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Vej- og transporthistorie

Med publiceringen af indlæg på et seminar, som Dansk Vejhistorisk Selskab arrangerede 14. maj i år, ønsker redaktionen af VEJHISTORIE dels at kreditere oplægsholderne for deres indsats og dels at styrke interessen både for studiet af vej- og transporthistorie og for bevaringen og plejen af materielle efterladenskaber efter de svundne slægtleds færden gennem landskabet. Vejhistorie og transporthistorie! – bemærk venligst: *og* transporthistorie! Tingene skal anskues i en bred sammenhæng for at kunne forstås. Gennem tiderne har veje haft skiftende andele i det danske samfunds samlede transportarbejde, og det er derfor naturligt for Selskabet at drage ikke bare veje, men også andre elementer af transportsektoren ind sit interessefelt. Vi håber som sædvanlig på læsernes velvillige modtagelse af VEJHISTORIE nr. 5, som er et stærkt udvidet nummer i forhold til de foregående.

En tak skal lyde fra redaktionen til forfatterne for deres indsats og til Carl Bro as, COWI og Den Hielmstjerne-Rosencroneske Stiftelse, som velvilligt har ydet bevillinger til publicering af dette hæfte.

Michael Hertz

The Institution of Civil Engineers' Panel for Historical Engineering Works

by professor Roland Paxton, Institution of Civil Engineers, England



Roland A. Paxton, b.1932. MBE MSc PhD CEng. Educ. Manchester College of Science and Technology, and Heriot-Watt University; Cartographical surveyor, 1953-55; Civil Engineer, Manchester, Chester, Leicester, Edinburgh and Lothian Regional Council, retiring as Sen. Principal Engineer, 1959-90; Hon. Sen. Research Fellow, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 1990-94; Hon. Professor, HWU since 1994. Chairman, ICE's Panel for Historical Engineering Works, since 1990; Commissioner, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, since 1993; Chairman of Forth Bridges Visitor Centre. Author of books and papers on technical innovation, conservation of structures and historical engineering.
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Prof. Roland Paxton outlined the role and activities of the Institution of Civil Engineers' Panel for Historical Engineering Works (PHEW), which he chairs, in the recording, assessment, promotion of knowledge, and encouragement of excellence in the conservation of historical engineering works in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

PHEW was formed in 1968 and consists of 20 Panel Members and any helpers they can enlist. All are corporate members of a recognised engineering body with an interest in engineering history and cover, rather thinly, the land area of the United Kingdom (based on the Institution's Local Association areas) and the Irish Republic.

The Panel is administered by a secretariat at ICE headquarters, London led by the Head Librarian who is responsible for the curation and storage of records and for advising on all matters relating to its records and publications. He also provides a Secretary and other staff support as necessary for minute-taking, organising meetings, general administration and preparing publications.

The Panel meets formally twice a year, a one-day meeting in London in April, usually following a talk and mutually beneficial exchange of views with members of an external organisation with similar interests e.g. English Heritage. The second meeting takes place each September in a different Panel Member's area as part of a two-day event. This includes an information exchange evening with slide-show, site visits to historical engineering works and a dinner to which local ICE officials and others who have given support to the Panel are invited.

Prof. Paxton then outlined some Panel's activities in greater detail:

- Recording of significant historical engineering works. More than 2500 records have now been created in a standardised format. They are now being computerised to facilitate accessibility and updating.
- Assessment and grading of historical engineering works according to their degree of significance. This improved system enables the Panel to advise government agencies, the Heritage Lottery Fund and others more effectively.
- Conservation of numerous structures including the Thames Tunnel, The Forth Bridge and the world's

Fig. 1. Part of poster showing PHEW's engineering heritage activities



Fig. 2. The Forth Bridge undergoing a £70m refurbishment



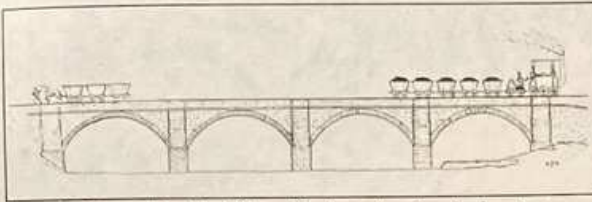


Fig. 3. View of Laigh Milton Viaduct, Scotland, showing steam locomotion in 1816



Fig. 4. Laigh Milton Viaduct 1811 before conservation in 1996



Fig. 5. Laigh Milton Viaduct – use of radar scanning to determine hidden conditions

Fig. 6. Laigh Milton Viaduct after conservation in 1996



oldest viaduct on a public railway, Laigh Milton Viaduct near Kilmarnock with varying degrees of involvement. For the latter, PHEW initiated a Trust with the Author acting as its Secretary and conservation adviser, raised £1.1m, bought the viaduct for £2.00, and completed the work within budget, winning a Saltire Society commendation "for skill in conserving a structure on the verge of collapse".

- Advising public and private bodies, e.g. government agencies, Industrial Archaeology Panels, Scottish, English & Welsh Viaducts Committees (Rail Property Ltd.), British Waterways &c.
- Maintaining contacts with, and lecturing by invitation to similar bodies abroad.
- Organising events and presenting lectures to public bodies and the Institution's Local Associations – estimated at more than 2,000 lectures since 1968.
- Initiating and organising annual competitions to encourage high quality conservation of HEW's. e.g. The Historic Bridge and Infrastructure Award.
- Initiating and supporting the Forth Bridges Visitor Centre Trust (Chairman – The Author) details of which, including its free exhibition at North Queensferry, are available on web at: www.forthbridges.org.uk.
- Organising information and landmark plaques recognising historical engineering achievement e.g. jointly with ASCE, the Forth & Clyde Canal Regeneration,
- Writing, managing and updating of Panel publications the most important of which are our Civil Engineering Heritage books, providing a guide to works in all localities in the Panel's areas, except Scotland which is ongoing, six titles in ten printings of 1,500 copies each. Thematic books are under consideration.
- Producing heritage booklets, several on a local basis, mainly in Scotland.
- Producing heritage leaflets, about 18, promoting works in localities e.g. Exeter.
- Writing learned society papers on historical and conservation topics, numerous.
- Producing a Newsletter. Issued quarterly in March, June, September and December. Printing – 500 copies. Includes news and short articles. Issued free on request. On web at www.ice.org.uk under Library – Archives.
- Write-ups for Panel organised events in ICE Local Association newsletters.

Looking to the immediate future, Prof. Paxton concluded by saying that the Panel intends to consolidate and develop these activities and not embark on any new ones.