



# NEWSLETTER

The 5th International Congress is now behind us closing to general acclaim on June 7th. A fuller report is enclosed herein. This brings us to a watershed moment which we have been working towards since CHSA was established, which coincides with changes in the Management Committee, also reported on inside. All in all a good time to capitalize on our work as a Society to date and on the increased visibility achieved by hosting a successful Congress.

One immediate benefit has been a continued increase in membership and we are now close to achieving our target for the year of 150 members. So . . . a big welcome to our recent new members who are listed inside.

Several local events are in the planning stage and the next major national meeting will be our 5th Biennial at the University of Texas at Austin on May 26th – 29th, 2016. A website is already in operation at <http://www.chsa-5thbiennial.org> A call for papers will be going out later in the year, but please mark your calendars now.

I will be handing over editorship of the next newsletter in October and would like to thank those of you who have supported this effort. I am hoping the new management can establish a closer relationship with all members and make this and other means of communication more relevant and useful to all. Remember to let us have your news and articles on construction history.

Brian Bowen  
Chair, Management Committee

## THANKS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

- \* Altusworks, Inc.
- \* Associated General Contractors of America
- \* Avondale Electric
- \* Bulley & Andrews
- \* Canadian Centre for Architecture
- \* Clark Construction
- \* Clune Construction
- \* Consigli Construction Co.
- \* 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
- \* Lendlease

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Palmer House Hotel in the 1920's

- \* Levine Construction Company
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- \* Louisiana State University
- \* McMullan & Associates, Inc.
- \* Minnesota State University, Mankato
- \* Mortenson Construction
- \* Oak Grove Restoration Company
- \* Ravenswood Development
- \* Sandz Development
- \* Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
- \* Texas A & M University
- \* The Pepper Companies
- \* The Whiting Turner Contracting Company
- \* University of Nebraska
- \* University of Oklahoma
- \* Vertical Access LLC

## THE GREAT INKA ROAD, EL GRAN CAMINO INKA

An Inka Road exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. opened on 26 June 2015 and will run until 1 June 2018.

Construction of the Inka Road stands as a monumental engineering achievement. The network, designed for foot traffic and llama caravans, includes more than 20,000 miles of road, crossing mountains and tropical lowlands, rivers and deserts. It linked Cusco, the administrative capital and spiritual center of the Inka world, to the farthest reaches of the empire. Today the road continues to serve contemporary Andean communities across Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile as a sacred space and mark of cultural continuity. In 2014, the United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO, recognized the Inka Road as a World Heritage site.

The Qhapaq Nan (Great Inka Road or Main Andean Road) constituted the principal north-south highway of the Empire and stretched 3,700 miles along the spine of the Andes. The engineers of the Inka Empire had a unique consciousness of nature—the elements that strike brute mischief on man's structures—because the foundation of their engineering knowledge was agriculture. These engineers, with a tradition of observing nature, succeeded in building their Andean road network because they learned to work with nature instead of trying to control it by domination. Close examination and reverse engineering of their accomplishments can lead to thoughtful solutions to current engineering challenges, particularly the effort to construct sustainable infrastructure.

A two day symposium celebrated the opening of this landmark exhibition with an introduction by G. Wayne Clough, Secretary Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution. Speakers and their topics were:

**Tawantinsuyu: Andean Empire**, Tom Dillehay, Vander-

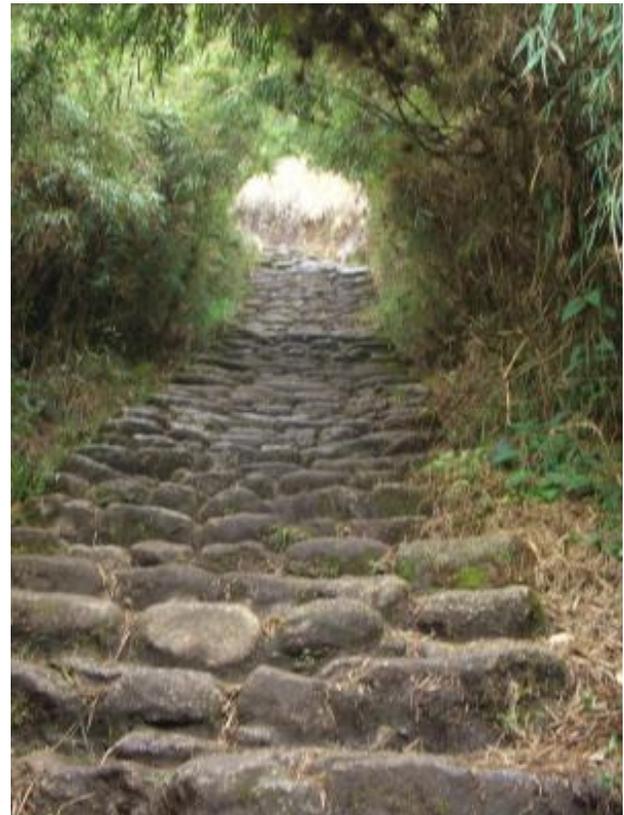
bilt University

**The Inka Empire: Political Power and Economic Structure**, Terence D'Altroy, Columbia University

**Inka Engineering: The Technology and Culture of Roads and Bridges**, John Ochsendorf, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Impacts of Water: Managing for Road Construction and Conservation**, Kenneth Wright, Wright Water Engineers, Inc. and Ruth Wright, Wright Paleohydrological Institute

**Inka and Modern Engineering in the Andes**, Christine Fiori, Virginia Tech University and Clifford Schexneyder, Eminent Scholar, Emeritus, Arizona State University



**Cusco: A New Vision of the Ancient City**, Alejandro Beltrán Caballero, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Ricardo Mar Medina, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, and Crayla Alfaro, Architect and Project Manager, Municipality of Cusco, Peru

**Inka Religious Power: High Mountain Worship and Pilgrimages**, Christian Vitry, Universidad Nacional de Salta, Argentina

**Inka Road and the Andean Landscape**, Victoria Castro, Emeritus de la Universidad de Chile  
Mauricio Uribe, Universidad de Chile

**The Power of Qhapaq Ñan for Integration, Transportation, and Communication**, Donato Amado, Ministerio de Cultura del Perú, Región Cusco and José Pino, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru

**Dualism in the Inka Road: Titicaca, Bolivia**, Marcos Michel, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Bolivia

**Qhapaq Ñan Management: Past, Present, and Future**, Solange Diaz, Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile

**Inka Expansion: Archeology and Ethnohistory in Southeastern Collasuyu**, Roberto Bárcena, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina

**The Inka Road from Titicaca Basin to Contisuyu**, Edmundo de la Vega, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano, Peru

**Inka Construction: Approaches and Technique**, Leonardo Alcahuaman, Universidad Ricardo Palma, Peru

**Inka Expansion: The Road Network in the Northern Highlands of Ecuador**, José Echeverría, Universidad Central del Ecuador

**Inka Expansion: The Road Network in Colombia**, Ernesto Montenegro, Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia

More Details at: <http://www.nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=945>

Contributed by Clifford Schnexnyder (Cliff.s@asu.edu)

### DOES CONSTRUCTION HISTORY MATTER?

The Engineering News Record gave us the opportunity to answer this question with 700 words on their Viewpoint page in the May 11th 2015 issue. Read it at:

<http://enr.construction.com/opinions/viewpoint/2015/0511-does-construction-history-matter.asp>

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

After serving three 2-year terms, in accordance with the Society's bylaws, Brian Bowen, Don Friedman and Tom Leslie are stepping down from the committee. At a Society meeting held in conjunction with the 5th Congress the membership present approved the appointments of the following replacements: Susan Schur, Tyler Sprague and Marci Uihlein (see last page for affiliations). In addition Melanie Feerst was approved as a pro-tem Executive Director, subject to a review of tasks to be performed. All of which is designed to improve the management and future direction of CHSA.

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION HISTORY  
REPORT TO CONSTRUCTION HISTORY SOCIETY OF AMERICA

**Background**

The Congress was held between June 3rd -7th 2015 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago. This was the fifth Congress to be convened which have been held triennially starting in Madrid in 2003, followed by Cambridge 2006, Cottbus 2009 and Paris 2012.

The pattern in Chicago followed previous arrangements being, a five day duration with one day devoted to tours, around 200 papers accepted for publication and delivery, important keynote addresses on each day and social events to allow delegate interactions.

**Congress Location**

Unlike previous venues which have been held in institutions, this one was based at a famous Chicago hotel, a piece of construction history in its own right. This allowed delegates to be conveniently located to the main events. The meeting rooms were adequate and all closely located. The hotel’s location in the historic Chicago loop was a further advantage. The only disadvantage was the higher cost that resulted for catering and AV support.

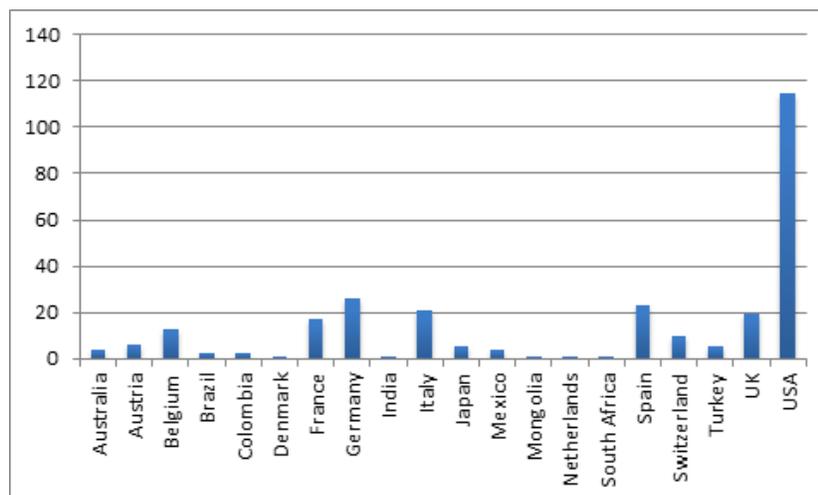
**Marketing**

It was recognized from the outset that a good website

independent of the Society’s site, would be needed. A consulting firm, AdminEolutions, was hired to assist and member Jenn Cappeto volunteered to act as webmaster, to whom many thanks are due, as the site has served us well since it became operative in May 2014. Meetings of this kind have an advantage in that those selected to present must register for the Congress. This gave us roughly 200 guaranteed paying registrants. Thus the marketing effort was directed at our own membership (past and present) and sister organizations involved in one form or another with construction history. In addition the construction history community in Europe, which has been active much longer than our own has been, was canvassed. It proved to be a “tough sell” – 3 days and a weekend with the attendant expense, a strong US dollar, tightening fiscal regulations in academia worldwide, did not help our efforts. Nonetheless approximately 80 registrations over and above speakers, were received.

**Attendance**

Total attendance is recorded at 277. Of these 114 (58%) were from the US and the balance from a total of 21 countries – see chart below. 16 single day registrations were received. As was to be anticipated there were



several 'no-shows' totaling 35 for a variety of reasons. An unfortunate trend from previous meetings was noted – in a number of European countries (led by Italy) academics are rated on the number of papers they have included in an accepted publication, whether the paper is presented or not. The resulting cancellations led to several sessions at the Congress being reduced, in at least one case, to a single presentation. There was an encouraging level of attendance by CHSA members, 52 in total.

### Student Assistance & Attendance

A portion of the sponsorship funds, a generous donation by our UK affiliate and an amount set-aside from the general revenues, enabled us to offer 28 student stipends including free registration. Students presented 40 papers and a total of 49 attended the Congress.

### Program

Further details are to be found at the Society's website/events and are not repeated here. Each day began with a keynote address, all of the highest quality and received with much enthusiasm. A total of 52 sessions followed which included 189 presentations, covering a wide range of construction history topics. Sessions

were organized into six concurrent streams.

One day was devoted to tours, being a mix of full-day and half-day. All were well subscribed and received.

### Proceedings

In a major departure from previous Congresses, delegates were given the proceedings digitally on a USB Drive with the option of purchasing a print-on-demand version from Lulu.com. In general this was well-received.

### Organization

Shortly before the Paris Congress in July 2012 an informal group from the CHSA Management Committee began preliminary preparations for the event. This grew into a small executive committee of four people (Bowen, Friedman, Leslie & Ochsendorf), each taking responsibility for key sections of the preparations: Finance/Admin/Marketing (Bowen), Proceedings and publications (Friedman), Local committee/Program (Leslie), and Program (Ochsendorf). The committee had the prescience to retain Melanie Feerst as Congress Organizer who dealt admirably with all the details and kept us on schedule.



Palmer House Hotel in the 1920's



Palmer House Hotel Lobby

**Financial Results**

The final accounting is still underway, but an approximation indicates total revenues at \$220,000 and expenses at \$190,000, leaving a surplus of \$30,000. Note that the revenue figure includes the \$20,000 starter financing that CHSA agreed to provide. So, in effect this will be returned plus a small balance to place CHSA on a better financial footing.

It was recognized at the outset that we would need to supplement registration revenues by raising funds from the construction community. This effort was headed with great dedication by member Marvin Levine and resulted in a total of \$56,750 being contributed.

A more detailed breakdown of the figures above will be available later this summer.

**Feedback**

Feedback is encouraged from anyone who attended. It is our intention to pass elements of our experience along to the organizers of the next Congress.

**6th International Congress on Construction History**

This will be held in Brussels, Belgium in July 2018.

**Questions & Comments**

To [chs@coa.gatech.edu](mailto:chs@coa.gatech.edu) please.

**Footnote**

If anyone has any photographs of keynoters or general shots of the activities on the sixth floor, we would appreciate receiving them at the above email. Thanks!

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The final keynote address given at the Congress was a moving talk on the history of construction history by Santiago Huerta from the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid. This included an impressive collection of slides of books on the subject dating back to the 18th C. up to the 1970's. Several in the audience requested access to these and they have been posted at the Congress website ([www.5icch.org](http://www.5icch.org)) next to Santiago's abstract and CV. Note also that for reference purposes, the website will remain open for a few more months.

**5 ICCH PROCEEDINGS**

The proceedings are available from Lulu.com as a print-on-demand order. They are in three volumes each priced at \$55.00 less 10% discount, plus shipping.

To order go to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) click on "Shop" and enter 5icch

Also, we have been informed that a clearance sale of the Proceedings from the first Construction History Congress held in 2003 in Madrid is underway at a very reasonable price. We will send that information around to members separately to avoid any confusion with the above.

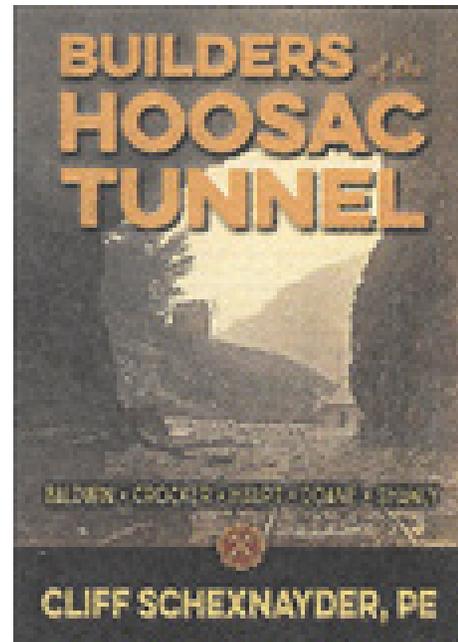
## CONSTRUCTION HISTORY BOOKS

**We have been asked to bring to your attention the following new books**

A. Becchi, R. Carvais et J. Sakarovitch (dir.),  
*L'Histoire de la construction. Un Méridien européen/  
Construction History. A European Meridian.*  
Association francophone d'histoire de la construction,  
Paris, 2015  
is now available online at the website of the Association francophone d'histoire de la construction: <http://www.histoireconstruction.fr/>

### BUILDERS OF THE HOOSAC TUNNEL

The 5 mile rail tunnel in Massachussetts built with great difficulty and opened in 1875  
Cliff Schexnayder, PE  
ISBN: 978-1-942155-07-08T  
Available in October 2015



## NEW MEMBERS

**We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:**

Joshua Barbee, Old House Inspections, Toulon, IL  
Jackie Dethorne, Promising2Performing, Chicago, IL  
John Zils, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago. IL  
Lynn Lancaster, Ohio University, Athens, OH  
Ryan Whitaker, Houston, TX  
Clifford Schexnayder, ASU, Branford, CT  
Joseph Marler, M & M Pipeline Services, Spring, TX  
Barbara Krueger, Michigan Stained Glass Census, Hartland, MI  
Brian Swope, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH  
Fan Zhang, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR  
Eric Torkildson, Turner Construction, Wenatchee, WN  
Royce Earnest, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Stella Nair, UCLA, CA

## 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](http://www.pwhs.net)

Historical Construction Equipment Association, [www.hcea.net](http://www.hcea.net)

Society of Architectural Historians, [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org)

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jeff Beard (Chairman), Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Stephen Buonopane, Bucknell University, 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

Tyler Sprague, University of Washington, OR

Susan Schur, Technology & Conservation, Somerville, MA

Marci Smith Uihlein, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL

Rachel Will, Wiss Janney Elstner, Chicago, IL

Construction History Society Representative  
James Campbell, Cambridge, UK

## COMMITTEE ADVISORS

Brian Bowen, Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

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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