

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2003-4**

4 August 2004

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)

This year has seen a small number of donations. They do, however, include several most interesting items:

- a spanner believed to have been used in erecting Stephenson and Fairbairn's tubular bridge over the Menai Strait during the late 1840s. This item was formerly owned by a Mrs Hyam, now deceased for some time, whose great grandfather (born c.1815?) worked on the bridge.
- a winch to over-ride when necessary self-acting sluices (flap valves) on a land reclamation scheme installed by Thomas Telford as part of the 1000 yd. Fleet Embankment, Sutherland, on his Great North Road project in 1816.
- a 5m. deck hanger from Portland Street Suspension Footbridge Glasgow. Erected 1851-53 on the site of Robert Stevenson's 14-span timber bridge of 1832. The bridge was altered by Bell & Miller in 1871-72 and repaired by Sir William Arrol & Co. in 1926. The hanger is either wrought iron, if dating from the earlier dates, or steel if dating from 1926. Arguably Glasgow's most elegant bridge, with Greek style triumphal arches designed by architect Alexander Kirkland with George Martin as engineer. It has a span of 126 m. The dip of its four, eye-bar link, chains is about 8 m.

The committee is now considering how these items can be best displayed to offer future viewers a comprehensive appreciation of their purpose and operation.

Using resources kindly offered by the School of the Built Environment at the Heriot-Watt University, progress is currently being made on creating a web site for the museum collection. It is intended that the site will provide on-line access to the museum catalogue, notes on the history of the museum and annual reports. The catalogue will be fully supported by full colour photographs of every item in the collection. It is hoped to launch the site later this year.

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



David McGuigan  
Secretary to the Museum Committee