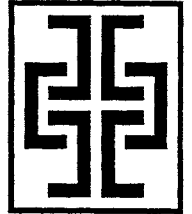


Newsletter



COTAC
CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

The Bournemouth Conference seems from feedback received to have been a success and our thanks to all involved whether as speakers or delegates for their contribution and especially to the University for providing such a good venue and their help with logistics. We shall shortly be forwarding a questionnaire to all who attended for comments to assist with the organisation of future events and include an article about the conference together with some illustrations in this issue. A full transcript of proceedings will be published in due course which will be sent to all conference attendees and available on request to any one else interested. Please contact Graham Lee at COTAC if you would like a copy.

Our focus this issue is on the South Birmingham Centre, the College's progress with their EUROFORM project and plans for expansion of the Centre. Ingal Maxwell follows his article in Newsletter No.2 about "Craft skills and traditional materials" with a feature on stone supplies and training needs for this sector in Scotland. Mavis Collier the Archivist at Painshill Park Trust tells something of the history of this garden near Cobham, Surrey and in particular the reconstruction of the Turkish Tent.

Peter Burman shares experiences from his visit to Czech and Slovakian Republics last year and Jane Davies a final year student on the Heritage Conservation course at Bournemouth University reviews the Building Conservation Fair at Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton.

Keith Sanders, Manager at Kent Training Centres (KTC), Dover takes one of the themes explored at the COTAC Conference "Qualifications

available or proposed in building conservation" and debates a number of concerns and explains KTC's approach. In response to Keith's concerns we are pleased to confirm progress on the development of National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) to reflect the interests of the industry. COTAC has been appointed by both the Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to act as project managers for the development of appropriate N/SVQ's through the full range of building conservation. A series of working group meetings are in progress with comprehensive industry and education representation. These are being followed by appropriate validation group meetings.

Linford Group recently hosted a party of French students on a EUROFORM exchange with Wolverhampton University and we cover the SPAB Phillip Webb awards which are once again this year dominated by students from Scottish Universities.

Kevin Stubbs tells the story of Bursledon Brickworks near Southampton rescued by the Hampshire Building Preservation Trust and Peter Brook's address at the official opening of the

Building Craft and Conservation Trust's new offices and workshops at Dover Castle, Kent provides a good follow on to the focus on the Kent Centre in the last issue.

We update progress with the new *Journal of Architectural Conservation* to be launched in 1995 with a "Call for Papers", a leaflet is enclosed with this or your last issue of the Newsletter and Beacon Books have now issued Volume 2 of the *New Practical Builder*, see books section later.

On general COTAC matters we launched an explanatory



Ms Jennifer Page gives the opening address to the COTAC 1994 International Conference.

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CHAIRMAN: Dame Jennifer Jenkins DBE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Donald Insall OBE, FSA, RWA, FRIBA, FRTPI, SP Dip. (Hons.)
DIRECTOR: Richard Davies Dip. Arch., (Hons.) RIBA HON. TREASURER: Stephen Bond MA, ARICS, Grad. Dip. Cons. AA

leaflet about the organisation COTAC, Past, Present and Future in conjunction with the Bournemouth Conference. This tells the story of the foundation, development and future plans for COTAC and includes an updated course list. Copies available from Graham Lee. We have also developed a draft brochure and will be seeking major financial support from sponsors for its development and to be associated with COTAC. We are preparing a brief for a COTAC portable stand and display for general use at exhibitions and events.

In addition to the development work on N/SVQs with CITB/CISC we are working with City and Guilds and the Network members to develop further modules for the master crafts qualification and to establish appropriate validation systems. Work continues with our Irish and Portuguese partners and with the industry in our respective countries to establish qualification requirements in building conservation through the FORCE grant programme from the EU. We have developed an appropriate questionnaire and will be carrying out a series of structured interviews and workshops with industrialists over the

coming weeks.

Initial work is in hand on the arrangements for the 1995 conference. We are in discussion with a major national organisation which celebrates its centenary next year and feels it could be of mutual benefit to link this to the COTAC international building conservation theme. We shall provide more details in future issues as plans become firmer.

Work continues to encourage new members to join the Network in suitable geographic locations and for existing members to develop more comprehensive links locally and be able to offer a broader range of facilities.

As always we are pleased to receive copy for future issues of the Newsletter. Copy deadline for the next issue Friday 16th December. It would be much appreciated if copy could be word processed and submitted on 3.5" computer floppy disk ideally in Wordperfect 5.1/6.0 or compatible format.

Graham Lee
August 1994

"MANAGING UNCERTAINTY IN BUILDING CONSERVATION" COTAC International Conference 1994

Over 70 conservation enthusiasts gathered at Bournemouth University 24-26th May this year for the second COTAC International Conference.

Ms Jennifer Page, Chief Executive of English Heritage (EH) and chair for day one gave a thought provoking introduction to the theme for the three days "Managing Uncertainty in Building Conservation" and set the tone by keeping impeccably to time. Standards and Accreditation were then addressed by Alf Fulcher from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Richard Larcombe from the Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) with Peter Donaldson from Historic Scotland who updated us on the position with National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) in this sector. The second morning session started with views from a subcontractor Paul Simons of McCurdy and Co., historic timber specialists, followed by John Trill from the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) on construction management and Bob Chitham on the Professions and Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The morning was rounded off by a rapidly condensed overview and the international scene from Richard Davies of COTAC. These presentations sparked a lively debate about training and education generally in building conservation.

The afternoon entailed a visit to the splendid new EH training facility at Fort Brockhurst, Gosport where delegates were given an introduction by Ms Page and John Fidler followed by conducted tours with EH staff. The visit was rounded off by presentations

giving the contractors views from Ian Constantinides of St Blaise and SPAB by its secretary Phillip Venning. A quick return to Bournemouth, a reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor at the University followed by dinner accompanied by a fascinating slide presentation about Osborne House presented with wit and humour by Professor John Ashurst.

Day two began with a presentation by Mike Cook of South Birmingham College of their EUROFORM training project providing a link back to last year's conference held in Birmingham. Bob Chitham Chair of ICOMOS (UK) then introduced the rest of the proceedings for day two looking at the International dimension and project case studies. This was led off by Daniel Therond, Principal Administrator of the Council of Europe who shared with us his thoughts on the Council and European scene generally.



Laboratory facilities at English Heritage's Fort Brockhurst.

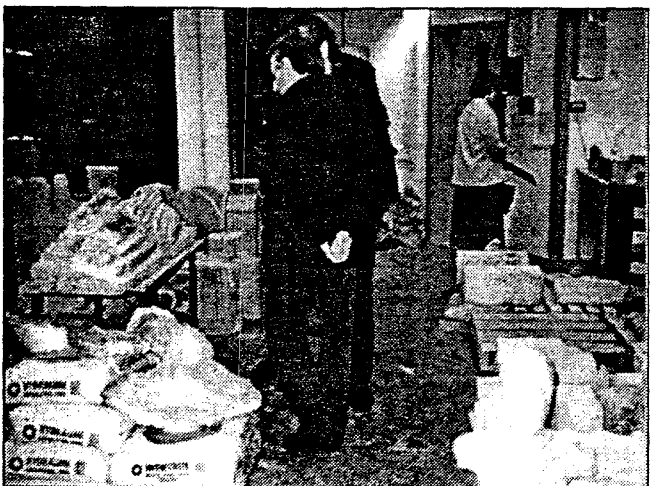
Jurgen Pallada, Managing Director of Schloss Raesfeld outlined the conservation training scene in Germany followed by Professor Anders de Naeyer of the Henry van de Velde Institute in Antwerp who expanded on the conference theme applying training to assist managing uncertainty and gave details of the case study of Antwerp Cathedral. Dr Adrian Linters a specialist in Industrial Archaeology told us about the Flax Valley Heritage project in West Flanders, Belgium. The international scene was completed by Paul McMahon, Senior Architect from the Office of Public Works, Dublin who clearly explained the unique character of the cultural heritage in Ireland and the current developments in the conservation scene.



Bob Bennett explains some of the techniques for lime use at the Lime Centre, Morestead.

After coffee comprehensive slide presentations were received from Kevin Stubbs on the Bursledon Brickworks project (reviewed elsewhere in more detail in this issue), Jamie Vans, training officer for Woodchester Mansion, Oliver Longley, Chairman of James Longley who were the contractors for the Hampton Court fire restoration, and Alastair Donaldson, Project Director for the St Pancras Chambers project for British Rail. After such full presentations Bob Chitham declined to summarise, allowing delegates to take their lunch.

The afternoon commenced with a review of the work and services offered by the University from Professor Bryan Brown and the audience were once again spellbound by John Ashurst this time reflecting on stone conservation in general. John Spencer then explained in some detail the scope of research carried out at the University.



Stone workshop/laboratory, Bournemouth University.

Bob Chitham introduced the final discussion session under the conference theme and suggested that this broke into three main headings with some of the key issues arising from the Conference as follows.

Standards

- National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ):
 - the concept for these is basically good but their introduction was rather rushed and consequently they need some refinement
 - the terminology and acronyms used in this sector are not user friendly
 - confusion – an NVQ is not a training course or full-time education; it is demonstration of the ability to do the job – performance
- Output related funding causes problems particularly in terms of quality
- Council of Europe (Mr Therond) impressed with NVQ's despite the teething troubles.

Training

- Providers of training need additional financial help
- Conservation is a small voice when talking to government about major policy issues raised above and the construction industry is fragmented and not well organised. [Editors note: Recommendations in the Latham Report could be helpful in this respect]
- Need to get the conservation message/skills to the craftsman at all levels, small builders, subcontractors, owners and the public.
- Fort Brockhurst good help for specialist conservation skills and approach.
- Respect needed for SPAB Manifesto, conservation charters and COTAC/ICOMOS guidelines/profiles.
- Idea of training site from Europe could be adopted here to advantage for both multidisciplinary and practical hands-on. Client and funders need to support.
- May need to train the finished product in college combined with workshop/sites in future in view of large proportion now self-employed.
- Need to combine good basic craft skills with conservation.
- More than one way to do conservation – not just "one right way"
- Skilled conservators are underpaid

Project Management

- Genuine "conservation firms" generally provide good quality work for a fair price but problems arise with large open tender lists.
- Pre-qualification – by industry for industry with external scrutiny – contractors, subcontractors and consultants.
- The team/partnership approach needed for the future – professionals/crafts.
- Balance between standardised and individualistic approaches needed.

Bob Chitham briefly concluded the formal conference proceedings with appropriate thanks.

Day three was an option to view the University laboratories and facilities, tour the Lime Centre at Morestead hosted by Bob Bennett, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton hosted by its Director Chris Zeuner and finally to Bursledon Brickworks hosted by Kevin Stubbs rounded off a full but enjoyable three days.

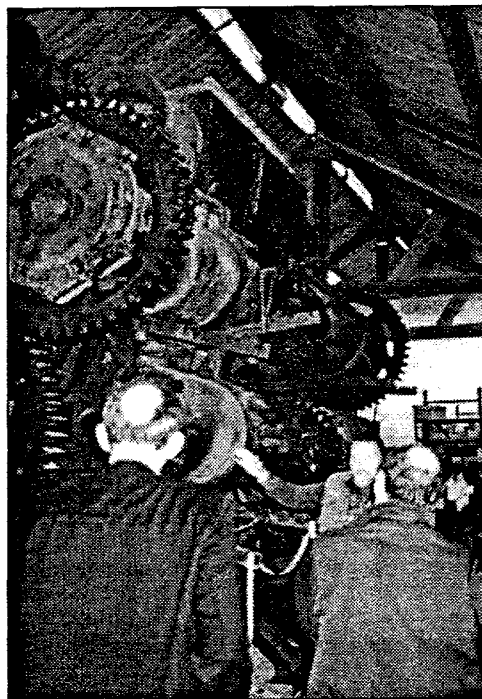
Graham Lee
July 1994



Above and below: The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton.



Above: Chris Zeuner (with beard), Director of the Weald and Downland Museum, explains 'smoking' techniques to Conference delegates. Below: A brick-making machine explained by Kevin Stubbs at Bursledon Brickworks.



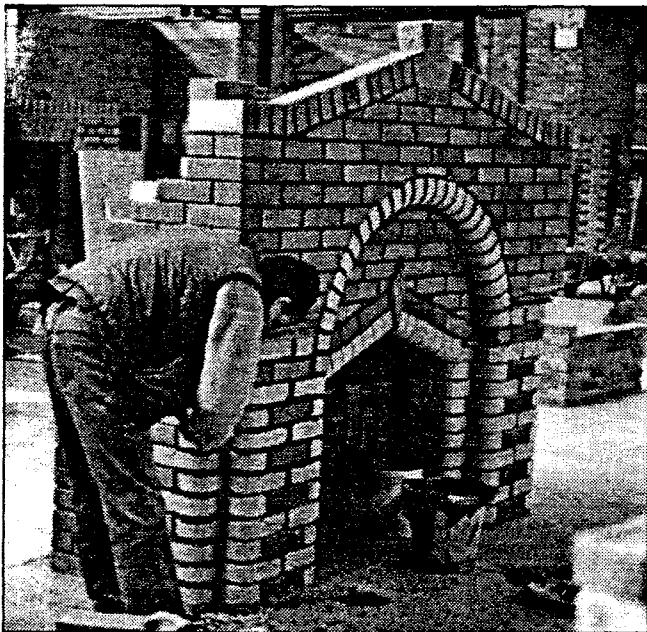
PROGRESS OF CRAFT TRAINING COURSES FOR RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION AT SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

An EC 'Euroform' Funded Programme

Background

During a visit to Limoges in France, College staff were invited to view a training centre dedicated to craft skills related to conservation and restoration. The centre was itself being restored as part of the training initiative and we were advised that it was one of a national network established in partnership between the Government and the Construction Industry.

The idea of a similar Network in the UK was appealing, and on return, a number of interested and potential partners were contacted. There was strong backing for the concept of training specifically for conservation and restoration, and a bid was put together under the Euroform programme which was successful.



Student bricklayer at work.

Staff Training

The first year was dedicated to training existing staff to undertake the more specialist role for this initiative. A staff audit revealed that a number of members already had significant experience, or had a major interest in historic buildings.

Two members of staff from each of the specialist areas of brickwork, carpentry, plastering and plumbing (lead work) were selected, and a full year programme devised. This relied heavily on the generosity of industrial partners, architects, surveyors and many others who gave their time to talk to the staff, arrange site visits and provide valuable site experience work.

The programme was based on a fixed weekly meeting slot which included:

- language training;
- identification of specialist knowledge and skills for the trainees, and
- the development of a common core unit to bring together the various trades.

Guest lecturers provided expert tuition on topics such as:

- Architectural styles
- Concepts of restoration and conservation
- Problems of contracting for historic buildings
- Relationships between professions and trades
- Traditional craft skills

Site experience training was arranged to fit appropriate work on site or in the workshop as identified by our contractor partners, and staff availability, and was augmented by a number of site visits including:

- York Minster, incorporating the stonemasons' yard.
- Worcester Cathedral, to see the restoration of the roof.
- Hampton Court, to discuss maintenance problems in general.

In addition, a number of local sites and working museums were visited either by the full group or individuals. Finally, specialist training was provided and ranged from an introduction to lime and putty mortars, the use of rubbing bricks, to wattle and daub, a hands 'in' or 'on' experience at Avoncroft Museum.

The year's work culminated in a visit to France arranged with the assistance of Lycée François Arago in Reims and 'Spirale' of the Fédération du Bâtiment based in Limoges.

A number of site visits were arranged consisting of a tour of Reims Cathedral, a visit to see the start of restoration for the 200-year-old market hall in Limoges, and an update visit to the catalyst for the programme, the training centre in Limoges.

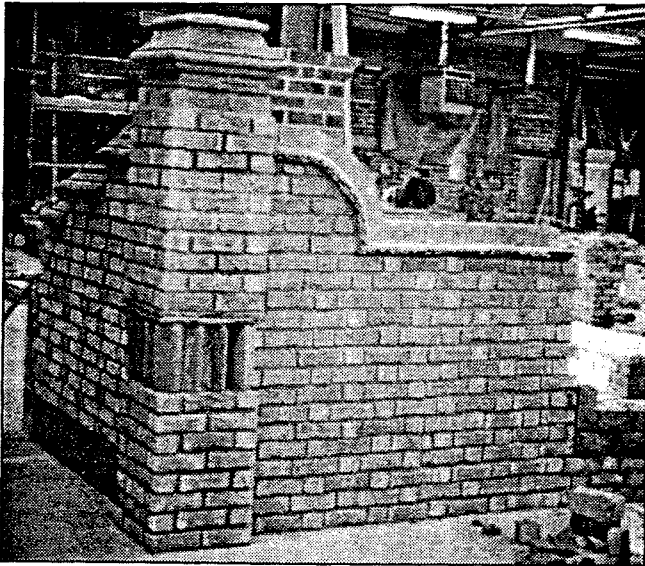
Trainee Selection

Because of the funding criterion, the first course was available to unemployed adults. The College insisted that each trainee had already achieved a Level II NVQ in the trade selected or an appropriate alternative qualification. A number of potential trainees were prepared to leave employment to take part, but were persuaded to wait until day release provision becomes available.

The backgrounds and levels of existing skill are diverse, but all trainees have been totally committed to the course and apart from an initial drop-off by a small number, the attendance and achievement levels have proved remarkably high.

Specialist Requirements

The various courses have proved to be expensive to run, particularly for the purchase of specialist equipment, tools and materials. For instance, the cost of rubber bricks is around £12.00 each compared to 30p for a standard brick. Oak used for carpentry is more than 15 times as expensive as softwood. However, future courses will benefit from the initial purchase of tools and equipment.



Feature pier and wall.

Because the course is a prototype, there is no relevant NVQ. The students are therefore working towards an existing Level III NVQ whilst negotiations are taking place with the appropriate organizations to develop and approve more appropriate qualifications. It is hoped that College staff will be included in the development work having now had considerable experience with the trainees.

The programme of activities includes similar components to that of the staff training, with common core units to highlight the styles of architecture, concepts, specialist skill requirements and, of course, a language.

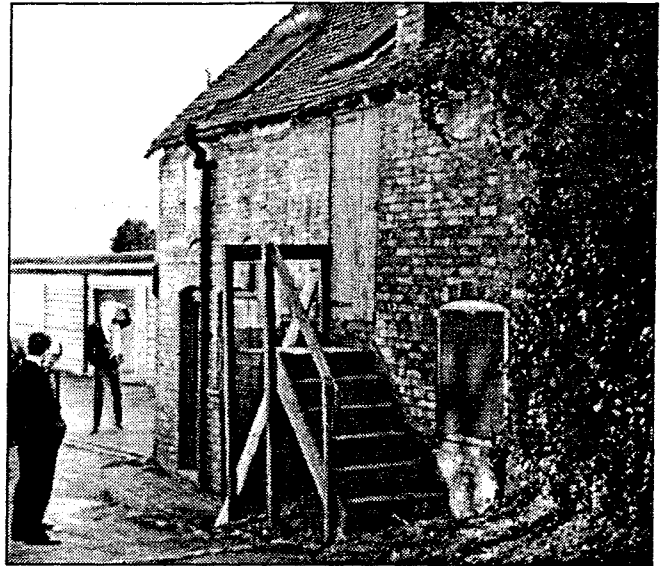
Visits

There have been a number of site visits for students to augment workshop and classroom experience. Most have been local and included Avon Croft Museum, where a member of staff was seen making hand-made bricks. The programme also included a visit to three centres in Europe in March 1994. Two were in France, Reims and Limoges, and the third in Portugal, was centred on Lisbon. The students in all cases benefitted from the experience, although one member unfortunately suffered a heart attack. He is now fully recovered and back on his course. One problem encountered was that social security rules did not allow students to travel abroad for the week and claim benefit. As a

result of the problem, local MPs and Euro MPs have raised questions in The House and Brussels, which should eventually allow genuine trainees to participate in foreign exchanges or visits without the loss of benefit.

Work Experience

Now that the students are well advanced in the course, a number of possible work experience placements are being negotiated. It is difficult to convince some contractors that the quality of their work will not suffer as a result of providing opportunities for work experience trainees. It was intended to use a project as the focal point for work experience. This was an 18th century farmhouse and was to have been restored as a centre for



Possible project for future courses, belonging to Lichfield Diocese.

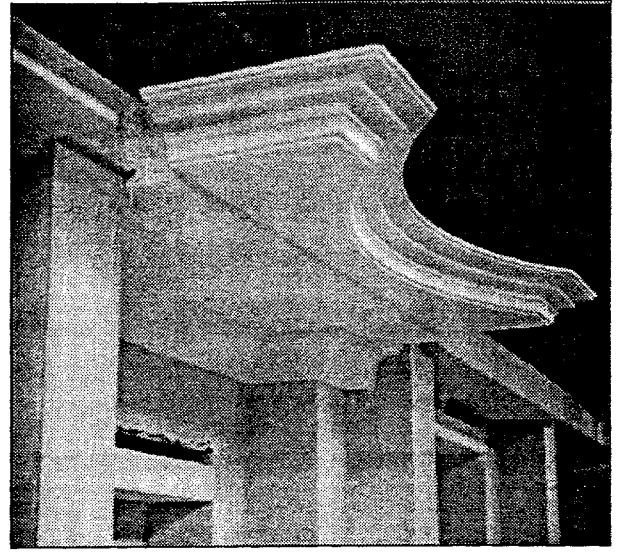
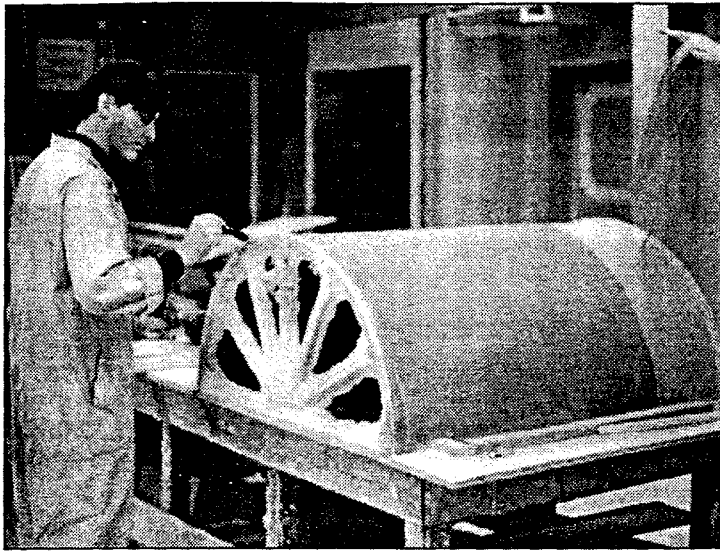
exchange students. The property belongs to the Local Authority and at this time the funding to allow both contractors and trainees to begin work has not materialized. A similar project is being negotiated in Lichfield with the help of David Linford, Chairman of the Linford Group, and the Diocese of Lichfield. It is felt that projects may provide the best opportunity for work experience with the advantage of allowing forward planning, and allow trainees to carry out preparation work within the training programme, before starting work on site. The funding of such initiatives remains the problem.

The College staff have also devised their own answer to the problem and are engaged on building a timber framed building to include herring-bone brickwork, roof tiling and plastered features. The structure is designed to allow basic replacements and repairs to take place, and will be available for future courses.

Developments

There have been a number of very positive developments as a result of the initiative:

- The trainees and staff have produced several videos which will require editing to provide a record for other centres to use as the basis for their development.
- There is a valuable library of specialist books and



Examples of plaster work.

reference materials, which is being added to almost daily.

- The staff from the various trade areas are cooperating for the benefit of the whole group and are finding the experience valuable as well as acting as a catalyst for other initiatives of joint working.

A significant number of trainees wish to continue and join the Master Craft Diploma Courses next year, and have enjoyed the educational process.

A member of staff, having taken early retirement, is setting up a West Midland Network to bring together Colleges, Universities, Local Authority interests, Museums and others concerned with training for restoration and conservation.

There is support for the concept of the development of relevant craft qualifications, and progression routes to first line management and degree courses.

Strong relationships exist between the College and a significant number of industrialists and specialists as a result of the programme.

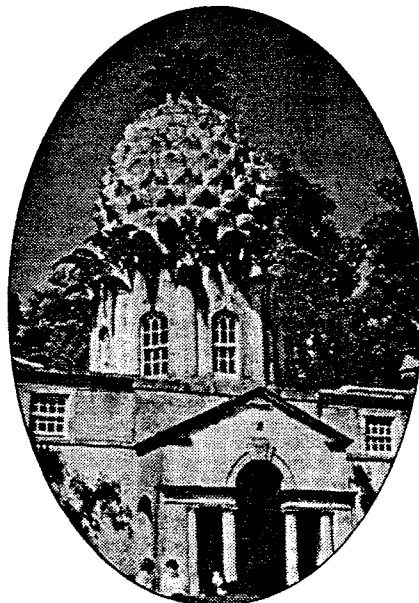
Conclusions

The initiative started as a simple idea to try and replicate quality training seen in another country. The need to liaise with industry to seek their views opened up a network of prospective partners, and these relationships have continued to strengthen and grow. Staff have become engrossed with the challenges of developing new materials, and are themselves learning at a rapid rate.

The programme has produced a group of well trained and motivated craftsmen eager to enter the world of work, with specialist knowledge.

It is apparent that we are at a critical stage in relation to craft training with a rapid decline in the number of highly skilled trades persons available to transfer their abilities and knowledge to the next generation. Unless we can pass on that wealth of experience, and quickly, we are in danger of losing out to our European partners who appear to be more concerned with ensuring that their heritage will be protected for years to come.

Colin Stott
April 1994



The Pineapple, Dunmore (1761). An exquisite example of masonry skills which have exploited the local good quality fine-grained sandstone to maximum advantage – aesthetically and functionally. (See article on following pages)

BUILDING STONES SUPPLIES IN SCOTLAND: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Background

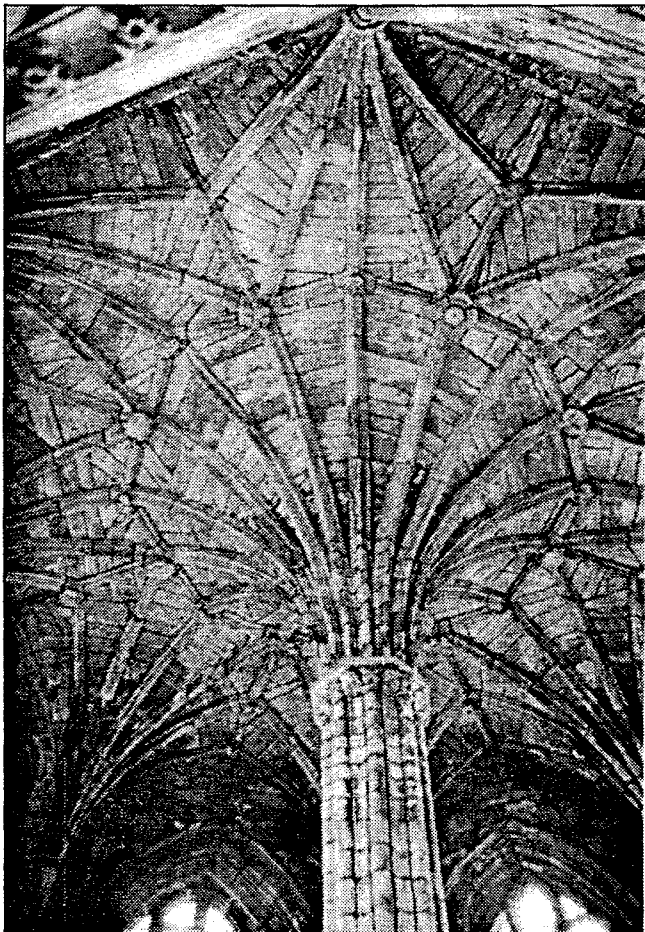
Scotland is a country rich in masonry, the evidence of which is readily found in the innumerable buildings constructed of sandstone, granite, whin and a variety of other rocks. During the 19th century Scotland's quarrying industry contributed greatly to the wealth of the country and offered employment to many. At that time it is estimated that over 1,000 quarries were operating to produce good building quality stone.

Although the majority of Scotland's urban structures are constructed of sandstone, this was won from a wide variety of locations from both within and outwith Scotland (Fig. 1). However, the products of the Scottish granite quarries of the north east and south west were famous both home and abroad. Paving slabs obtained from Caithness and Forfar were some of the finest ever produced, and West Highland slates were second to none.

Exploited in a wide variety of ways, stone was worked to produce many fine buildings. Particularly over the last two



Fig. 1 Outline map showing location of principal quarries which supplied building stone to the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Elgin Cathedral Chapter House. A complex and satisfying solution resulting from the stonemasons' ability to manipulate man-handled pieces of individual stone into an integrated structural form.

centuries, this was made possible through a unique combination of masonry craft skills, available material, and an enabling financial climate. Developing sea and rail transport links contributed to the growth, and expanding international trade connections ensured a flourishing export market.

Winds of Change

By the turn of this century, circumstances had begun to change, and major decline in the use of building stone was hastened by the two World Wars. Although a brief revival occurred during the 1920s and 1930s it was only well into the 1960s that an awareness of stone as a building material started to re-emerge with any significance. However, by that stage we had lost much of our traditional understanding of the material, how it should be worked, used and detailed. Aesthetic considerations overruled its structural potential, and the many variables in traditional masonry construction generally made it impossible to ensure compliance with emerging codes of practice, and the increasing demand for paper evidence to prove stones' functional and operational effectiveness.

With a few exceptions, en masse we basically turned our back on the indigenous stone industry, in preference to accepting developing modern materials. These promised much, but lacked longevity in use. Furthermore, the problem was compounded by adopting a cement-based mortar in preference to the traditional, and more sympathetically flexible, lime technology.

Sadly, the consequential effects of these issues are all too readily seen in even the most superficial of investigations into the Scottish stone industry (Fig. 2).

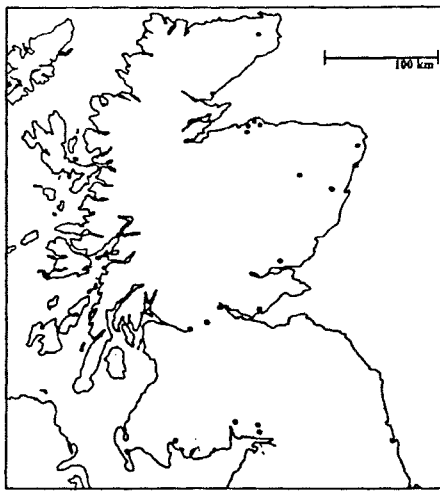


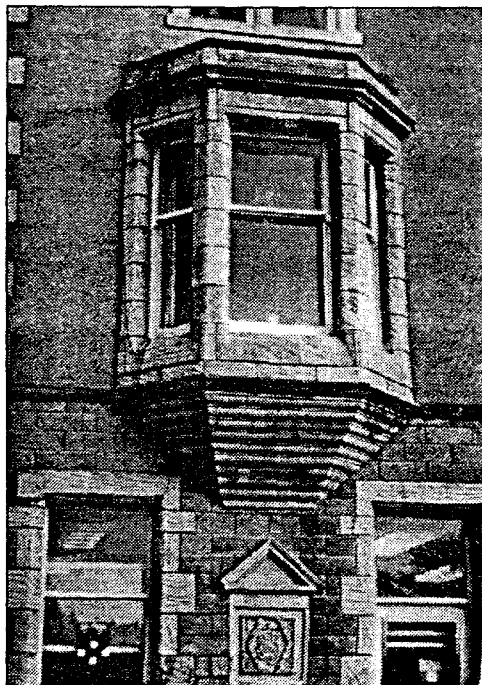
Fig. 2 Outline map showing location of operational Scottish building stone quarries - 1994.

Conservation Awareness

Over the last two decades, an increasing awareness of conservation matters has been steadily gaining ground. With this has arisen an acknowledgement of our built heritage, and a growing understanding of the need to relearn much of what we have lost.

This, in turn, has created demand. But, inevitably, this is being satisfied by a steadily increasing import trade in building materials, including stone, from almost all quarters of the globe.

At the same time our masonry building stock is increasingly suffering from the effects of naturally occurring, and induced, decay processes. As a result the appropriate demand for the need to effect sympathetic repairs, and undertake effective restoration work, is currently being prejudiced through not having available the 'correct' geological material upon which 'like for like' work can be undertaken. Compounded by a lack of knowledge on how to use stone, the inevitable consequences are emerging misunderstandings and misuse of the material, often to the detriment of what we are attempting to conserve.



Bank Building, Stormoway. An unhappy conclusion to a costly repair project, purporting to show good quality stonework. The artificial distressing and 'weathering' of a 'plastic' repair surface does little to enhance the structure.

An Integrated Need

To overcome those problems, what is materialising is a need to quantify future demand with a view to establishing a tangible rationale to build upon and develop what remains of the Scottish stone industry. Associated with this is the need to instigate an integrated educational programme through which the philosophies and ethics of conservation are adequately promoted, traditional construction techniques taught, and the indigenous processes of extraction, working, hewing and building are resurrected.

Material supply and craft skills availability must go hand in hand (Fig. 3). Whilst traditional avenues of education are still available, the recent initiative in the form of a multi-level programme on vocational qualifications provides an ideal framework within which such a development could take place.

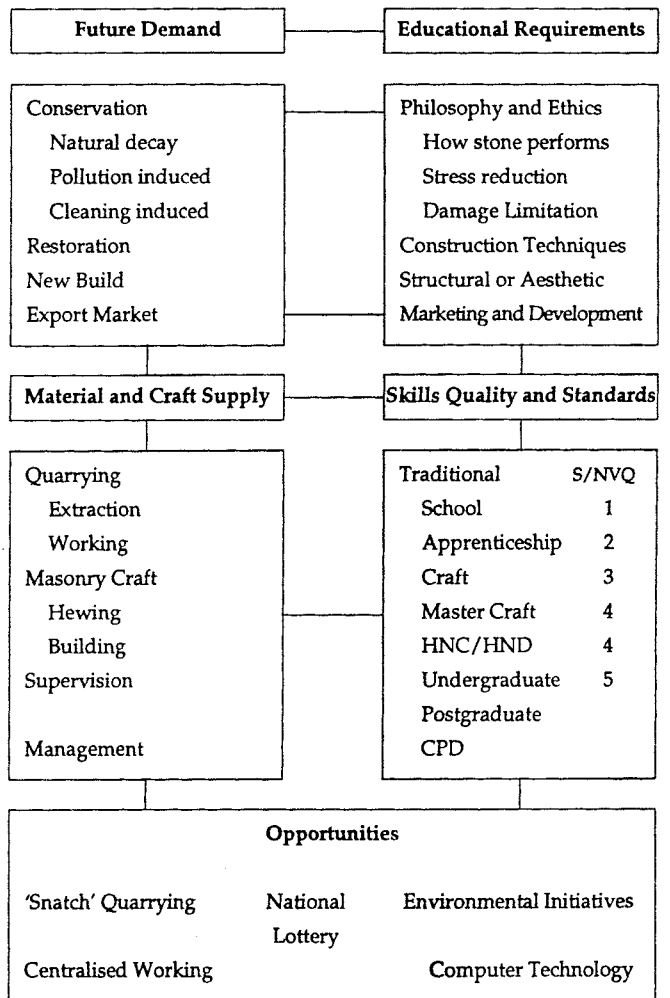


Fig. 3 Scottish building stone supplies: strategic developments.

Technology

Technological innovations have also provided opportunities. Developments in quarrying techniques ensure that they do not necessarily have to have the same negative environmental impact of previous years. Centralised working techniques have become coupled with computer technology, and this can do much to reduce the labour intensity, and therefore costs, of what is still perceived as being a high cost building industry sector.

Total Life Costing

To overcome many of the prejudices, there is a need for construction procurers to start considering full life costs where the gains of specifying natural stone for building projects can be put into perspective. Through the appropriate choice of indigenous stone as a material of quality, many maintenance-free decisions can be made.

A significant number of environmental improvement initiatives are already acknowledging this and, with a little additional foresight, could help build, and sustain, the demand for natural stone materials over the next decade and beyond.

The Future

Currently the global natural stone industry is worth £10 billion, within which slate and flagstone production accounts for 5% of the total. Granite production has increased 67-fold over the last 60–70 years and presently claims over one third of the market. Within 20 million tonnes of marble produced last year, its market share stands at 60%. In Italy alone over 70,000 people are employed in the stone industry.

World stone production is forecast to rise by 5% per annum to a projected output of 50 million tonnes by the turn of the century. Significantly, although Europe contains only 6% of the world's population, it consumes half of the world's natural stone production.

It is an emerging criterion, in the intention to create world-class architecture from National Lottery funds, which demands the need to adopt a 'design quality threshold to ensure high standards'. To help achieve this, stone, with its proven track record, must be highly ranked in this regard.

Our existing heritage well illustrates that building stone can readily satisfy many requirements. What is now needed is a strategic integration of industry, educational providers, and future clients to recognise this gain. Currently, we are faced with a window of opportunity. It should not be lost, for it could readily bring about an essential, and comprehensive, renaissance of the Scottish stone industry.

Ingal Maxwell, DA(Dun) RIBA FRAS FSA Scot

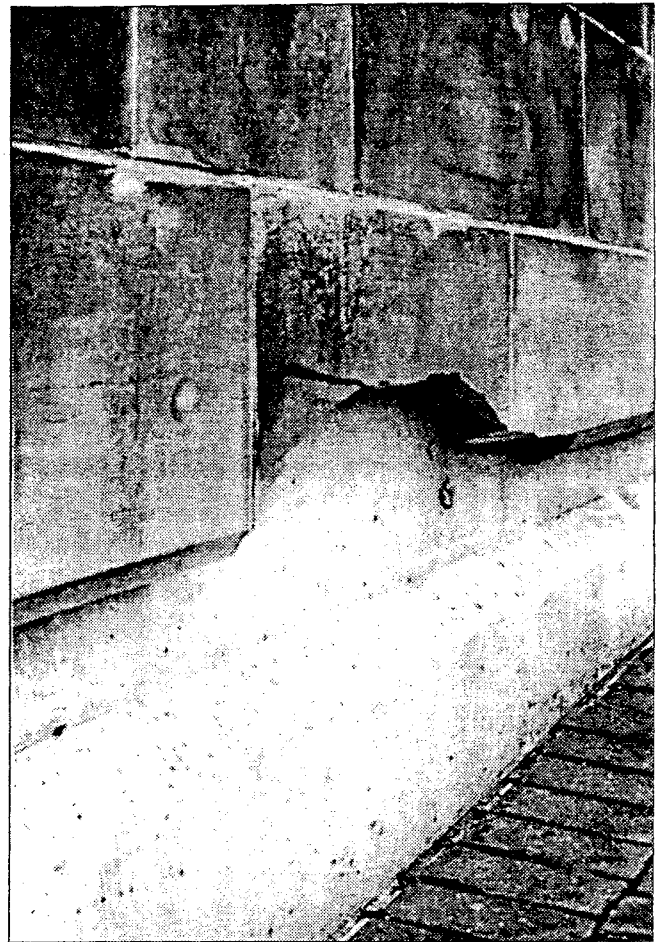
Director, Technical Conservation, Research and Education

Historic Scotland

July 1994

Appendix: Stone Conservation – A Selected Bibliography.

Available on request from G. Lee at COTAC.



Library Building, Edinburgh. Poorly understood and detailed stonework has resulted in frost damage of an aesthetic application of stone over a concrete structure. A greater awareness of how traditional materials perform is urgently required by many building professionals who have started to work with such elements.

NOTE

The Bath Stone Company has recently been awarded a contract for supplying stone for the restoration of Windsor Castle following the fire of 1992. The Company has bought a 70-foot 1930s barge, the *Elaine*, which will transport the stone along the newly restored Kennet & Avon Canal (which the mine overlooks) and the Thames to a finishing yard near Windsor.

PAINSHILL AND THE TURKISH TENT

Painshill is an 18th century landscape garden near Cobham in Surrey. It was designed and laid out by the Honourable Charles Hamilton (1704–1786), youngest child of James, 6th Earl of Abercorn. Commencing in 1738, Hamilton spent 35 years working on his garden, before being forced to sell it to repay his debts.

After Hamilton's time the estate changed hands a number of times until at the end of the Second World War it was purchased as a financial speculation. The pleasure grounds and the parkland were sold in lots for forestry, agriculture and a Girl Guide camp.

By 1981 when the Painshill Park Trust was set up as a registered charity to restore the garden to its 18th century state, many buildings had disappeared from above the ground and the whole garden was overgrown and derelict.

The land acquired by Hamilton in 1738, about 300 acres, consisted mainly of 5 farms. It was bounded on one side by the meandering river Mole and on others by the old Portsmouth Road. The contours are attractive with a number of hills and valleys. Most of the land was sandy heath which Hamilton spent much time improving as indicated by Horace Walpole, who in 1748 wrote, '... I have been to see Mr Hamilton's place near Cobham, where he has really made a fine place of a most cursed hill...'

From this Hamilton made his garden. A large serpentine lake was dug and filled by a wooden water wheel from the river Mole, and a spectacular grotto spanned two islands. Vast numbers of trees and shrubs of native and rare imported species were planted. Temples, a ruined arch, hermitage, Gothic tower, Turkish tent and ruined abbey were carefully placed to enhance the views.

During the past 13 years since its formation, the Trust has achieved a great deal with a very limited workforce. There is however much still to do.

The newly completed Turkish tent is the first building at Painshill to be recreated, where nothing remained of the original above ground. This work was made possible through the generosity of Mr Jeffrey Steiner and his family, who wished to recall in a lasting way the decision by Turkey 500 years ago to grant sanctuary to the Spanish Jews.

When researching a building that is missing, all facts need to be assembled. With the tent there were two good drawings. One, attributed to Henry Keene, of the 1750s (Victoria & Albert Museum) and a sketch by Fredrik Magnus Piper, 1779 (Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm). This latter is inscribed 'The Tent at Paynes-hill' and there is documentary evidence for Piper having visited Painshill in 1779. Good topographical descriptions of the 1760s also exist. John Parnell, in 1773, says that it is 'elegantly finished, the back is built and plastered, the top leaded and painted blue, joining a sailcloth marquee that

covers all and is painted white with a blue fringe drawn up before in festoons, like Darius's tent'. Maps indicated that the original tent remained on the site until after the first Ordnance Survey of 1870.

When archaeologist Lesley Howes excavated the site in 1986, she found an incomplete floor laid in a herringbone pattern. The views had also to be considered. Illustrations of those to and from the tent exist. William Gilpin left a drawing made from the Gothic temple showing the tent on the hanging wood. A painting which once belonged to Hamilton shows the view from the tent. For the visitor, between these views the tent vanished for quite a long time.

The Trust's first problem was siting, as the present day boundary runs through the site of the original tent and it proved impossible to negotiate the purchase of necessary land. Had this been a solution, the view would have been impossible to restore owing to trees on adjoining land. It was decided to move the site 50 yards to the south and this has worked well with views very similar to the originals.

The building of the tent involved craftsmen with many skills. The inner oval shell is brick, the floor has been copied from that excavated. There is an oval inner wooden roof covered with lead decorated with acanthus mouldings. The tent is canvas painted white with blue fringes. Around the top of the tent a moulded cornice with copper wire plumes, all painted blue, the dome above blue and white topped by a gilt finial



The Turkish Tent at Painshill Park, Cobham. Sketch by Fredrik Magnus Piper, 1779. Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm (see page 11).

and crescent with a blue pennant. The view from the Gothic temple now has an eye-catcher and with the gradual restoration of the grotto the view from the Turkish tent is returning. Sadly one thing that cannot be repeated is Hamilton's finale to the tour around Painshill. In his day visitors left the Turkish tent and walked across the parkland back to a garden gate. Once in the parkland the whole pleasure grounds disappeared behind trees and were never seen again.

Mrs M Collier, Archivist
July 1994

Painshill Park is open 11.00am–5.00pm Sundays only until 16 October 1994.

Private group tours of at least 10 people on any other day.

Further information from:

Painshill Park Trust Ltd, Portsmouth Road, Cobham
Surrey KT11 1JE. Telephone: 0932 868113

VISIT TO CZECH REPUBLIC AND REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA

My visit, which was between 12–20 November 1993, had as its objectives a visit to Bratislava to teach on the course in Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation at the Academia Istropolitana, to re-establish contacts with academic colleagues there, and in Prague to continue the developing relationship between the Centre for Conservation Studies in York and the State Institute for the Care of Historic Monuments in the Czech Republic.

My visit fell into three parts, first in Prague, then in Bratislava, and again in Prague but for the sake of clarity I will deal first with my experiences in Bratislava and then with my shorter time in Prague.

I. I arrived in Bratislava from Prague on the evening of Sunday 14 November, and gave lecture-seminars extending over three days to the students on the international course in Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation. It was singularly fortunate that my visit overlapped with that of Ph. Dr Ernst Bacher, Head of the Austrian State Institute for the Care of Historic Monuments. It was good indeed to see him, after an interval of some years, and we had very fruitful and stimulating conversations on two occasions over lunch.

There were fifteen students on the course: eleven from Slovakia, one from Estonia, one from Romania, and two from Slovenia, six being architects, four structural engineers, three civil engineers, one interior designer and one ethnologist/cultural anthropologist.

My lectures covered:

- i) an introduction to the care of historic buildings and monuments in the United Kingdom;
- ii) an introduction to the philosophy of caring for historic buildings in the United Kingdom – William Morris and the founding of the SPAB, John Ruskin churches and cathedrals, country houses, historic towns;

- iii) the Athens Charter of 1931;
- iv) the Venice Charter of 1964;
- v) the Burra Charter of 1978;
- vi) an introduction to the significance of William Morris today, as thinker and writer and polemicist for historic buildings;
- vii) an introduction to the philosophy and practice of A R Powys, author of *Repair of Ancient Buildings* (1929) and a former secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and
- viii) the Lime Revolution, including the work at Wells Cathedral, England, and at 349 High Street, Kirkcaldy, Scotland.

In addition there were innumerable conversations with students and staff at the Academia Istropolitana, and two specially enjoyable experiences which were not anticipated beforehand. One of these was a concert of contemporary music by Slovakian composers which took place during the Festival of Contemporary Music in Bratislava. Music – and especially twentieth century music – is one of my own particular interests, and I was delighted to see the name of the British Council amongst those who had assisted the festival with financial and other support. The other experience was a special preview, on the morning of Thursday 18 November, of a major exhibition devoted to the work of the architect Dusan Jurkovic (1868–1947), an approximate contemporary of such British architects as W R Lethaby (1857–1931), Philip Webb (1831–1915), Temple Lushington Moore (1856–1920), and Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928). His life, and that of his father, was closely bound up with emerging feelings of Slovak nationalism, and he himself was formed as an architect in the Central European building and craft tradition in Vienna and practised first in Brno and then in Bratislava. He grappled with many central architectural problems, many still crucial today, and made significant contributions in such fields as urban planning, social housing, the design of social and

health-care centres, memorials to significant Slovak figures, and above all his monumental mausoleum for General Stefanik of 1928 on a spectacular site at Bradlo. He also practised as a conservation architect, making highly individual cultural contributions to the castles and country houses where he was employed. The organiser of the exhibition, Ph. Dr Dana Borutova, was enormously kind in showing me round the exhibition immediately before she had the responsibility of the press viewing to contend with. I was so impressed by the extraordinary quality of Jurkovic's work that I am determined to do whatever possible to make his reputation and name better known in the United Kingdom. Consideration was at that time being given to showing the exhibition in Glasgow, and I hope this may still happen: otherwise, we should be glad to have it in York. It seemed to me that his work has a continuing significance and not least in suggesting a vivid approach to invention in the vernacular tradition in the late twentieth century, an important issue in the Slovak and Czech Republics at the present time just as it is in Britain. It was also especially pleasing to meet Ph. Dr Jan Bakos, Director of the Institute for Art History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and Ing. Arch. Viera Dvorakova of the Slovak Institute for the Protection of Monuments; and a pleasure to meet up again with Pavel Fabian, who is Head of the State Institute for the Protection of Historic Monuments in the town of Banskastiavnica (recently declared to be a world cultural heritage site).

2. On returning to Prague I had an excellent opportunity to meet up again with Ph. Dr Josef Stulc and Ing. Arch. Kamila Matouskova. One consequence of that meeting was that Dr Stulc came subsequently on an official visit to England (York and London) in February this year, and gave two first-rate papers at a conference on *Conservation Philosophy and Practice*. His Central European perspective, coupled with his wide learning and immense practical experience, made a very special contribution towards the success of that conference. Mrs Matouskova and I re-affirmed our hope of collaborating together on an annual Anglo-Czech Summer School, which it seems possibly might be held in a small town in the Czech Republic.

3. It was also possible to spend some time exploring Prague and deepening my knowledge of that wonderful city, which I have been visiting regularly since first sent there by the British Council 23 years ago. I looked particularly at historic buildings where work has recently been carried out to good effect (e.g. the Rudolfinum, designed by Josef Zitek and Josef Schulz, executed 1876/1884, and superbly restored 1991-92) or is in progress. I went to two concerts at the Rudolfinum, thanks to the generosity of Dr Smatlak and I also made a particular point of looking at the Ghetto area in the Old Town: it was exactly one hundred years since the so-called Sanitation Acts of 1893 led to a far-reaching programme of urban renewal. Although much that was picturesque and of high cultural value was swept away, it has to be admitted that the spacious streets and handsome apartment blocks of the turn of the century represent a very positive gain and have made that part of Prague quite outstanding in European terms for turn-of-the-century architecture of high quality. Moreover, the scale of the destruction at that time

brought into existence the Society for the Preservation of Old Prague, which did much to raise awareness and to fight for threatened buildings. Hence there are some valuable lessons to be learned from the whole experience, not least at the present time when non-listed buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Prague are under siege from developers.

4. Looking ahead, it seems certain that the present good working relationships between our Centre for Conservation Studies here in York and the Academia Istropolitana in Bratislava, and between ourselves and the State Offices for the Preservation of Historic Monuments in the two Republics and the Office for the Conservation and Revitalisation of Historic Towns in the Czech Republic, will continue to grow and develop. I shall be very pleased if it becomes possible for students of the two Republics (perhaps with the British Council's support) to come and study on our MA programme in Building Conservation; and shall also be glad if Mrs Matouskova and I can realise the idea of annual Anglo-Czech summer schools. It would also be helpful if we could bring about regular exchanges of academics and practitioners in our field of historic monuments conservation, coupled with questions relating to the presentation and interpretation of the cultural heritage. In that respect, Dr Stulc's return visit this February was an important element. It is possible that I may write a book on Prague (the tentative title for which is *The Stones of Prague*), perhaps jointly with a Czech colleague, which would explore the cultural history of the City for English readers together with an assessment of the conservation challenges and opportunities of the present time.

I would like to record here my particular thanks to Ing. Arch. Jaroslav Kilian, his wife and family in Bratislava, to Mrs Marta Gergelyova (Programme Assistant to the course in Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation), Ph. Dr Josef Stulc, Director, State Institute for the Conservation of Historic Monuments in the Czech Republic), to Mrs Rosemary Hilhorst, Director, British Council, Slovakia, and to my host in Prague, Ph. Dr Josef Smatlak, who introduced me this time to the work of a notable twentieth century Czech artist, Vaclav Tikal. Jaroslav Kilian is in charge of the course on Architectural and Urban Heritage Conservation, and is also the very active Secretary of the ICOMOS Committee for the Slovak Republic.

Peter Burman
March 1994

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE BUILDING CONSERVATION FAIR 24-26 JUNE 1994

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, West Sussex

Since childhood holidays, when my mother would take me to visit such a variety of places as Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Ightham Mote to Harlech Castle and Stonehenge, architecture has been a continuing interest in my life. Like all children, I asked questions, Who lived and worked in these places? What were they used for? How did they build them? I have loved open air museums ever since my first visit to Skansen, in Stockholm, in 1969.

And so it has come about that I now find myself in Never Never Land awaiting my degree results. What better way to spend a day then? Free to learn, but with no pressure. Enjoying one of the best days summer weather so far this year browsing around displays and demonstrations at the Building Conservation Fair organised by the Joint Centre for Heritage Conservation and Management. What should I look at first? Will there be time to see everything? How do you choose? In the end, of course, it was a compromise because there was not time to see everything I would have liked.

The programme advertised Master Classes in Brickwork, Joinery, Historic Stonework, Leadwork, Timber Framing, Thatching and Use of Lime. I headed straight for Bob Bennett's corner where the master was already surrounded by an eager crowd. I first met Bob last year when he was kind enough to help me with some research for my degree. He is a true performer, being able to entertain an audience while actually teaching them something of the basics of lime. How easy plastering looks in the hands of an expert! As the audience found, it is not so easy to do it yourself without pointers from the skilled.

At 11 a.m. I was privileged to attend the Robert Demaus lecture on 'The non-destructive investigation of timber'. We learnt that it is possible to use ultrasound, probably best known to most of us for its medical uses. You have to be extremely

skilled to interpret the readings! For precise information this can be combined with a micro-drill which looks like a cross between a gun and a very large syringe. The fine flexible drill-bit revolves at high speed and leaves a hole so small that it can be mistaken for a beetle flight hole and is therefore ethically acceptable for conservation purposes.

At a lunch of champagne and sandwiches a toast was made to Gerard Lynch whose new book, *Brickwork: History, Technology and Practice*, was published at the weekend. This prompted me to stop for a quick look to see the incredible skills involved in Gauged Brickwork.

In between all of this I tried to find time to look at the various informative displays which covered all aspects of historic buildings: traditional paints, roof tiles, timber frames and floors, mediaeval floor tiles and conservation in West Sussex, to name but a few.

I finished the day in Court Barn listening to a lively discussion on the ethics of conserving a very unusual and very much altered door from a cottage bedroom that must have started its life in much less humble circumstances. In an unlisted building it would probably have ended up on the tip but the local Conservation Officer wants it retained. It was difficult to reach a satisfactory conclusion without the owner of the door present.

I had hoped to have time to watch the thatchers at work because I am still not very clever at identifying the different materials. Oh! Why aren't there more hours in a day! When is the next fair going to be? It was a great day out.

Jane Davies
Final Year Heritage Conservation Student
Bournemouth University
July 1994

A RELUCTANCE TO TRAIN

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) suggests that regular maintenance is ... "the most practical and economic form of preservation". We have over 15,000 listed buildings in Kent. That suggests a major maintenance commitment.

At the recent COTAC conference on 'Managing Uncertainty' time was taken to discuss the various qualifications available or proposed for those involved in building conservation. The building industry is now typified by small sub-contracting companies, many involving only a handful of people. During times of boom they haven't time for training because of pressure of work and in recession the cash isn't available to pay for training. For the vast majority of those involved in the building trades, "training is for sheep dogs".

It was no surprise therefore that, at the conference, a substantial amount of discussion about training for the construction industry centred around government initiatives such as **Training Credits and Training for Work**. This is, of course, training for people hoping to join the industry rather than those already active in it.

Apart from a few specialist companies the amount of training in conservation craft skills amounts to almost nothing. Yet to return to our opening paragraph, there must be a great deal of work going on, presuming that the majority of the stock of listed buildings isn't being allowed to fall into ruin. So if there are so few people getting appropriate training just who is undertaking this work? There are some skilled craftsmen about, but they are, we believe, mortal. Those involved in providing their training suggest that both the quantity and quality of apprentices is declining. One is forced to conclude that a great deal of the repair and maintenance of ancient buildings is being done by people with scant knowledge of what they are about.

The immediate reaction must therefore be to get all these people together and put them through appropriate training courses. This just flies in the face of reality for most small building companies choose to have neither time nor money for training.

Government Training Schemes

If we look at the training that is going on under government training schemes, there is, with one or two exceptions, no mention of conservation. Most training providers have decided to link the training they provide to meeting the needs of assessing trainees for National Vocational Qualifications. They are so obliged, for the payment they receive depends upon trainees gaining such a qualification. However, it is an established fact that the contents of the current range of NVQs are linked to new build with scant attention to repair and maintenance.

Trainees emerging from government training schemes find themselves seeking work in an industry where at least 50% of work is concerned with repair and maintenance. Yet the skills they have acquired relate, in the main, to new build.

Conservation Maintenance and Repair

This may not appear to have much relevance to conservation training. We feel it does. Repair and maintenance is, after all, the essence of conservation. Deciding upon which date work ceases to be conservation and becomes general building maintenance is problematical. The basic needs are an understanding of the building being worked upon and using appropriate materials and techniques in its sympathetic maintenance and repair.

Kent Training Centres (KTC) have asked the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to reconsider the content of NVQs to reflect more nearly the interests of the industry.* Whilst waiting for such changes, we involve our Training for Work trainees in site activities that provide them with skills and insights to repair work, some of which impinge on conservation issues. We are not claiming that we train conservationists at Level II, but we do feel that we are laying foundations that are not currently reflected in NVQs.

So if KTC is doing its bit under the auspices of the government training schemes, what are we doing for those already trading as builders? In fact, why are we involved in conservation at all? When KTC instructing staff were recruited, the skills we sought reflected the fact that we then offered City & Guilds Craft training. As it happened these instructors also had considerable experience, skills and enthusiasm for a wide range of conservation activity.

Co-operation with Building Crafts and Conservation Trust

KTC had already run a small number of short courses dealing with specific aspects of restoration when the Building Crafts and Conservation Trust sought to establish a base in Dover. (See Focus article in Newsletter No. 4.) We were happy to co-operate with this organisation in a number of initiatives. Our major input, using Training for Work trainees, was to transform a part of Dover Castle into accommodation that BCCT now uses as an office. We co-operated with BCCT in running 'Taster Days' to which those interested in conservation could come along and see what sorts of training was available. Some French artisans spent two weeks at our centre at Whitfield, Dover under the auspices of BCCT, learning conservation craft techniques from wattle and daub to aspects of internal decorative plastering. We have recently been involved with BCCT and English Heritage in an exciting two-day event at Rangers House, Greenwich Park where young people learnt about and tried their hands at some of the skills involved in the initial construction and subsequent conservation of our built heritage.

*See Editor's Introduction.

Our Own Limited Ambitions

Our own conservation short courses admit that a little knowledge may be a dangerous thing, but no knowledge at all can lead to disaster. We face the fact that most builders will not be attracted to long expensive courses. We have therefore developed a series of linked one-day events each dealing with a specific conservation issue. Anyone attending the day will learn the basics and do some practical work. Owners, conservation officers, architects and specifiers are likely to be content with the one day. Additional days are then offered for those who need to attain a higher level of proficiency. We keep the price of these courses to an absolute minimum, about £40 to £50 per day. We recognise that builders are busy working in the spring and summer. Our courses are, therefore, focussed on the winter months. We seek to put people on the right road.

The type of training we provide reflects the local domestic building techniques. Since stone is not an important building material in other than prestigious buildings in this part of Kent, we concentrate on timber frame repair, brick, flint and tiles, and a range of interior and exterior plasterwork and rendering.

At least one employee of English Heritage is on record as contending that the market for Conservation Craft Training is saturated. Whilst we do not agree, it is foolish to replicate work already being done. We are happy to acknowledge the excellent work of other training providers. West Kent College has a facility for those seeking training in the use of lead, and we recommend those with special interest in stonemasonry to contact English Heritage's august facility at Fort Brockhurst. In addition to providing training, SPAB publications have been of special value and are recommended to course participants.

Augmenting our Own Inputs

We retain visiting consultants and seek guidance from those active in the conservation world. We have greatly benefited, for example, from insights and guidance provided to us by members of the Sussex-based Society of Traditional Building Crafts. KTC have called upon the services of Bob Bennett from the Lime Centre near Winchester who has succeeded in converting several doubters into believing that it is possible for a building to stand up without gluing it together with cement.

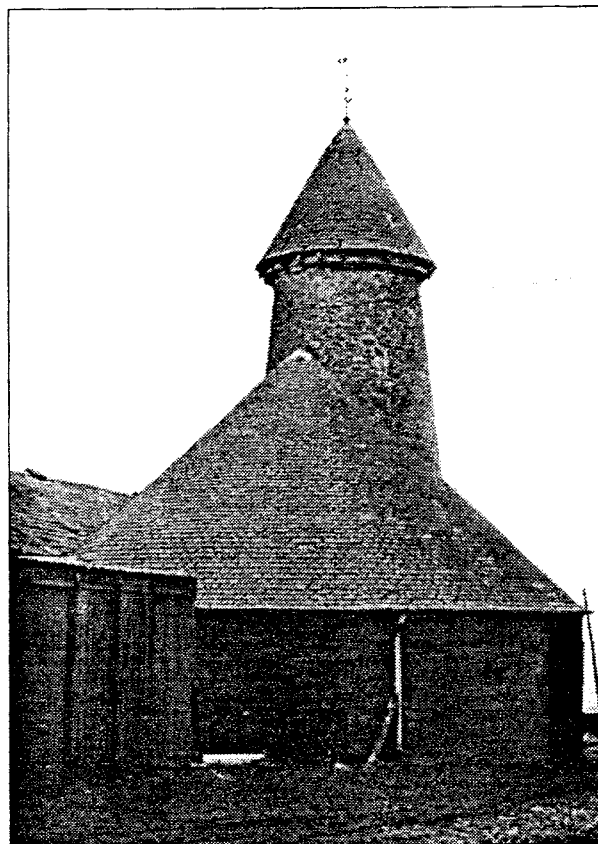
We share Bob's concern that whilst a great deal of high powered discussion goes on about conservation issues, there is far too little attention paid to training (and enlightening) the people who actually carry out the work. The very few exceptions to this observation prove the rule. **Is it possible that the conservation world is too elitist for its own good, or for the long term well being of the built heritage?** No matter how laudable, talk does not repair buildings.

We remind ourselves constantly that many buildings that are now of major historic importance were constructed without the aid of architects or planners. The skills the builders used were learnt from friends and relatives. The materials they used were acquired locally, often as local as the farmyard. Such people would doubtless be amazed at the level of debate their work now generates. The training we provide is the sort that we hope the original builders would have appreciated and found time to attend.

Keith Sanders

*Kent Training Centres, Honeywood Road
Whitfield, Dover (0304 825628)*

July 1994



Shortrigg Farm, Dunkros. A horse engine house and windmill tower, positioned functionally adjacent to the threshing barn, illustrating the combined skills of mason and slater. (See article on page 8)

LINFORD IN EUROFORUM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

A group of French students recently visited Lichfield-based historic building repair and conservation specialists Linford-Bridgeman Limited as part of a Euroforum Programme of Exchange with the University of Wolverhampton.

The students, who are on a post-graduate course on the conservation and restoration of buildings, were met in Linford-Bridgeman's famous Window Room by company chairman, David Linford together with Maurice Mendoza of COTAC – the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation.

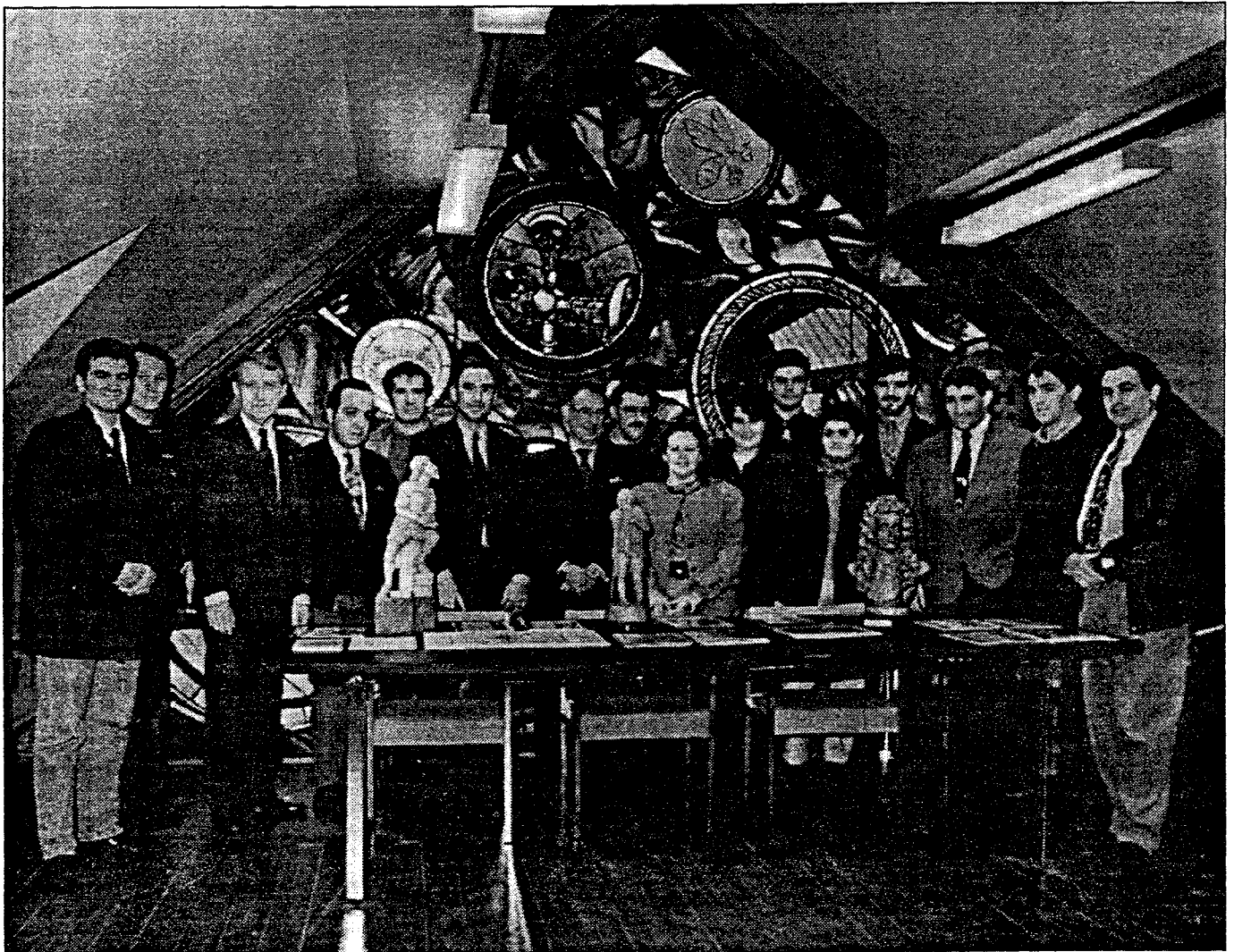
The reception was followed by a tour of the studios and workshops where the visitors saw the preparation of stonework and specialist joinery, and met the carvers who were working on

stones destined for Enville Church and a wooden crucifix for St Werburghs Church, Clayton. The party were also taken to Lichfield Cathedral to view the intricate and precise conservation work in progress on the north west spire stonework.

*David Linford
July 1944*

Editors Note

The role of COTAC involves the establishment and development of a network of UK and European colleges specialising in the training of supervisors and craftsmen for work in the field of historic building repair, restoration and conservation.



Linford-Bridgeman Chairman, David Linford, third from left, pictured with the visiting students. Maurice Mendoza is seventh from left.

SCOTTISH STUDENT ARCHITECTS SWEEP HISTORIC BUILDING DESIGN AWARDS

For the second year running student architects at Scottish universities have dominated a new award which encourages good modern design in the context of old buildings. The winner of the 1994 Philip Webb Award is Christopher Fegan of Strathclyde University. The second and third prizes were also won by Scottish university students.

The Award which attracts entries from schools of architecture throughout the country was also won by a Strathclyde University student in 1993, the first year of the competition.

The judges of the Philip Webb Award were Robin Nicholson, Vice President of the RIBA; Julian Harrap RIBA and James Boutwood RIBA. Mr Boutwood is a former Chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The Society launched the award because of its concern that so few schools of architecture give students a chance to undertake projects with existing buildings, even though this is likely to be a major part of their eventual work.

Christopher Fegan's winning scheme was for the conversion of kilns at Dalmellington Iron Works, described by the judges as a 'deceptively straightforward and an admirably restrained scheme' where the design of the new work was simple and elegant.

Joint Second Prizes went to Lorraine McHardy, also of Strathclyde University, for the refurbishment of Balgonie Castle;

and Edward Hollis of Edinburgh University for a project based on Linlithgow Palace. Sarah Parkes, also of Edinburgh University, won third prize for a proposal to develop the theatrical potential of a Hailes Castle.


The winners were presented with their awards at the annual meeting of the SPAB, held on Saturday 16th June 1994 at Lambeth Palace.

Commenting on the overall entries the judges said there was little evidence of 'substantial conservation teaching in schools of architecture. Some of the entries appeared entirely unfamiliar with the most straightforward means of repair. On the other hand most appeared to have seriously engaged with the character and ethos of the building.'

Some students were poor at draughtsmanship, and the handling of materials was generally mediocre. 'It is to be hoped that schools will give greater attention to teaching working details whether a 20th century glazed wall or the repair of a stone church.'

The architect Philip Webb was one of the founders of the SPAB in 1877 and helped develop its practical approach to the repair of old buildings which continues today.

*Rachel Bower/Philip Venning
June 1994*



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BURSLLEDON BRICKWORKS PROJECT

Hampshire Buildings' Preservation Trust

To understand the nature and organisation of the Brickworks Project it is necessary to have knowledge of the workings and activities of the Hampshire Buildings' Preservation Trust.

The Trust was set up in 1975 by the Hampshire County Council as one of their contributions to Architectural Heritage Year. It received grants initially over a three year period to establish a revolving fund to enable it to take on the refurbishment and sale of small units of domestic accommodation.



Kevin Stubbs hand moulds a brick.

The Trust is a charity with an independent board of management although representatives of the County and District Councils make up a major part of the membership together with a few representatives of the amenity societies and the academic world. The Hampshire County Council provide the officers and administrative back-up for the day to day running of the Trust's activities and professional expertise and advice.

Initially the Trust concentrated its activities on undertaking feasibility studies and encouraging owners to undertake projects themselves wherever possible, with only the 'impossible' or 'too difficult' categories being done as revolving fund projects. Occasionally non-revolving fund projects are undertaken on those categories of buildings which are unsaleable or retained by the original owner. Funding these projects relies heavily on generous grant aid and public appeals. The Windmill at Bursledon

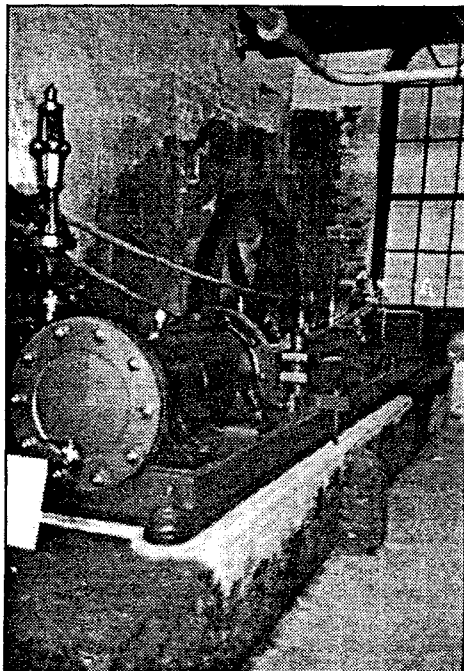
and the Silk Mill at Whitchurch are good examples of properties where the Trust has retained ownership or an interest after repair and they are managed by others. Some projects are undertaken by the Trust acting as agents for the owner, usually on the understanding that it is at no cost to the Trust's funds. The Eyre Coote monument at Rockbourne and the Southwick Brewhouse come into this category. The Trust has also assisted other authorities in resolving problems with their own buildings or in supporting Building Repairs Notices. Recently, at Gosport, the Trust purchased from the Receiver a derelict shop with accommodation over, and intend to restore it with the assistance of sponsorship from the Local Authority. The Trust is also keen on promoting education in building conservation and has assisted in training local volunteers and providing equipment and materials for self-help projects.

The Brickworks Project

The largest single project undertaken by the Hampshire Buildings' Preservation Trust is the repair and adaptation of the late 19th century brickworks complex at Bursledon, near Fareham, to form the Centre for the Conservation of the Built Environment. The site covers 10 acres of land and buildings with a floor area of over 50,000 square feet.

The works was founded in 1897 when it was one of the most up-to-date production units of its type, being able to mass produce bricks all year round rather than on a seasonal basis only. In 1974 brick production ceased and the site and buildings were abandoned. The site came to the Trust's notice in 1978 when it was realised that the works was a rare and remarkably complete survival of its type. Negotiations with the owners, Redland plc were opened regarding the future of the buildings and their machinery, but in 1980 an attempt was made to pre-empt further negotiations with the appearance of a demolition contractor. The County Council immediately served a Buildings' Preservation Notice which was later confirmed by the DoE with part of the complex being listed Grade II* and the remainder Grade II.

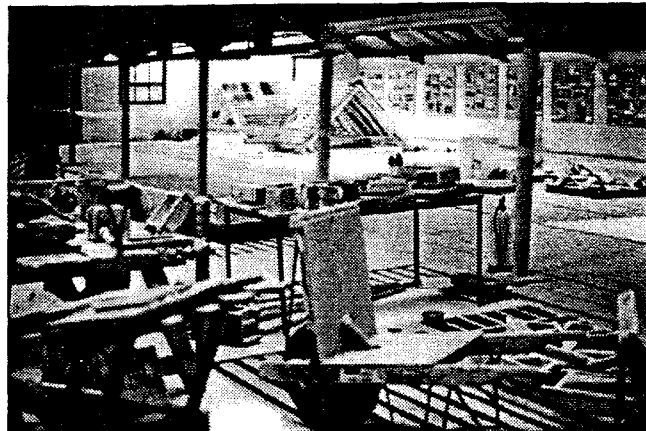
Some money was made available by Redlands and supplemented with grants from English Heritage and the County Council, and an emergency temporary repair programme was arranged to slow down the decay of the buildings and make them more secure. These measures were confined to the older section of the works which was listed II* as there was not sufficient funding to save the whole complex. In 1986 Redlands drew up plans to develop an industrial estate on part of the site, retaining a few of the key historic structures and equipment to form a small museum to be supported at minimum cost by an



The refurbished steam engine.

enabling development of craft starter units. This scheme was presented at a local Public Enquiry and found favour with the Inspector who made the preservation of the Grade II* buildings a condition of development. Further negotiations and feasibility studies were undertaken, but little progress was made until 1990 when the CAA chose the location for the development of their new Enroute Flight Control Centre. This proposal created an enhanced site value and the Local Authority and the Trust were able to negotiate the gift of the historic buildings with a small dowry towards their repair and some assistance in kind from the CAA. This total package by careful management is worth approximately £1 million.

The repairs to the complex were assessed in order of priority and a long term rolling programme devised with the aim of repairing the main elements of the structure by mid-1995, and completing the development of the project for the works centenary in 1997. The main problem facing the Trust was making the dowry fund the repairs and some of the development cost. Earlier feasibility studies had suggested that to 'mothball' the building doing only essential repairs would cost about half a million pounds; to undertake more extensive repairs and a 'low key' museum use would cost about one and a half million pounds. It was soon realised that the orthodox approach of a single repair contract over a short period of time would exhaust the capital rapidly and only achieve partial repair. The Trust therefore decided to act as its own contractor employing a small basic staff supplemented by extra self-employed craftsmen as and when needed. The Phase 1 work was initially to be spread over a three-year period with a steady expenditure of capital to gain maximum advantage from investing the remaining capital sum in a long term gilt stock with guaranteed percentage return. The working capital when not needed was invested short term with the Hampshire County Council at an advantageous rate of interest. The steady approach to the repair and development of the site has preserved a reasonable level of capital for Phase 2 of the



Brickmaking equipment in one of the drying sheds

project and given time for the structure to be studied, repair techniques developed and the potential future use of the building to be formulated.

During this initial repair phase the Trust has organised a number of open days to keep the local public informed and involve them in the project. A small number of CPD level courses has also been organised on site to test the potential of the facility being created and to keep colleagues and other professionals in contact with the development. These courses have spilled over into the open days which have now become 'thematic', encouraging public participation in traditional building craft skills.

The Trust has also employed an education officer as part of the in-house team at the Brickworks in order to realise potential future school use of the complex and to develop exhibitions and a museum role on site. Contact has also been made with local Technical Colleges and Further Education establishments to access useful areas of contact and co-operation. Eastleigh Technical College is now using the site for practical experience for various courses and the students are repairing some historic equipment as part of their City and Guilds engineering course. The carpentry department has also become involved in the production of windows and doors for the project, and the bricklaying and surveying departments are also investigating practical involvement.

The present low key use of the complex together with the continuing discussions with educational establishments and representatives of the building industry would suggest a need for the creation of a facility specialising in traditional building craft training and the development of an awareness of the conservation of the built environment. The speed at which this facility can be developed is regulated by the building works on site and the capital available for repairs and development. The Buildings' Preservation Trust has recently set up a Bursledon Brickworks Trust and a Trading Company to undertake the second phase of repairs on site and to begin to develop the potential of the buildings and income-generating activities. The final form and development of the facility will be very dependent on obtaining sponsorship and support from the building industry and the general public.

*Kevin Stubbs
June 1994*

SPEECH FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRE-LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO THE BUILDING CRAFTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST (BCCT)

Thank you, Brenda (Mrs Trench, Chair of BCCT)

I am delighted to have been invited to open the new offices of the Building Crafts and Conservation Trust, here in the splendid surroundings of English Heritage's Dover Castle. The County of Kent is, of course, rightly famous as the 'Garden of England'. It is also, however, the home of a great many of our historic buildings. It is particularly appropriate, therefore, that the headquarters of the Trust should be based here in Dover Castle – one of the region's most prestigious monuments.

Earlier today I visited the Trust's workshops in the casemates and saw for myself some of the training in progress. I was impressed by what I saw and by the Trust's general approach to the question of training. This is based on a combination of teaching traditional skills with on-the-job experience of the restoration of actual buildings. The benefits of this dual approach are easily apparent. Not only are students able to put into practice the techniques they have learned in the workshop but, at the same time, they are also helping to conserve buildings of historic or architectural merit. An excellent example of this is the Trust's restoration work here at the Castle.

If we are to ensure that historic buildings such as the Castle continue to be sensitively repaired and restored it is essential that craftsmen and women are available who are trained in the use of appropriate materials and traditional construction techniques. By providing training in these skills, organisations such as the Building Crafts and Conservation Trust make an extremely valuable contribution to the preservation of our common heritage.

My Department fully recognises the need for training in appropriate craft and conservation skills and helps to support their development through our funding of the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation or COTAC. COTAC works for the education and training of all the disciplines and crafts concerned with building conservation and are involved in setting up a nationwide network of training centres for the conservation of historic buildings and monuments. The start-up funds for this project have been provided by my Department's Heritage Grant Fund. It is a measure of the experience and expertise already developed by the Trust here in Kent that they were invited to join the COTAC network and have become one of its first members.

Brenda referred earlier in her speech to the need to develop common national standards in conservation training. That is an important goal. The increase in the scope and extent of building conservation training which is likely to occur as a result of the activities of centres such as the Trust and other members of the COTAC network highlights the need for appropriate qualifications for successful students. Employers and clients should be

assured that the holder of a conservation qualification has attained a valid and acceptable standard of competence and students should have the reassurance of being able to attain a standard of competence in their work which is universally recognised. I am, therefore, greatly encouraged that representatives of COTAC are currently working with the City and Guilds of London Institute and the relevant construction industry bodies to establish appropriate assessments and qualifications in building conservation at National Vocational Qualification levels 3 and 4.

The development of agreed qualifications is also important in the wider international context. Conservation experts trained in the UK must be able to export their skills and compete on equal terms with practitioners from other countries. I know that the Trust have made an excellent start in establishing themselves as a European centre and that the courses offered have been expanded to include the training of French craftsmen in traditional techniques. It is a suitable indication of the importance of this element of the Trust's work that last year they were awarded a grant from the European Regional Development Fund.

Brenda also mentioned that the Trust are involved in organising jointly with English Heritage a series of courses to be held shortly at the Ranger's House in Blackheath. These courses, I understand, are designed to raise children's awareness of traditional repair methods and to develop their understanding of how architectural features are made. Inevitably, attitudes formed in childhood about the heritage and the arts often affect the way we view these things in our later life. Initiatives of this kind are very much to be welcomed, therefore, in helping to encourage an early awareness and enjoyment of our heritage.

I should like to conclude by thanking Brenda Trench and Alex MacLaren for providing the opportunity for me to see at first hand the Trust's work. I have been greatly impressed by what I have seen and I am sure that exciting and challenging times lie ahead for those involved in conservation training.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

*Peter Brook MP
June 1994*

*The BCCT
offices during
repair.*



BOOKS AND JOURNALS

THE NEW PRACTICAL BUILDER & WORKMAN'S COMPANION by Peter Nicholson Volume 2 of a two volume set

Beacon Books of Bath have announced the publication (on 1st June 1994) of this second volume facsimile copy of the above book, first published in 1823. Volume 1 was reviewed in Newsletter No. 3 on page 17 (see original title page opposite). Beacon have stressed that the quality of the printed plates in Volume 2 is a great improvement on those in Volume 1.

Volume Two provides chapters on slating, plumbing (lead work), house painting, glazing, building in general, the theory and practice of the five orders of architecture, perspective, and an excellent glossary of terms and a full index to both volumes.

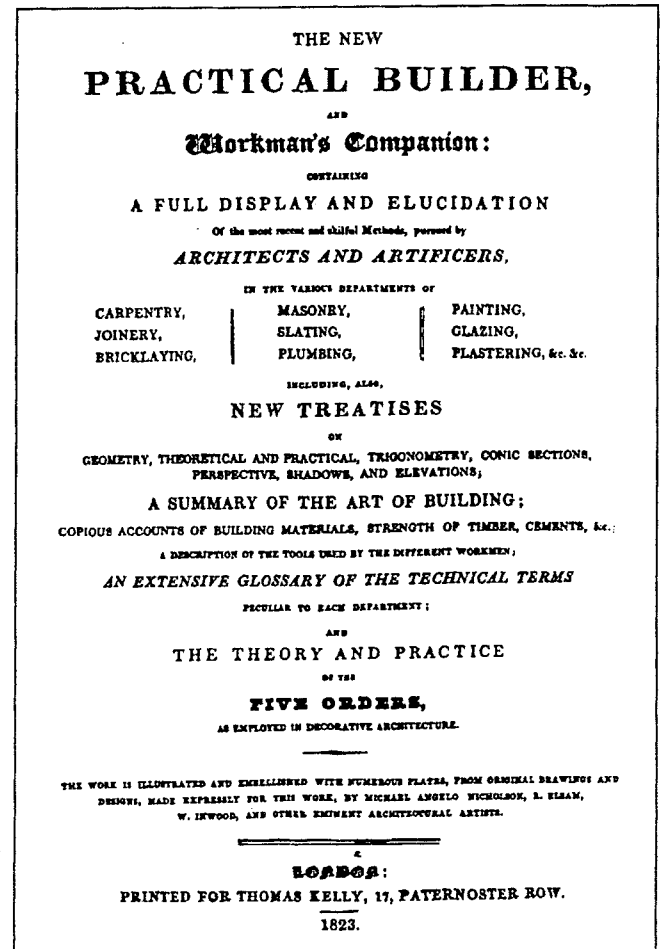
In 1823 an additional 180-page book entitled *The Practical Builder's Perpetual Price Book* was appended to Volume 2, and this has been incorporated in the 1994 facsimile edition. This is a fascinating book, giving not only comprehensive costs for all manner of building work, but also a great deal of text and advice.

Also included are a copious abstract from The Building Act of 1774, including Duties on Windows and The London Paving Act of 1817.

If you wish to order a copy of either or both volumes, they can be obtained from:

Beacon Books (Bath), 3 Mount Beacon, Bath BA1 5QP
Tel: 0225 424647 Fax: 0225 424647

Volume 1 costs £45.00 and Volume 2 £49.00 (all including postage and packing).



Journal of Architectural Conservation historic buildings, monuments, places and landscapes

A reminder that this major new journal will commence publication in March 1995 and has now issued a Call for Papers, details of which will be found in the loose insert issued with this edition of the Newsletter.



COURSES AVAILABLE FROM NETWORK MEMBERS

BOURNEMOUTH JOINT CENTRE

Bridging Certificate for Studies in Conservation – 12 weeks
DipHE/BSc(Hons) in Building Conservation Technology – *NEW
Heritage Conservation – Dip. 2 years full time, BSc 1 further year after Dip.
MSc/PGDip in Architectural Stonework Conservation – taught 1-year course
Other short courses at Joint Centre member locations:
Various stone restoration and conservation courses at Weymouth College Conservation Unit.
Timber-frame repair, charcoal burning, gauged brickwork, cleaning leadwork, at Weald and Downland Museum.
Lime courses at the Lime Centre at Morestead near Winchester.

Contact:

Mrs K Barker, Co-ordinator,
Joint Centre for Heritage
Conservation and Management,
Bournemouth University,
Department of Conservation
Sciences, Dorset House, Talbot
Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset
BH12 5BB. Telephone: 0202 524111.
Fax: 0202 595255

BUILDING CRAFTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Short 1- to 2-day and 6-month Conservation courses for tradesmen at various training institutions throughout the county in: historic brickwork, joinery, timber frame, wattle and daub, flint, external rendering and stucco and leadwork.

Contact:

Mr A MacLaren, Chief Executive,
Building Crafts & Conservation Trust,
Kings Gate, Dover Castle,
Dover, Kent CT16 1HU.
Telephone: 0304 225066

LINCOLNSHIRE COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

BTec HND in Historic Decorative Crafts – 2 years full time.

Contact:

Mrs Z Gamett, Project Co-ordinator,
Lindum Road, Lincoln LN2 1NP.
Telephone: 0522 569104
Fax: 0522 542167

LAMBETH COLLEGE

Short courses in the following: Restoration of Plasterwork, Restoration of Masonry, Stained Glass and Leaded Light Work, Graining and Marbling Techniques, Decorative Paint Effects, Trompe l'Oeil, Oil and Glass Gilding, Restoration Skills for Masons and Joiners. Lengths vary from one full week to one day per week for 5–10 weeks.
Mastercrafts courses for City and Guilds/COTAC Diploma are now available in a number of major craft skills including plastering, carpentry and joinery, sheet and cast metalwork, surface decoration and masonry – one year full-time/three years part-time. *NEW
Entry requirements: Advanced craft certificate or NVQ Level 3 or substantial industrial experience.

Contact:

Mr P Hillman, Restoration and
Conservation Project Manager,
Vauxhall Centre, Lambeth College,
Belmore Street, Wandsworth Road,
London SW8 2JY. Telephone:
071-501 5010. Fax: 071-720 7518.

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

PgDip/MA in Architectural Conservation – 1–5 years part time.
CPD – various subjects of interest in conservation.

Contact:

Mrs L Watson, Conservation Course
Co-ordinator, Plymouth School of
Architecture, Hoe Centre, Plymouth,
Devon PL1 2AR. Telephone: 0752
233600. Fax: 0752 233634.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

NVQ Level 3, Restoration and Conservation in Brickwork, Carpentry, Plasterwork and Leadwork – 36 weeks full time.

Contact:

Mr M. Cook,
South Birmingham College (Formerly
Hall Green College), Cole Bank Road,
Birmingham B28 8ES. Telephone: 021-
773 2759. Fax: 021-702 2441.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The Centre for Conservation Studies has for nearly a quarter of a century been running an educational programme including:
MA Conservation Studies (Building Conservation) – 1 year full time taught; 3 years, 1 term per year.
Short courses: Courses contained within the MA programme: 1–4 days, detailed programmes available.

Contact:
Mr Peter Burman,
Director of Conservation Studies,
Institute of Advanced Architectural
Studies, University of York, The King's
Manor, York YO1 2EP. Telephone:
0904 433987. Fax: 0904 433949.

Three reference books quoted as worthwhile reading in the Science for Conservators,
Conservation Science Teaching series:

Book 1 An Introduction to Materials, ISBN: 0 948630 03 5

Book 2 Cleaning, ISBN: 0 948630 04 3

Book 3 Adhesives and Coatings, ISBN: 0 948630 05 1.

Published initially by the Crafts Council and latterly by the Conservation Unit of the Museums
and Galleries Commission through Routledge Ltd.

Do you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of
the COTAC Newsletter in future? Please add their details to the
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and forward to: Mr Graham Lee

Project Manager

COTAC

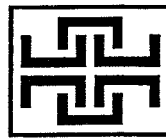
Keysign House

429 Oxford Street

London W1R 2HD

Telephone: 071-973 3615

Fax: 071-973 3656



COTAC
CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

Any other suggestions for articles for inclusion or improvements
to future issues:

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