

23 September 1993

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 1992/93

It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden death during the Summer of one of the Committee's most active and useful founder members Mr Ronald Noble, Chairman of the Association in 1967/68. It is, however, most fitting and welcome that his daughter Mrs Fay Fyfe BSc CEng MICE, Assistant Engineer, Bridges, with Central Regional Council has accepted an invitation to join the Committee.

Membership of the Committee: Fay Fyfe
Prof Paul Jowitt
Dr David McGuigan - Secretary
Roland Paxton - Chairman
Charles Roe
Ted Ruddock

The building operations at the intended display area for the collection in the Civil and Offshore Engineering Department of Heriot-Watt University are now completed. Good quality second-hand display cases have been obtained and work is currently in hand complementing them with the making of in-situ cases and cupboards. As soon as this work is completed a meeting will be held and a firm date fixed for the official opening which the President of the Institution will be invited to perform. Work so far has been contained within the £2000 budget agreed with the Association for which the Committee is particularly appreciative of the efforts of Paul Jowitt.

Additions to the computer entries for the collection are currently in hand and the Committee wishes to record its thanks to David McGuigan for computerising the catalogue.

The most noteworthy acquisition during the year was an original letter written by Telford in 1821 which was generously donated to the Association by Lothian Regional Council's Water and Drainage Department. The letter was written by Telford, acting as a consulting engineer, to James Jardine, Engineer to the Edinburgh Water Company, and relates to the construction of Glencorse reservoir and aqueduct pipework. He wrote: *"I have just received and perused the specification for pipes, it seems very distinct and comprehensive. One expression is rather open to criticism but need not be misunderstood. I allude to 'Every pipe shall be cast solid'. Perhaps the word solid might be left out. I am truly glad that the hill rock (in the cut-off trench) at the Reservoir is becoming more solid, it has been an arduous and expensive operation but not to be avoided. Perfect safety is absolutely necessary...."*

Roland Paxton
Chairman