



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2015 and the start of our Big Year!
 The first order of business is the usual reminder to renew your membership for 2015, unless you have already done so. In which case our thanks. The Wild Apricot software we acquired last year is now running smoothly and, if you go there, www.chsamembership.wildapricot.org click the Join Us tab and the rest should be easy, including being sent an invoice.

The 4th Biennial meeting of the Society was held in Minneapolis in November jointly with the AIA Minnesota annual meeting. That meant there were a lot of people there and all the sessions we organized were very well attended and presented. For many reasons we were not able to attract many of our members to be there but those who attended were very enthusiastic.

One factor limiting attendance in Minneapolis was, of course the forthcoming 5 ICCH in Chicago in June this year. More on this inside, but just another reminder that registration is now open at the Wild Apricot address above. A special members discount of \$95 is being offered but only to those of you who renew your 2015 membership.

Our Annual General Meeting for 2014 will have passed by the time you read this, but a summary will be sent around.

Brian Bowen
 Chair, Management Committee

Don Friedman
 Newsletter Editor

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From the Pyramids to the Shard

THANKS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

- * Altusworks, Inc.
- * Associated General Contractors of America
- * Canadian Centre for Architecture
- * Cappeto Conservation LLC
- * Consigli Construction Co.
- * ConstellationCenter
- * Construction Management Association of America
- * Georgia Institute of Technology
- * Gilbane, Inc.
- * Gleeds USA, Inc.
- * Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc.
- * J.E.Dunn Construction
- * Joel Silverman & Associates

- * Kaese & Lynch
- * Levine Construction Company
- * LimeWorks.us
- * Minnesota State University, Mankato
- * Mortenson Construction
- * National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- * Oak Grove Restoration Company
- * Paces Construction Co.
- * Texas A & M University
- * The Pepper Companies
- * The Whiting Turner Contracting Company
- * University of Nebraska
- * University of Oklahoma
- * Vertical Access LLC

THE DIVERSITY OF CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Having just completed a review, as a member of the Scientific Committee, of over 100 of the near 500 abstracts submitted for the 5th International Congress on Construction History, I continue to be amazed at the diversity of Construction History as a field of study and research. When the program for the Congress is published in a few weeks I am sure you will agree with me – a veritable smorgasbord of topics from every phase of history, every continent (including Antarctica) and every conceivable piece and process involved in the built environment.

I teach a course at Georgia Tech on the Construction Industry – its past, present and future. The students come from the Schools of Civil Engineering, Building Construction and Architecture and they select at an early stage a subject to research during the term and write a paper on it. By now I have well over 100 topics

that have been selected over the years and it is rare for the same subject to appear twice, or if it does, then a different aspect is suggested. Just by way of illustration in Table 1 are the selections from the Fall semester 2014 class. As the course focuses on how history has shaped the industry today and how it may influence it in the future, contemporary subjects are allowed. Titles in the table are necessarily brief and the subjects are frequently more nuanced than they seem. For example the PAC Mutual building paper focuses on how this century old building has been refurbished to achieve a LEED Platinum rating and the Hoover Dam paper on the labor relations involved during construction.

Brian Bowen
Georgia Institute of Technology

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Construction Failures</i>	<i>Products</i>
PAC Mutual Building, LA	Hillsborough Stadium. UK	Construction Lumber
Taj Mahal	I-35W Bridge Collapse, MN	Precast Concrete
The Shard, London		Brick Making
Fortifications in Middle Ages	<i>Process & Procedure</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
Museums	Safety & OSHA	Earth-moving Equipment
Hoover Dam	Lean Construction	<i>Miscellaneous</i>
	Pyramid Building Theories	Salt Trade – Cities & Routes
		Masons – their shifting roles



From the Pyramids to the Shard

CHSA BIENNIAL MEETING, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

This was the fourth of our biennial meetings since the first at Georgia Tech in 2008, followed by University of Pennsylvania (2010) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2012). In previous years Meghan Elliott and Peter Hilger, our only members in town, had been invited by AIA Minnesota to organize a three-speaker session at their annual convention, all of which turned out to be highly successful and well-attended. It was natural therefore to continue the partnership and merge our Biennial with their annual meeting.

This was held during the week of November 11th 2014 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We organized 8 sessions fielding 23 speakers, some of which are listed below with e-mails where we have them – if a subject interests you please contact the speakers to see if they will share their outlines with you.

Judith Chafee – Chris Domin (ccdamin@u.arizona.edu)
MoMA's Marcel Breuer Exhibition House – Margaret Oldfather (moldfather@rbf.org)
Rise of the Exterior Bearing Wall – Tyler Sprague (tyler2@uw.edu)
Leadership Principles, Empire State building – Ken Robson (krobson@oe.edu)
OKC National Memorial Construction – Richard Ryan (rryan@ou.edu)
Japanese Internment Camp Reconstruction – Casy Cline (rccline@cablone.net)
E.L.Corthell, Civil Engineer – Marci Uihlein (muihlein@illinois.edu)
History of Ventilation – Steve Harmon (steve.harmon@dunhameng.com)
Platteville Limestone – Ed Gerns (egerns@wje.com)
Building New York City's Bulkhead – Zach Rice (zachwatsonrice@me.com)
Building Harvard Stadium – Alicia Svenson (asvenson@bcusa.com)
David Steinman, Mackinac Bridge – Robert Dermody (redermody@rwu.edu)
Jack Christiansens's Thin Shells – Tyler Sprague (Tyler2@uw.edu)
Prestressed Concrete in Minnesota – Bob Frame (bob.frame@meadhunt.com)
The Schell-Munday Perma-Stone Protest – Marisa Gomez (marisa.gomez@wisc.edu)

A final session, heavily attended, dealt with the renovations now under way to the Cass Gilbert Minnesota State Capitol, a \$242 million project.

In addition there was a tour of the Seventh Street Bridge led by Benjamin Ibarra-Sevilla and a movie night with a showing of The Making of the Union Depot, sponsored by Mortenson Construction.

Our thanks go out to Peter Hilger for his tireless efforts in organizing this event and for manning the CHSA booth in the exhibit hall which saw a lot of action.

Next up in 2016 we will be at the University of Texas in Austin.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY BOOK AUTHORS PLEASE RESPOND

We would like to add a section on our website that lists the books our members have had published over the years. So please let us have the usual descriptors plus any images (book cover?). There is a secondary purpose to this. Steve Schulyer of the Rare Book Store will be at 5 ICCH in Chicago with a book stand and has agreed as far as he is able, to have for sale our members' books.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Maria Holden, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (student member)

Ivan Myjer, Building & Monument Conservation, Arlington, MA

Jami Koester, University of Nebraska, Kearney, NE (new Institutional member)

Julie Esch, Mortensen Construction, Minneapolis, MN (new Corporate member)

Steven Schmidgall, Golden Valley, MN

M. Ilyas Bhatti, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA

UP COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Society of Architectural Historians

Their annual conference is also being held in Chicago, April 15-19, 2015. There is an impressive program set up for their 75th anniversary. More details at

www.sah.org/conference

Construction History Society

Our affiliated Society in the UK will hold its second annual conference at Queens' College, Cambridge on March 20-21, 2015. This will include a colloquium on construction history activity in Europe.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING (IABSE.ORG) STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DOCUMENT (SED) ON CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

The mission of the IABSE Working Group on Construction History is to establish Construction History as a powerful tool for practicing civil engineers. The IABSE Working Group on Construction History is editing a Structural Engineering Document (SED). One part will be devoted to Case Studies including selected examples from all over the world demonstrating how aspects of cultural values influenced the rehabilitation of structures of high cultural values. These contributions shall highlight how knowledge and awareness of construction history was important in the development of the engineering project for the intervention. Please submit your one page abstract to WG Construction History eugen.bruewiler@epfl.ch

For more information contact Stephen Buonopane at Stephen.buonopane@bucknell.edu

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

JUNE 3-7, 2015, PALMER HOUSE HOTEL, CHICAGO

www.5icch.org

The best way to keep up with how this event is progressing is to check in at the website from time to time. Check it out to see details of the following:



List of Keynote Speakers:

William F. Baker (SOM) – *FLW's Mile High Building, Chicago*

Dr. James Campbell (University of Cambridge) - *Bricks, Books, Cathedrals, Staircases and Libraries*

Santiago Huerta (Universidad Politecnica de Madrid) - *Construction History: the Building of a Discipline*

Tom Leslie (Iowa State University) - *Construction History in Chicago: Why We're Here*

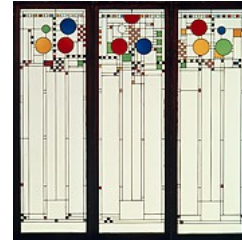
Stella Nair (UCLA) - *Master Masons of the High Andes: Tracing Inca and Tiahuanaco Stone Carving Traditions*



Tours:

Walk the Loop with Tom Leslie
Chicago River Bridges with Patrick McBriarty
Mies vanderRohe, IIT & the Farnsworth House
Frank Lloyd Wright and Oak Park
Hard Hat Construction Tour

Exploring Industrial Chicago: The Calumet Region (in conjunction with VAF)



Registration is now open at the website.

CHSA members in good standing qualify for a substantial discount (\$95) and another reduction if you book a room at the Palmer House Hotel. The early-bird rate expires on March 31st.

Program Schedule

Papers are due to be uploaded at the EasyChair site by Sunday February 1st. Thereafter these will be reviewed, comments (if any) sent out and a final submission due on March 31st. If any problems are encountered please contact Melanie Feerst (Melanie.feerst@gmail.com)

NEW CONSTRUCTION HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.constructionhistory.co.uk

Our affiliated Society has completely revamped their website and it is worth a visit to check it out. It includes plenty of links and sources with access to past issues of the Construction History Journal. This is now available for search at JSTOR but the usual access restrictions apply.



WHO WE ARE

The Society is dedicated to the study of the history and evolution of all aspects of the built environment—its creation, maintenance and management. It is a forum for scholars and professionals in the field to share, meet and exchange ideas and research.

Membership is open to a wide range of construction related disciplines involved in the planning, development, design and construction of buildings and engineering infrastructure, in addition to those concerned with their operation and preservation.

Members share a passion for examining how our existing structures were planned, designed and built, with the purpose of using this knowledge to better preserve what we have and to guide us in determining future directions.

The US branch of the Construction History Society is a distinct entity catering to the historical studies and interests of its members here in America. Membership in the US branch includes full benefits in CHS at large, including receipt of the Society's Journal and newsletter and links to scholars in the field worldwide.

CORRESPONDING SOCIETIES

Public Works Historical Society, www.pwhs.net

Historical Construction Equipment Association, www.hcea.net

Society of Architectural Historians, www.sah.org

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brian Bowen (Chairman), GA Tech, Atlanta, GA

Tom Leslie (Secretary), Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Jeff Beard, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Jenn Cappeto, Cappeto Conservation LLC, Denver, CO

Benjamin Ibarra-Sevilla, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Lee Gray, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC

Peter Hilger, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Donald Friedman, Old Structures Engineering, New York, NY

Stephen Buonopane, Bucknell University, PA

Rachel Will, Wiss Janney Elstner, Chicago, IL

Construction History Society Representative
James Campbell, Cambridge, UK

COMMITTEE ADVISORS

Frank Matero, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

John Ochsendorf, MIT, Cambridge, MA

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND THE ONLY VEHICLE WE HAVE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER.
SO PLEASE USE THIS TO LET US KNOW:

- * your interests in construction history, your current research, précis of recent lectures, etc.
- * books, texts & articles that your fellow readers should know about
- * names and e-addresses of colleagues and friends that we can include on our mailing list
- * if you are willing to write a brief article for us.

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