



THE INSTITUTION OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS

Panel for Historical Engineering Works

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RETIREMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN - BRYAN O'LOUGHLIN

The Panel's recent meeting marked the retirement of its Vice-Chairman and former Technical Secretary Thomas Bryan O'Loughlin after nearly twenty years of service on the Panel. Throughout that period, Bryan has freely given of his time, experience and knowledge of civil engineering history and has made an outstanding contribution to the Panel's work. Professor Paxton presented Bryan with a framed print of Conwy Bridge and Castle and conveyed to Bryan and his wife, Eileen, the Panel's thanks and appreciation for their contributions over many years. Ted Labrum, Panel member for East Anglia has become the new Vice-Chairman.

When writing to thank the Panel for their gift, Bryan included a few reminiscences of his time with PHEW:



left to right: Professor Paxton and Bryan
Photography courtesy of Ted Labrum

PHEW, MAURICE BARBEY AND ME by Bryan O'Loughlin

I first heard of PHEW in 1973, when our Chief Engineer at York instructed all ICE members at King's Cross to attend a lecture on the Panel, given at Great George Street by Maurice Barbey.

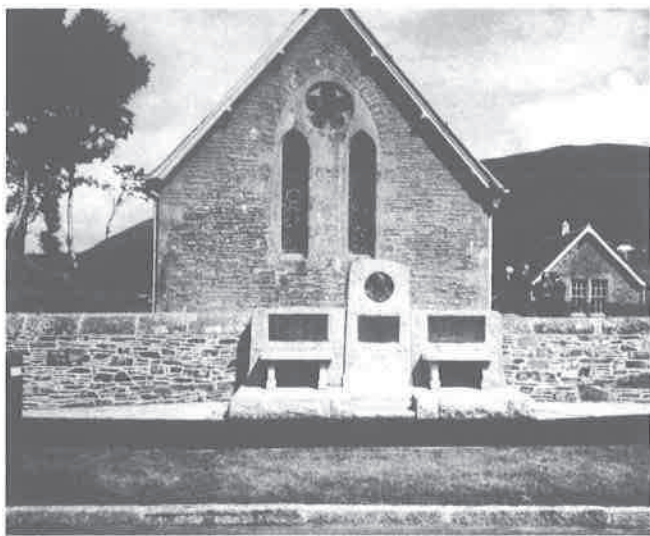
We were then engaged on the Great Northern electrification between London and Royston, which involved raising or reconstructing bridges to obtain adequate clearances above the overhead wiring. Amongst these was a cast-iron footbridge, originally erected at Retford in 1853, and moved twice, arriving at Mill Green, north of Stevenage in 1896.

Maurice knew of this bridge, and reckoned it to be the oldest footbridge still in service on British Railways, and that it should be preserved. As it could not be modified, it was, by arrangement with Maurice, dismantled carefully and returned in 1974 to Leeds, where it was originally cast, for re-erection as a show-

The four chairmen with the vice-president Mr A A Fulton then planted trees in the Westerkirk burial ground where Telford's father is buried.

In 1978 an approach was made to the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association that the monument was not easily seen by visitors and might be better sited. A site was chosen opposite the Westerkirk Library where the books of the Telford Bequest are housed. The road was reasonably straight at this point and it would bring together the items of Telford memoria in Eskdale. On 4 July 1979 the Duke of Buccleuch (son of the Duke who first unveiled it) unveiled it on its new site, Messrs John Laing carried out the work of moving and re-erecting it.

In June 1993 the question of once again moving the monument was raised because of proposed road improvement works. Several sites were suggested before in 1995 it was agreed to move it across the road to a site on the library ground and to incorporate a new ramp access to the library. On 9 August 1996 the monument on its new site was unveiled by Mr David Green Vice-President.

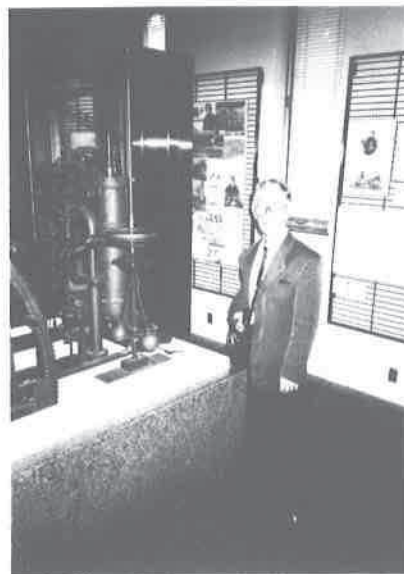


Westerkirk Parish Library
Telford Monument in new position 9.8.96
Photography courtesy of Kenneth C McCrae

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN by Professor Roland Paxton

The most impressive works of engineering conservation seen during my visit to Japan last year, in terms of high quality and sheer scale, were at Yokohama, near Tokyo. The development of this great port from the mid-19th century is most attractively displayed at the Yokohama Archives of History, part of which, built in late 19th century neo-Georgian style, was formerly the British Consulate! It

is situated near Osanbashi Pier, the oldest pier of the port constructed between 1889 and 1896, which was destroyed by the great earthquake in 1923.



Archives of History - Watt Engine
Photography courtesy of Mr Shigeru Onoda



Bronze bust of R H Brunton near Yoshida Bridge
Photography courtesy of Mr Shigeru Onoda

Surprising finds at the Archives were a finely executed contemporary working model of an early 19th century Watt steam engine and, in the basement, part of the building's late 19th century egg-shaped sewer understood to have been the work of Scottish engineer, Richard Henry Brunton (1841-1901). Brunton is now revered in Japan as the 'father' of Japanese lighthouses and Yokohama's urban development. After being recruited by leading lighthouse engineers 'D & T Stevenson' of Edinburgh and undergoing a short period of training with them in 1868, he went out to Japan and constructed a complete

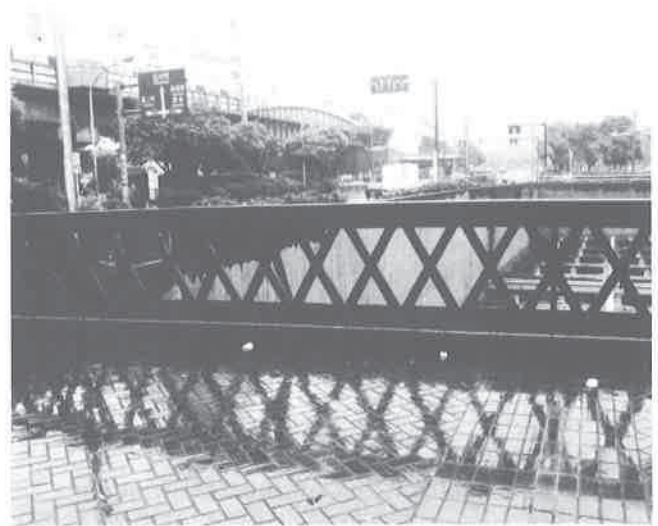
lighthouse system. He also supervised surveys for detailed maps of Yokohama, planned its drainage, water supply, street paving, lighting and telegraph facilities, and in 1870 erected Yoshida Bridge, the first iron lattice girder bridge in Japan. This achievement has been tastefully commemorated by a modern bridge with girders similar in elevation to the original. Brunton also designed a wharf, reclaimed land, planned a park and street with broad footways, widened canals and strengthened their banks. By 1874 he had prepared major harbour proposals which, although not implemented, were fairly similar to H S Palmer's plan of 1887 completed subsequently.

Extensive redevelopment of the old harbour area has included the nearly 300m high Landmark Tower. From the 'sky garden' of the tower, which is reached non-stop by Japan's fastest lift, there is a dramatic bird's eye view of the conserved old dry-docks, an historic sailing ship, a finely conserved docks railway and the site of Brunton's lighthouse establishment. The harbour area redevelopment was equally impressive when seen from the Port Authority's prestigious launch, which enabled views to be obtained at close quarters of a bank of historic truss bridges for re-use, old cranes, the 1896 breakwater and the magnificent cable-stayed road bridge. All this prior to a fascinating foray into Chinatown via a more traditional structure! Brunton returned to Britain in 1876 after which little is known of him. If anyone has knowledge of his work as an architect/engineer in London after 1881, please speak!

The most exciting recent Panel development is the impending launch of our *Historic Bridge Award 1998*. The pilot project covering the whole of England and Wales is to be conducted jointly with the County Surveyors' Society and is supported by English Heritage, Railtrack and British Waterways. The project is being very ably managed by David Greenfield, Panel member for Avon, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of the Panel for his dedication and hard work in progressing matters to date. At our August meeting Panel members agreed to help with the initial assessment of submissions from their areas, with appropriate support from the secretariat. The project is modelled on the Scottish Saltire Civil Engineering Conservation Awards scheme. Since 1994 this scheme, with recommendations for awards being made by the Scottish Group of the Panel, has operated successfully and led to increasing awareness of the environmental benefit of high quality engineering conservation.

Congratulations to Bob Otter and all concerned in the production of the reprint of *Civil Engineering*

Heritage: Southern England. The new illustration of Shoreham Harbour is a great improvement!



Yoshida Bridge - site of Brunton's 1870 bridge
Photography courtesy of Professor Paxton



Landmark Tower in old harbour area -
1896 breakwater in foreground
Photography by Taguchi Shigeru, 1994



Old dry dock conservation near Landmark Tower
Photography courtesy of Mr Shigeru Onoda



Chinatown entrance, Yokohama
Photography of Mr Shigeru Onoda

CONFERENCE REPORTS ...

- **Newcomen Society Presidential Address ... Mike Chrimes**

Dr Denis Smith, PHEW Panel member for London, has recently begun his term as President of the Newcomen Society. His Presidential Address was delivered at Great George Street to a very well attended and appreciative joint meeting of the Newcomen Society and the Panel held on 12 November 1997. His subject was *James Walker (1781-1862): Civil Engineer*, who was portrayed as an 'upright, sincere and unostentatious' man. Walker practised for some sixty years and was the ICE's second president succeeding Telford in 1835 before resigning in 1844.

In common with Newcomen Society practice, the address will be repeated to the North Eastern branch on 17 March 1998, the Midlands branch on 1 April 1998 and to the North Western branch on 14 April 1998.

- **PHEW Autumn Meeting**

PHEW met at the Runnymede Campus of Brunel University between 27 and 29 August 1997. The accommodation was arranged and the meeting held in the former building of the Cooper's Hill, Royal Indian Engineering College which for many years, subsequent to its founding in 1871, provided scientific training for young men aspiring to serve in India, mainly as civil engineers.

Amongst other business, the Panel was advised of the continued strengthening of links with English

Heritage, and continued good progress on the thematic studies being undertaken by a number of sub-panels on bridges, windmills, water towers and dry docks. Sales of the *Civil Engineering Heritage* series remain encouraging. The volumes for *Southern*, and *Eastern and Central England* are in the process of reprinting and the latest volume in the series, covering the whole of Ireland, is due for publication in early 1998.

Amongst the site visits, ably arranged by Dr Denis Smith, was the opportunity to explore the iron roof structure of the Royal Albert Hall, a number of impressive concrete structures at Heathrow Airport, the Hanwell flight of eight locks on the Grand Junction Canal at Brentford, and the unique 'three bridges' site where the railway leading to Brentford Dock, passes under the canal aqueduct, both of which are crossed by a road bridge carrying Windmill Lane.



Chairman Roland Paxton (right) with
David Greenfield on top of the Royal Albert Hall roof
Photograph courtesy of The Editor



The Three Bridges
Photograph courtesy of The Editor