Building services
heritage
The CIBS Archaeology of Building Services Group has now been re-named the Building Services Heritage Group. It is felt that this title is more in keeping with the aims of the group which include the documentation and study of both past and current developments in the building services industry. The group can assess whether items are of historical interest, and collaborate with several museums of science, technology and industry, and with organisations such as the Inter-Institutional Committee on the History of Technology, and the group's counterparts in other areas of the construction industry.

News from the building services industry about items which are being dismantled, and historical documents, are always welcomed by the group. Some items of hardware (installations or parts of installations) which are offered to the group will be offered in turn to appropriate museums or other collections, while some items of software (documents, photographs etc) are kept in the group's collection at Balham.

Items of particular interest which have recently been brought to the group's attention include:

- three new acquisitions of the Science Museum — a von Linde compressor and Haslam pump of 1895, from a Liverpool coldstore, and a Lightfoot compressor of 1914;
- two installations which have been documented for the group's software collection — the heating boilers (c. 1905) of Victoria Station, London, installed in the heyday of the Brighton line, and the gas attack system fitted in New Scotland Yard for chemical warfare in 1935; and
- histories of domestic lighting, domestic electrical appliances, and the Lincoln gas undertaking.

The group publishes an annual newsletter. Copies of the 1981 issue are available from the group's secretary at Delta House.

May 1982
CIBSE HERITAGE GROUP

Brian Roberts, chairman of the CIBSE Heritage Group gives details about the organisation.

The present Heritage Group was set up in 1984; however, for many years prior to that, the history of building services was looked after by the Archaeology Working Party.

The aims of the group are simple: to provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas; to attempt to preserve for future generations, a selection of relevant books, illustrations and photographs, catalogues and documents; to try to ensure that important examples of machinery or equipment are preserved in appropriate museums; to visit locations of special interest, and to widen people’s interest in our industry’s past through technical papers and lectures. This is much more difficult than it may sound. Our only resource is the enthusiasm and time of the group’s members.

We have had some successes. The most significant books from the old IHVE and IES libraries were saved, and are now at the Building Services Engineering Centre. The Heritage Group also has its own collection of heritage-related books and documents.

We have the “Golden Oldies” series running in the journal, and articles on a variety of heritage topics have appeared in print: transportation, lighthouses, boilers, Victorian country houses, hospitals, prisons and early lighting. Others are coming up.

Lectures have been given as a curtain-raiser at CIBSE conferences and regional meetings, and to other interested groups. We seem to have started a tradition with the Heritage Christmas Lecture. This year’s Christmas offering will be John Bull meets Uncle Sam.

The group has also been behind the scenes at the Science Museum Stores, to wonder at the enormous collection of items not on show, and to the Gas Museum at Bromley-by-Bow. This year it is the turn of the Electrical Museum at Christchurch.

We are currently in the process of establishing links with the ASHRAE Historical Society and with the Heritage Society of The Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

We try and cover all building services. While relatively strong in heating, ventilating, refrigeration, air conditioning and most things mechanical, we could always use more expertise in any of the following: electricity generation and lighting, lifts, controls and fire protection.

If anyone out there is interested, please make contact. If you have any “historical” books, or other items to donate to our collection, we should be pleased to hear from you.

October 1990
The dynamo room of Edison's electric lighting station. Edison is one of the pioneers, along with Dr Reed, Count Rumford, Willis Carrier, Joseph Swan and Elisha Otis featured in the Heritage Group Christmas lecture to be held at the Building Services Engineering Centre on Wednesday 12 December. This year the presentation is entitled John Bull meets Uncle Sam, and will look at the early days of heating, ventilating, natural cooling, refrigeration and air conditioning on both sides of the Atlantic. The evening will conclude with a trans-Atlantic buffet supper. Contact the Member Services Department for further details.

1990

Speakers at the Heritage Group Christmas lecture, from left to right: Paul Yunnie of Andrews Water Heaters, Brian Roberts of Airpower Engineering and John Barnes of Southern Electricity.

Exhibits from Southern Electricity's museum in Christchurch are shown on display at the Heritage Group Christmas lecture.

February 1990
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

On 11 December members of the Heritage Group will take members and guests on a whistle-stop tour of services in the theatre.

_There's no business like show business_. . . . . . . _a revue of services engineering in the theatre_ will begin at 6.30 pm at the Building Services Engineering Centre in Balham. Brian Moss, senior vice-president will introduce the cast.

**Act I**

Bryan Roberts, chairman of the Heritage Group, will discuss the use of daylight, candles, torches and gaslight in theatres from the Greek and Roman periods through to the Victorian era. He will explain how dramatic effects were achieved before the electric light and discuss early acoustic design and the risk of fire.

**Act II**

Richard Walsingham will continue the story of theatrical lighting by looking at some of the first spotlights - the arc light and the lime light. He will then describe the revolution created on the stage by the introduction of electric light.

**Act III**

Finally, John Barnes will introduce some of the past marvels of stage machinery and special effects - from thunder and lightning machines to aquatic spectacles and illusion devices.

The evening will conclude with a 'green room' buffet to include refreshments with a theatrical flavour. Tickets cost £10.00 including vat. This will be an informal evening open to all, contact the Member Services Department.

December 1991
There is still time to buy some CIBSE Christmas cards which come in packs of ten. These are available in four designs at a cost of £6.50 + vat for plain cards and £9.50 + vat for overprinted cards. This illustration, from the CIBSE Heritage Group collection, shows early ventilation in a 13th century Islamic painting of a house with a roof ventilating tower, enclosed by reed mats which can be opened to the prevailing wind. Another Heritage Group illustration depicts lighting on a platform stage in 1673. There is also one design showing Father Christmas delivering presents through a ductwork system. Contact the CIBSE Bookshop to obtain a booking form with colour photographs. The cards have been produced in support of the CIBSE Benevolent Fund.

December 1991

Brian Roberts, left, chairman of the CIBSE Heritage Group, masquerading as Rubini at the group’s Christmas lecture on services engineering in theatres. Right, Richard Walsingham demonstrates limelight.

February 1992
February 1993

At the Heritage Group Christmas lecture: from left to right; David Lush, CIBSE president elect; Paul Yunnie; Tom Smith, immediate past-president; John Barnes and Brian Roberts. The lecture reviewed various aspects of building services engineering over the years.

December 1994

HERITAGE GROUP FESTIVE LECTURE

The Heritage Group is joining with the Public Health Engineering Group to present this year’s Heritage Group Christmas lecture at the Building Services Engineering Centre on 14 December.

The lecture, entitled The bells go down, will tell the story of fire-fighting through the ages:

From Pudding Lane to Pie Corner
Brian Roberts, chairman of the Heritage Group, will recount a story of flaring disasters, including the great fires of London (1666), Chicago (1871), San Francisco (1906) and the London blitz of 1940-41 and describe other famous fires in a wide variety of buildings.

From squirts and sucking worms
Mike Barber will trace the development of fire-fighting machines, escape methods, extinguishers, alarms, sprinklers and fireproof buildings.

Making their mark
John Barnes will tell the story of organised fire-fighting, beginning with the fire insurance companies and the firemarks which they fixed to buildings insured by them.

The lecture will commence at 6.30 pm and will be followed by a buffet supper. All members and guests are welcome. Contact Member Services on 081-675 5211 for a booking form.

Merryweather & Sons brought out the Patent Kit Bag Fire Escape for the safety of travellers staying in continental hotels.
HERITAGE GROUP  
CHRISTMAS LECTURE

On Wednesday 12 December the CIBSE Heritage Group will be holding its annual Christmas lecture, this year entitled “John Bull meets Uncle Sam”. This will discuss and celebrate the achievements and ingenuity of building services engineers on both sides of the Atlantic. Tickets are still available for the evening which will conclude with a festive trans-Atlantic supper. Call the Member Services Department.
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Making their mark
John Barnes will tell the story of organised fire-fighting, beginning with the fire insurance companies and the firemarks which they fixed to buildings insured by them.

The lecture will commence at 6.30 pm and will be followed by a warming buffet supper. All members and guests are welcome. Contact the Member Services Department on 081-675 5211 for a booking form.

Detail of Lescale’s automatic fire escape, circa 1878.

November 1994
- **Heritage Group** The CIBSE Heritage Group is the oldest of the specialist groups, having held its inaugural meeting (when it was known as the IHVA Archaeology of Building Services Group) on 25 September 1973 with the then Senior Vice-President, Ken Dale, taking the Chair.

The first chairmen were D G Lewis and J A E (Archie) Heard. In 1982, the Group became the CIBSE Heritage Group with a new Chairman, Brian Roberts, who still serves as the Chairman. More remarkable is the service rendered by the first secretary, Michael Barber, who continues in office after nearly 23 years – surely a record.

As recognised at that first meeting: “The Group was likely to remain small but active and much effort would be needed”. That continues to be the case.

The main aims of the Heritage Group are to preserve for future generations a selection of relevant books, illustrations, photographs, catalogues and documents, to try and ensure that important examples of machinery, equipment and components are preserved in appropriate museums, to visit locations of special interest and to widen people’s interest and understanding of our industry’s past through the constant delivery of technical papers and lectures.

The Group now has a collection of some 1500 books and papers and around 1000 photographs and slides. It has arranged for historic equipment to be held by the Science Museum and other organisations. Neville Billington and Brian Roberts have written a book on the history of building services, while Group members have contributed numerous heritage papers to *Building Services Journal* (including the ‘Golden Oldies’ series), *Electrical Design* and other magazines.

April 1996
Presentations have been made at National Conferences on subjects ranging from the Crystal Palace and Brighton Pavilion to displays of slide-rules and calculating devices. Lectures have been given in collaboration with the CIBSE regions and other specialist groups.

In addition the annual Christmas Lecture has now become something of a tradition. Topics have been as diverse as services in transportation, the sewers of London, theatre lighting, lifts in department stores and fire-fighting through the ages. For its part the 1996 Christmas Lecture will look at early services in prisons and hospitals.

With the 1997 CIBSE Centenary fast approaching, the Heritage Group is involved through the Centenary Committee with a number of possible celebratory events ranging from exhibitions at Balham and Liverpool through to a travelling road show, special lectures and a commemorative publication.

If you would like to know more about the Group or if you have some books, papers or other items of historical interest (particularly anything relevant to the Centenary or the early history of either the IHVE or IES) then please contact Michael Barber, Group Secretary (c/o CIBSE hq) on 0181-675 5211.

April 1996
CIBSE begins the quest for comfort...

The quest for comfort is A4 in size. It contains 144 pages with 219 illustrations in B&W as well as 26 colour plates. The book is arranged in 21 sections. The first recounts the early beginnings of the IHVE and IES, while the last three look at some pioneer engineers (Hall of Fame), the installers (The Artisans) and early installations (Landmark buildings).

Individual sections are devoted to the various building services disciplines encompassed by the CIBSE and its members: mechanical, electrical and public health engineering. Illustrations are taken from the textbooks, journals, catalogues and papers of the CIBSE Heritage Collection and the CIBSE's own archives as well as the personal collections of CIBSE Heritage Group members.

The production of The quest for comfort would not have been possible without the very generous sponsorship of the water heating companies of the IMI Group (namely IMI Waterheating, Andrews Water Heaters and Boilers and IMI Rycroft) who have financed the cost of production and printing. A special thank you must go to Paul Yunnie of the CIBSE Heritage Group (a director of Andrews) for organising the sponsorship package.

The book is now at the proof-reading stage, but sponsorship is still being sought to cover the not inconsiderable costs of distribution. Potential sponsors should contact Anne Gibbins at the CIBSE on 0181-675 5211.

You might ask why an institution should contemplate its heritage. That pioneer heating engineer, Count Rumford, had the answer: "In attempts to improve, it is always desirable to know exactly what progress has been made – to be able to measure the distance we have laid behind us in our advances."

In 1993, the CIBSE Heritage Group launched an initiative with the aim of producing a special publication to mark the Institution's Centenary in 1997, and to distribute a copy to each CIBSE member as their personal memento of the event.

The original plan consisted of producing a book in three parts, including a short history of the Institution, a snapshot of the industry and a look towards the Millennium and beyond.

Through the CIBSE Centenary Committee this work has been divided into three separate projects. A brochure, entitled For the greater comfort of mankind, looking to the future, is being prepared under the editorship of Stephen Ashley. Sponsored by the CIBSE and the CIBSE Patrons, its aim is to raise the profile of the Institution. The brochure will be given to each member and widely circulated within government departments, industry and educational establishments alike.

The CIBSE Centenary Committee is still looking at effective ways of presenting the history of the Institution. An audio-visual series and a road show are currently under consideration.

In addition, a book entitled The quest for comfort, written by CIBSE Heritage Group chairman Brian Roberts, will provide a selective pictorial history of the building services industry around the turn of the century.

Written largely from a UK perspective, the book covers a variety of the systems, equipment, companies, people and buildings which would have been seen in the years leading up to the foundation of the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (IHVE) in 1897, and of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), which was founded in 1909.

December 1996
CIBSE brought to book

The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers is celebrating its centenary with a series of high profile lectures and the publication of a book outlining the early days of building services.

This lavishly illustrated 128-page tome, written by CIBSE Heritage Group chairman Brian Roberts, is entitled 'The Quest for Comfort' and each member of the institution has been sent a copy.

CIBSE president Geoffrey Bundrett paid tribute to Paul Yunnie, director of Andrews Water Heaters and group vice chairman, whose enthusiasm for the subject and vast collection of industry memorabilia made the project possible.

Mr Yunnie's company was also one of the main commercial sponsors of the book along with IMI Rycroft and IMI Waterheating.

Topics

All hvac related topics are covered in the book, as well as lighting, controls, lifts, fire protection and public health matters. The history of the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers and the Illuminating Society, which amalgamated to form the CIBSE in 1976, is also covered.

An extra 1000 copies have been printed for sale at £10 each with the proceeds going towards a fund for training young building services engineers. Anyone wishing a copy should contact Mr Yunnie on 0121 544 9900.