

# LETTERS

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## Credit to Telford where it's due

While agreeing with your correspondent John Gardiner (*NCE* 9 March) that Jessop as principal engineer for the Port Cysyllte canal deserves more credit for this remarkable structure than he has received, *NCE* perhaps had in mind that Telford's note should not be played down too far.

The salient points seem to be:

□ Telford's statement in 1814 that he

'designed' and 'planned' the aqueduct, acknowledging occasional consultations with Jessop during the 'early part' of the work, seems entirely credible. This view is consistent with the fact that no advice from Jessop to Telford appears in the records from 1800 to 1805 covering the period of the design and erection of the ironwork.

□ The canal committee chairman, who had been associated with the project over a long period, stated at its opening in 1805 that Telford had 'invented and with unabated diligence carried the whole into execution-

. . . with the advice and judgement' of Jessop. The committee thought 'it put justice to Mr Telford to state that the works have been planned with great skill and science, and exerted with much economy and stability, doing him . . . infinite credit.'

□ The natural philosopher David Brewster wrote in 1808 that Telford had 'conceived the idea' of the high level iron aqueduct.

□ Jessop himself does not appear to have disputed any of the foregoing.

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