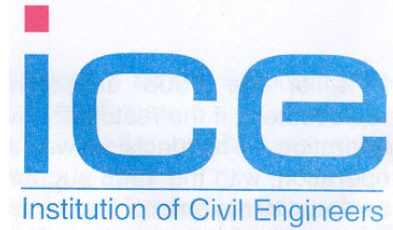


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East of Scotland Association  
Museum Committee

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8 September 2003

## MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2002-3

Membership: Mrs Fay Fyfe  
Professor Paul Jowitt  
Dr David McGuigan, Secretary  
Professor Roland Paxton, Chairman  
Mr James Dignan  
Mr Ted Ruddock  
Professor John Swaffield  
*Ex officio* Mr Richard Williams (Local Association Secretary)

In late October 2002 there was a serious fire in the Arrol Building Laboratory and, fortunately, although the fire was quite bad, none of the museum exhibits was affected.

In June a party from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) visited Scotland. Part of their itinerary was a dinner at the Heriot-Watt University and an evening visit to the museum. The party numbered 25-30 and included the ASCE President accompanied by two vice presidents and the Executive Director. Members of the committee and a small number of guests were also invited to welcome the ASCE party. Professor Swaffield welcomed them and made some well-received remarks about the value of teaching history.

In November we accepted a hardwood framed portrait photograph of Sir William Arrol dating from c.1897, 62x73cm overall. It is understood to have come from one of the Arrol Company offices. A location for the portrait in my office is currently being discussed.

Last week the ICE's national Panel for Historical Engineering Works and other guests from Historic Scotland and the university, numbering 35, visited the museum and were particularly interested in the artefacts from Laigh Milton Viaduct and the Forth and Dean bridges, all of which were the objects of site visits by the Panel.

The Welsh Assembly Government have asked that the Menai Bridge suspension link c.1824 currently on loan to the museum be returned to them, as a Visitor Centre is being planned near Menai Bridge where it is hoped to display the item. There is no great urgency. It is intended that a timber replica be made to replace the original item when it is returned to Wales.

The collection is on permanent display in the School of the Built Environment at the Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton. Anyone wishing to see it will be most welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'David McGuigan'.

David McGuigan  
Secretary to the Museum Committee