Zealand was "plain", "black", and "galvanised" (or more accurately zinc-dipped) to prevent rusting. With the sheets came ridging and spouting of the same material, sometimes of pure zinc, but by 1875 all these items were being manufactured in Dunedin by R. and T. Haworth. In the early days in the bush, the sheets of 1800 x 600mm up to 2400 x 900 mm were too unwieldy to cart about, and corrugated iron was more likely to be used there for fireplaces and chimneys than for covering roofs.....

.....Once rolling machinery was available in New Zealand, it became possible to form curves in corrugated sheets - verandah roofs could be made concave, convex, ogee, or bull-nosed, and corrugated iron rainwater tanks could be made. A particular form of corrugated iron, used mainly for verandahs, was known as "baby iron" or "sparrow iron" because of its small corrugations.....

.....On roofs, sheets were fixed by nailing through the ridges of the corrugations into a timber purlin underneath with flat-headed "clouts" or "rose-clench" nails which had a small diamond-shaped washer under the head. Later, the lead-head nail was developed with a flat head nail cast in a small hemisphere of lead which bent to the shape of the iron when it was hammered home."

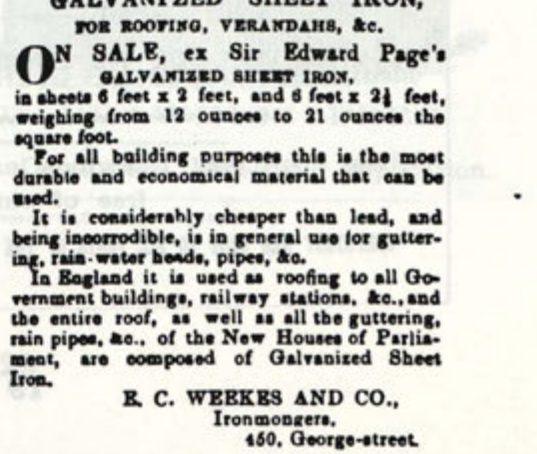
So conscious are the New Zealanders of the importance of corrugated iron, plus the ready availability of the raw material, that one of the country's leading scupltors works solely in corrugated iron.

Corrugated iron also played an important role in the development of housing in Australia.

"The new product arrived in Australia in the early 1850s and rapidly became the most popular roofing material.... Sufficient iron sheets to cover a large roof fitted easily into a cart or waggon, to be bumped over rough and dusty roads to any remote buiding site.... One particular feature was ... *the concave-shaped verandah roofs with a lined or striped appearance. These roofs were painted in stripes of alternate light and dark colours, deep Indian red and buff being common. Perhaps in deference to its origins in draped canvas, the practice of striping roofing was seldom applied to iron which was not curved, or to the main body of the roof."*

'The Australian Home' by Ian Evans

An advertisement for a novel roofing material, from the *Sydney Morning Herald, 14th February 1850.*



GALVANIZED SHEET IRON,
FOR ROOFING, VERANDAHS, &c.

ON SALE, ex Sir Edward Page's GALVANIZED SHEET IRON, in sheets 6 feet x 2 feet, and 6 feet x 2½ feet, weighing from 12 ounces to 21 ounces the square foot.

For all building purposes this is the most durable and economical material that can be used.

It is considerably cheaper than lead, and being incorrodible, is in general use for guttering, rain-water heads, pipes, &c.

In England it is used as roofing to all Government buildings, railway stations, &c., and the entire roof, as well as all the guttering, rain pipes, &c., of the New Houses of Parliament, are composed of Galvanized Sheet Iron.

R. C. WEEKES AND CO.,
Ironmongers,
450, George-street.

The interest of members of the Society in what might be regarded by others as slightly "offbeat" subjects should never deter our enthusiasm. Bricks, cement or corrugated iron may not be everybody's passion, but they form a significant part of the industrial history of our County.

Knowing the interest of members of the Society in this material, I felt that a survey of the use of corrugated iron in Warwickshire would be a valuable project. I was also lent a copy of some advertising for the products of Wm. Glover of Warwick, and this is included to show the range and extent of one firm's production. In preparing for a talk in Clifton-on-Dunsmore last year, I came across a barn at Clifton mill with the Glover sign still intact. There must be so many more of these spread through the county (and beyond). Indeed, could it be that some of Glover's corrugated iron might have travelled to Australia or New Zealand?

Future Meetings

Thursday March 10th.
Annual General Meeting, followed by
Roger Cragg on **"The Life and Works of Thomas Telford"** at 7.30 p.m. in the Warwick School Junior Drama Hall.

Thursday April 14th.
Arthur Jordan on the **"Great Central Railway"** at 7.30 p.m. in the Warwick School Junior Drama Hall.

Thursday May 12th.
Visit to the **Modern Records Centre** and **British Petroleum Archives** at the University Of Warwick. Organised by Richard Storey and Anita Hollier. Limited to 15 members.

Thursday May 26th.
Visit to **Longbridge Sewage Treatment Plant**. Arranged by Severn Trent Water plc. Details to be announced. Limited to 20 - 25 members.

During the summer months the Society arranges a series of walks which have an industrial theme, although there are inevitably many other features to observe as well. Full details of these walks will be published at the April meeting, or can be obtained from the Secretary after that date.

The indoor programme begins again in September, with the Society meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the Warwick School Junior Drama Hall

Any requests for further details of either the meetings or the walks should be addressed to Martin Green 0926 313782.

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Details of membership of, and subscriptions to, the Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society can be obtained from:

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