them. To build safely they had to be guided by that and by a knowledge of what had worked for them previously. They might also have had some feeling for load and the ways in which a load is carried by the material below, a kind of kinaesthetic sense. Let us have no more tush about likening things to basket handles, a form that has large downward forces applied at its ends, is supported by a single force at, or near, its centre and is shaped to be comfortable in the hand and not to be the most efficient form of structure. How could that possibly be related to a roof that has to carry snow in winter and uplift forces from the wind, both of which are distributed across its surface?

David Yeomans

NOTES:


Formation of the Society for the History of Construction Technology for German-speaking countries

On 28 June 2013 the “Gesellschaft für Bautechnikgeschichte”, the Society for the History of Construction Technology, for all German-speaking countries, was formed in Berlin. Around one hundred experts from many Universities and other organisations, from various countries and representing many branches of construction engineering history, had accepted the invitation for the founding and inaugural meeting of the society, and met in the Peter Behrens Hall at the Technical University of Berlin located on the historic site of the AEG factory. Even though there exist similar associations in the UK, Spain, France, Italy and the USA, there was none in any of the German-speaking countries, despite very intensive and diverse research activities in this field.

The goal of the new society is to foster and establish the discipline of the history of construction technology and design in construction, both in research and education at college and university level, and increase awareness of the general public. The statutes that were voted on in Berlin define specific areas of action: fostering the exchange and supporting scientific work in this discipline, putting those activities in German-speaking countries into an international context, participating in the preservation and documentation of built works and other testimonials of the history of technology in construction as well as establishing courses on this topic in the university curricula for civil engineering studies.

The official act of founding the society was preceded by a short and instructive lecture by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kahlöw (FH Potsdam) and followed by a keynote lecture by Prof. Dr. Eugen Brühwiler (EPF Lausanne). Representatives from various other societies came to congratulate the assembled group: Dr.-Ing. Karl Heinrich Schwinn (Bundesingenieurkammer / Federal Chamber of Engineers), Dr. Bill Addis (Construction History Society), Prof. Dr. Santiago Huerta (Sociedad Española de Historia de la Construcción), Prof. Dr. Robert Carvais (Association Francophone d’Histoire de la Construction), Dipl.-Ing. ETH Jürg Conzett (Gesellschaft für Ingenieurbaukunst, Switzerland).

Fig 02: Robert Carvais (Association Francophone d’Histoire de la Construction) and Bill Addis (CHS) in discussion.
(Photo: Nicolas Janberg).
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Annette Bögle (Ingenieur Baukunst e. V., Germany).

The first executive committee of the society was also elected. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner Lorenz, BTU Cottbus (President), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Traegbar, Universität Innsbruck (Vice-President), Dr.-Ing. Friedmar Voormann, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (First Secretary), Christoph Rauhut, ETH Zürich (Second Secretary), and Dr.-Ing. Ines Prokop, Verband Beratender Ingenieure (Treasurer) will hold their offices for the society for the next two years.

On the following day, three historical tours through rarely accessible areas of the Pergamon Museum, the Old National Gallery and the New Museum on the Berlin Museum Island provided a good insight into the diverse and thrilling the themes and activities of the new society will be. The participation of Dr.-Ing. Dr.h.c.mult., Jörg Schlaich and Prof. Dr. Jörg Haspel (Director for cultural heritage management in Berlin) underlined how diverse the professional fields of future society members are.

The first annual conference will be held on 8 and 9 November 2013 at the RWTH Aachen under the direction of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Martin Trautz and Dr.-Ing. Rolf Gerhardt.

More information available at:

www.bautechnikgeschichte.org.

Nicolas Janberg

Editor-in-Chief, Structurae, International Database and Gallery of Structures.

A guide book to the museums of building and construction in the UK - A CHS Project

The Board of Trustees of the Construction History Society has decided to launch a Project – something we haven’t ever done before. We have in mind to research and publish a small guidebook to the museums that would interest the construction historian in the UK. We hope that members will be keen to help with this project, since obviously no one person has the time to travel around the UK checking everything out.

We haven’t dreamed this idea out thin air – there is a precedent – the long out-of-print book The Building Museums Guide by Timothy Ostler (1993). This delightful little pocket book occasionally pops up for sale second hand online and is prefaced by several articles on the purpose of such a book, the nature of