Präambel zum „1st International Congress on Construction History“ in Madrid

Die Bautechnikgeschichte befindet sich auf dem Weg zu einer wissenschaftlichen Disziplin, die für den praktisch tätigen Bauingenieur und Architekt immer mehr zur Grundlage seines Planungshandelns im Bereich des expandierenden „Bauens im Bestand“ avanciert. Wie durch das vorliegende Heft von STAHLBAU dokumentiert wird, sind es im Stahlbau insbesondere Ermüdungsprobleme von eisernen bzw. stählernen Brücken, die den Blick des Bauingenieurs in die Geschichte der Bautechnik erfordern will er seiner gesellschaftlichen Verantwortung gerecht werden. Die gesamte Spannweite der Geschichte des Bauwerkes und seiner Wechselwirkung mit der Umwelt (Entstehungs- und Nutzungsgeschichte, Verschleiß aus Alterungsprozessen etc.) ist Gegenstand des „1st International Congress on Construction History“, der vom 20. bis 24. Januar 2003 an der „Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid“ in der Hauptstadt Spaniens stattfinden wird. Die Präambel des genannten Kongresses ist in STAHLBAU deshalb vollständig abgedruckt, weil sie auch als Prolegomena der Bautechnikgeschichte gelesen werden kann. Möge das Forum des „1st International Congress on Construction History“, auch dazu dienen, endlich eine „International Society of Construction History“ zu gründen. Alle an der Geschichte des Bauens Interessierte sind dazu aufgerufen, die Ausformung der noch jungen Disziplin der Bautechnikgeschichte mitzugestalten. Weitere Informationen sind erhältlich bei:

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All architectural and engineering manuals from the 16th and 17th centuries contain detailed descriptions of ancient and contemporary buildings. These historical descriptions were meant to instruct future master builders, and this tendency intensified at the beginning of the 19th century. In architecture, the treatise of *Rondelet*, full of historical examples and references, became the model. In the 19th century the „rational“ approach to history, exemplified in the works of *Willis, Viollet* and *Choisy*, had an enormous influence in the birth of modern architecture and engineering.

(Fortsetzung s. S. 124)

(Fortsetzung von S. 116)

By the end of the 19th century, the new materials of steel and reinforced concrete began to dominate the entire field of construction. Engineers and architects no longer built masonry vaults, and they ceased to study the complicated patterns of vaulting in historical buildings. Wood carpentry was replaced. After dominating for 6,000 years, many methods of construction lost their place of preponderance. The study of old buildings became a matter of curiosity or academic interest. Old methods and materials were forgotten, and even scorned by „modern" architects and engineers. Enthusiasm for the new applications excluded historical studies, and the new materials of construction were considered as too recent to merit historical study.

By the 1950's, interest began to grow again and new specialised studies appeared. The first great contributions on construction history were made, not by architects or engineers, but by archaeologists and historians (for example *Lugli* and *Blake* on Roman building techniques). In the 1980's the number of books and articles on construction history grew rapidly. The first specific association was founded in England, „The Construction History Society", which now publishes the first specific journal. In the 1990's a few similar societies formed at a national level in Spain, Italy, and other countries.

Today, at the beginning of the 21st century the body of published information on construction history is considerable. A comprehensive bibliography would probably include more than 10,000 items. But no such bibliography exists, and relevant information is spread widely. No reference guides exist, and specific bibliographies are scarce. There are no critical editions of the main treatises on building, which are difficult to read or interpret by a non-specialist. No index of illustrations exists, and databases do not include specific keywords for construction history. Relevant articles are widely dispersed in journals of architecture, engineering, archaeology, medieval studies, Oriental studies, economic history, etc.

Construction history has no academic recognition, and there are few specific courses in universities, whether graduate or postgraduate. Furthermore, no specific methodology has been developed. Every study ist biased from the point of view of the author, whether architect, engineer, archaeologist, etc. At best, construction history has been considered something useful to other disciplines. The 1st International Congress aims to promote construction history as a legitimate and important field of study, and to determine the role of this field in the future.

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