

Inaugural Meeting of the
Archaeology of Building Services Group

1 H.U.E. H.Q. 25.9.73.

Present:

R.I.W. Bennett

D.S. Coase

G.B.L. Wilson

Beard

To. Luke Egerton

L.P. Parsons

Eric Forster

J.P. Hill

Ciraham Beegret-Powell
(Vice Pres.)

R.P. Dawson (Pres.)

A.S. News

J.R. Kell

M. Baber

K. Dale

M. Oliver

Oscar Faber & Partners.

Sinclair & Clarke

Science Museum.

HPPS.

F. Kestill R.H.I. G.I.P.

M.

F. Chairman Yorkshire Branch.

J.P. Student
Environmental Engineer
Environmental Engineering
Student Society
F.E.S.T.

THE INSTITUTION OF HEATING AND VENTILATION.

Archaeology of Building Services ^{Promoting} ~~Articles~~

1973

The inaugural meeting of the above Working Party was held on Tuesday 25 September at 6.30 pm in the Lecture Chamber, 49 Cadogan Square, London SW1. The Senior Vice President, Mr K W Dale, was in the chair.

MINUTES

- (1) The Chairman introduced the convenor of the Group, Mr J M Barber, who reviewed the activities leading up to the calling of the meeting. Formation of the Group had been suggested early in 1972 in connection with the Institution's 75th Anniversary. Mr Barber had been asked to set the Group up in late 1972 and by early 1973 the formation of the Group was announced in the technical press. The response had been small in number but enthusiastic, although the arranging of meetings was made difficult by the wide geographical spread of those who had expressed interest. NR!

Historical items that had been offered to the Group included an early vane anemometer, bound copies of the Heating and Ventilating Engineers Journal and an early form of radiator valve. The Polytechnic of the South Bank had expressed its willingness to store such objects. The Group's attention had been drawn to a number of early installations which had been photographically recorded, and some success had been achieved in obtaining articles of historical interest for the Building Services Engineer. The Consulting Engineer magazine had also expressed interest in publishing such articles.

The Group had formed useful contact with persons doing research into the historical field of the building services industry and had generally demonstrated that a useful co-ordinating function could be carried out by the Institution in this area.

- (2) Mr Barber circulated a draft document setting out the aims and objectives of the Group, as follows:
- (a) to date
 - (i) to keep all those interested in touch with what was happening in this field and generally to

act as a clearing house.

- (ii) To widen interest by promoting the publication of articles and photographs.
- (b) the future
- (i) To make the building services industry aware of the need to record historically significant installations before they become extinct.
 - (ii) To draw up a register of systems and individual components which are or were technically interesting from a historical point of view, giving details of their location and condition.
- (c) long term objectives
- (i) To make detailed records with photographs, sketches, notes, original drawings, etc of any historically significant installation or item of equipment in immense danger of being replaced or destroyed.
 - (iii) Generally to co-ordinate and work with other bodies and persons interested in this branch of industrial archaeology.

This draft was accepted but it was noted that the Group was likely to remain small but active and that much effort would be needed if progress beyond stage (a) was to be accomplished.

Mr Wilson, a representative of the Science Museum, expressed the willingness of the Museum to help the Group. The Museum already had a small collection in this area and wished to make it more comprehensive and suitable for public display. Any objects of historical significance that the Group discovered would be gladly received by the Museum which in case of duplication would arrange for such objects to be offered to other museums. He also pointed out that the Museum was interested in current developments provided that they were genuinely new. The field

of building services was spread throughout various departments at the Museum but the area that most needed development was that of heating, ventilating and air conditioning. In particular, he was hoping to obtain a Perkins high pressure hot water system for display and was urgently seeking a Rumford fire-place.

It was noted that it was especially important that individual members in the branches be kept advised of the Group's activities since it was from them that news of installations and equipment could best be gathered.

- (3) It was agreed that a small committee should be elected to steer the work of the Group. Mr D G Lewis was elected Chairman; Mr J M Barber agreed to serve as Secretary; Mr G E Forster accepted the office of Honorary Treasurer. Mr J A E Heard and Mr H L Egerton agreed to act as members of the committee. The Students Society of the Faculty of Environmental Science & Technology, Polytechnic of the South Bank, expressed their willingness to nominate a member to the committee and the Society as a whole would be very willing, should the need arise, to provide a work force for the removal and transportation of historical objects to the Science Museum.
- (4) The meeting concluded with an informal address by Mr J R Kell who surveyed interesting developments in the building services field from the Roman Hypocaust to Victorian times.

THE INSTITUTION OF HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEERS

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BUILDING SERVICES WORKING PARTY

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Archaeology of Building Services Working Party was held on 19 April 1974 in the Council Chamber, 49 Cadogan Square, S.W.1.

Present : D. G. Lewis (Chairman)
 J. M. Barber (Secretary)
 G. E. Forster (Treasurer)
 H. L. Egerton
 J.A. E. Heard
 C. Sharpe

Apologies for absence :

 Representative of the Polytechnic
 of the South Bank,
 G.B. L. Wilson

NOTES

The Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Working Party held on Tuesday, 25 September 1973 in the Council Chamber of 49 Cadogan Square, S.W.1. were read and approved.

It was agreed to approach Dr. D. L. Scott, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Science and Technology at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, requesting that he nominate a member for the Steering Committee.

MATTERS ARISING

1. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary, Mr. Barber, reported to the Working Party on correspondence and offers of help which had been received to date. (See attached).

The Chairman thanked Mr. Heard for his assistance (reference : contact with Haden Carrier who had offered papers from their archives and original letters). It was thought that a number of companies would be interested in donating papers. It was agreed that the publicity departments of such firms should be contacted with a view to obtaining such records.

Mr. Heard suggested that the choice of articles to be exhibited should be left to the Science Museum. This was agreed. Mr. Barber stated that a standard procedure for obtaining and processing the items was required.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES

The terms of reference as set out in the Minutes of the inaugural meeting were discussed and accepted. Mr. Heard pointed out that the first difficulty to be overcome was the coordination of information.

3. COOPERATION WITH BODIES WITHIN OUR INDUSTRY - OTHER BODIES

It was agreed that Mr. Barber and Mr. Lewis should select a list of bodies and organisations to receive circulars. This list would be distributed for approval to other members of the Working Party.

4. PRESERVATION OF ITEMS

The Chairman questioned whether there was a risk in offering all items obtained to the Science Museum because it would be impossible for everything to be displayed. A suggestion was to be put forth that the Institution should consider setting up its own museum. Manchester was suggested as a suitable location. The point was raised, however, that, in fact, the London science museums attracted the greatest number of visitors.

It was agreed that items obtained would have to be stored temporarily and that cooperation would be sought from firms to provide temporary storage. The Science Museum should be considered as an arbitrator.

The Working Party decided to produce a leaflet setting out their requirements. Mr. Barber would coordinate information.

The leaflet criterion was set out as follows :

- a) Archeology, history - no date limit,
- b) Pioneering developments - 10 years prior to publication.

CONCLUSION

not complete
The Working Party's objective was to obtain suitable items which would be used to provide the best image of the Institution.

It was agreed that, providing arrangements could be made between the Institution and the Science Museum, a section would be formed for the industry including items suitable for permanent display. If the Science Museum was not prepared to provide such an area for permanent display, it was agreed to give further consideration to finding an alternative location. It was further agreed to approach the Public Affairs Board to obtain approval of the Committee's objectives.

5. REGISTER AND RECORDS : ITEMS OF INTEREST STILL IN USE

It was agreed that information received on such items should be circulated. It was relevant to obtain information on drawings and descriptions of items of interest still in use.

6. PUBLICITY

It was agreed that the Institution would circulate the leaflet to all those on its mailing list. A letter would also be drafted to the relevant organisations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. BRANCH LIAISON COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the B.L.C. should be informed that the Working Party had held its first meeting. A report on matters discussed would be put forward to the Branch Liaison Committee and the Committee would be told that close cooperation was hoped for from Branch Secretaries.

8. HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY - ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Barber and Mr. Lewis to select a list of bodies and organisations to receive circulars ; for approval of other members of the Working Party,

Mr. Barber to prepare abstracts of offers of assistance already received and post to other members of the Working Party,

Mr. Forster to circulate a description of the item retrieved from the Lake District to other members of the Working Party.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday, 17 July at 2 p.m.