

21 May 2009

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2008-9

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

A duplicate of the Telford plaque erected at Edinburgh's Telford College and unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 2 July 2007 is now in the possession of the Museum Committee. We plan erect the plaque in the main entrance to the university to be unveiled by Professor Paul Jowitt at a ceremony in November 2009 to be combined with an evening event similar to those we have organised previously.

Although this has been a relatively quiet year in terms of donations, we have accepted a splendid level and tripod (c 1880) together with a wooden levelling staff. The staff extends in three sections to a somewhat unusual height of 15 feet (this differs from the more common height of 14 feet). These items, which had been owned by Mr Hugh Torrance Ker, M Inst CE, were donated by Mr John McCall of Balcombe, Sussex. Mr Ker began his career in 1883 in Scotland working on works such as the Killin Railway and Ardrossan Harbour.

More excitingly, this level and tripod together with a brass parallel rule and another levelling staff have been the subject of a short-term loan to IWC Media (an independent television production company based in Glasgow). The items will be used as props in a forthcoming BB2 TV educational documentary **Scots who made the modern world**. The final programme will include a credit to the "Institution of Civil Engineers East of Scotland Association Museum – Heriot-Watt University".

Some years ago each item was photographed in anticipation of setting up a website for the collection. However, this project had to be postponed. It is now hoped that we can begin the process of placing the collection on a website to allow wider access over the internet to our collection. We are aiming to achieve this in time for the unveiling of the Telford plaque later this year in November.

As a final note, the Museum has continued to be represented at meetings of the Scottish Industrial Archeology Panel.



David McGuigan
Secretary to the Museum Committee

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