

Institution of Civil Engineers - Scotland Museum

11 October 2019

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Committee Membership:

Professor David McGuigan, Chairman & Secretary
 Professor Roland Paxton, Curator Emeritus
 Professor Paul Jowitt, HWU, EGIS
 Iain Young, HWU, Research Support & Resource Services
 Helen Taylor, HWU, Research Support & Resource Services

Professor Malcolm Crisp, HWU, EGIS
 Anne Ormston, HWU, EGIS
 Derek Chambers, Curator
 John Andrew, Curator
Ex officio (Chairman ICE Scotland Committee)

This has been another busy year for the museum with a number of important acquisitions received and new displays set out.

At the end of 2018 the museum received a donation of wooden (elm) water pipes (2018/037) excavated during works in George Square, Edinburgh. They were allowed to dry out slowly. Once dry, one of the pipes was sawn in half to reveal a cross-section and to show how it was joined – this is now on display. The wood is in surprisingly good condition after over 200 years underground (see image right).



In August the museum took delivery of a generous donation of 38 items from the University of Portsmouth (2019/021-058). These included a number of levels and theodolites (with Hilger & Watts well represented) as well as some more modern items including a Leica Wild GPS System (2019/049). The donation also included some less usual items including an alidade by ER Watts & Son (c.1939) (2019/039) for use on a plane table (see image right), a “Karti” plane table by Carl Zeiss (c.1970) (2019/035) and a small pocket level of unknown manufacture (2019/057).



Our most recent acquisition is a 1:1,500 scale model of the Queensferry Crossing (2019/059) donated by Transport Scotland.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the death of James Watt, technical staff at Heriot-Watt University are making a model of James Watt’s flexible water main which was laid (c.1811) on the bed of the River Clyde as part of the Dalmarnock Water Works which supplied water to Glasgow during the early 19th century. This model will be completed shortly and placed on display.

Again this year the museum took part in the Edinburgh Doors Open event on 28 September. There were over 40 visitors who enjoyed guided tours round the museum. The feedback was very positive.

We look forward to another thriving year in 2020 with the possible acquisition of a Demag joint from the Forth Road Bridge and items from the North Bridge, Edinburgh.

As ever, members and indeed the general public are very welcome to visit the museum at any time. If anyone would wish a guided tour or indeed has a donation please contact me at my email address below. Our online catalogue can be viewed at http://web.sbe.hw.ac.uk/ICE_Museum/collection.htm (case sensitive).



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 Chairman and Secretary of the Museum Committee

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