

Institution of Civil Engineers - Scotland Museum

03 October 2018

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Membership:

Professor David McGuigan, Chairman & Secretary	Professor Malcolm Crisp
Professor Roland Paxton, Curator Emeritus	Anne Ormston
Professor Paul Jowitt	Derek Chambers, Curator
Ann Jones	John Andrew, Curator
Angela Edgar	<i>Ex officio</i> (Chairman ICE Scotland Committee)

This year so far has seen 35 donations to the museum. Included in these is a letter signed by Sir Thomas Bouch dated 2 October 1879 to William Arrol and Co. It refers to contractual matters for his proposed bridge over the Forth. Some three months later the Tay Bridge disaster occurred and his scheme for the crossing was discontinued. Other donations include an invitation card for the Laying of the Tower Bridge Memorial Stone in 1886, steel cross bracing from the Forth Bridge, Tay Bridge rivet, survey and drawing instruments.

We have donated two items to the V&A Dundee; a Forth Bridge rivet and a model of a cross section of a Queensferry Crossing cable stay made from original parts. The latter is currently on display there.

This year the museum has published a visitors' guide to the collection. A flipbook of the guide can be seen at http://www1.hw.ac.uk/mediaservices/pageflip/ICE_Scotland_Museum_leaflet/.

In September we participated in the Edinburgh Doors Open Day event on both Saturday and Sunday. On the Saturday over fifty visitors were guided round the museum; on Sunday there were rather fewer visitors. Because of the interest shown in the Forth bridges last year we again focused on the bridges laying out items which we are unable to have on permanent display. The feedback from the visitors was very positive and we believe we should take part again in the event next year.

The software platform for the online catalogue is no longer maintainable and is in urgent need of upgrading. This together with a need to find more space for the growing collection requires additional funds. A bid has been submitted to ICE Scotland for funds for the catalogue upgrade.

The Museum's catalogue is online at https://web.sbe.hw.ac.uk/ICE_Museum/ where the collection is amply described item by item. The committee is pleased to offer guided tours of the museum and anyone wishing to participate should contact me to arrange a suitable time.

Finally, as always, we are looking to enhance our collection and would be pleased to consider accepting any relevant items ICE members or friends may wish to donate.



Professor David McGuigan
Chairman and Secretary of the Museum Committee

Chairman
Professor David McGuigan, PhD CEng MICE DipTE
64 Greenbank Crescent
EDINBURGH EH10 5SW
Tel: 0131 447 3747
E-mail: icescotmuseum@virginmedia.com

Curator Emeritus
Professor Roland Paxton, MBE PhD DEng FRSE CEng FICE
EGIS
Heriot-Watt University
EDINBURGH EH14 4AS
Tel: 0131 451 4422/4644 Fax: 0131 451 4617
E-mail: r.a.paxton@hw.ac.uk