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NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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COMPILED BY

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GENERAL INTEREST

- ◆ Tony Barboza. **Trash Talk and the Real Dirt on a 'Toxic Tour' of Los Angeles.** *LA Times* (July 27, 2013). Highlights a growing trend of environmental activists offering tours to show the public the impact of industrial activities (present and past) on the lives of low-income communities. This free half-day bus tour of southeast L.A. illustrates the proximity of low-income housing to refineries, rail yards, and factories. Tours of both L.A. and Bay Area locations are offered by Communities for a Better Environment; see www.cbecal.org.
- ◆ Nigel Goose and Katrina Honeyman, eds. **Childhood and Child Labour in Industrial England.** Ashgate, 2013. 370 pp. \$134.95. The purpose of this collection is to bring together representative examples of recent scholarship exploring children as participants—even protagonists—in the process of industrialization, not simply as passive recipients or victims. Contributors address such crucial subjects as the varied experience of work, poverty and apprenticeship, institutional care, the political voice of children, child sexual abuse, and children and education.
- ◆ Simon Jenkins. **England's Best Views, Ironbridge Gorge.** *Country Life* (Aug. 5, 2013). The classic industrial landscape of Ironbridge Gorge, looking toward the Vale of the White Horse.
- ◆ Todd McLellan. **Things Come Apart: A Teardown Manual for Modern Living.** Thames & Hudson, 2013. 125 pp. \$29.95. Photographs capture 50 mechanical and electronic objects in a dismantled and meticulously arranged form that echoes exploded view drawings.

IRON & STEEL

- ◆ Mark Aspery. **The Skills of a Blacksmith, Vol. 3: Mastering the Fundamentals of Traditional Joinery.** Skip Jack Pr., 2013. 368 pp. \$59. Intended for intermediate to advanced blacksmiths, this book explains heel tenon, collar, square corner, punching, drifting, and tool-making techniques.
- ◆ John Murawski. **Restoration Work to Begin at Crumbling Civil War-Era Artifact.** *Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer* (Dec. 23, 2012). The N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources is embarking on a long-term project to stabilize and restore the stone stack of the Endor Iron Furnace in Lee County.
- ◆ Mark Reutter. **A Blue-Collar Future Proposed for Sparrows Point.** *Baltimore Brew* (May 3, 2013), www.baltimorebrew.com. Baltimore County has outlined a plan for converting the closed Sparrows Point steel plant (SIAN, Winter 2013; tour site—SIA Annual Conferences 1975 and 1995) into a modern port facility for “super ships,” advanced manufacturing plants, wind-energy staging operations, and supply-chain

warehouses. The full redevelopment report is available at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/business. Also, **City Granted Temporary Order Against Sewage Shutdown by Sparrows Point Owners** (Oct. 5, 2013). During the early 1940s, the City of Baltimore began diverting more than 200 million gallons of treated sewage water daily to Sparrow's Point, which the steel mill used as cooling water for various mill processes. Now that the plant is shut down, the city wishes to continue the arrangement but the new owners, who are dismantling the plant for scrap, are charging \$80,000 per month and placing limitations on the volume of sewage they are willing to accept.

- ◆ Keith Schneider. **Steel Leads Revival in Ohio River Valley.** *NY Times* (Sept. 5, 2012). The present-day manufacturing economy through the eyes of a tug's captain who is seeing less coal and more steel, rock, and concrete in his barges.

MACHINES & MACHINE TOOLS

- ◆ Jennifer Walkowski. **Roll Out the Barrels, the E. & B. Holmes Machinery Company.** *Western New York Heritage* (Fall 2012), pp. 8-17. History of Buffalo-based company that developed innovative machines for making wood barrels, among other products. The factory at 59 Chicago St. was listed on the National Register in 2009. Also, *Brayley & Pitts Watercolor Provides Rare Look at Early Industry* (p. 72), watercolor, dated 1865, of the Brayley & Pitts Co. (later Buffalo Pitts), showing its machine works, the Erie Canal, and the New York Central RR in Buffalo.

GLASS

- ◆ Emily Byrne Curtis. **Glass Exchange between Europe and China, 1550-1800: Diplomatic, Mercantile, and Technological Interactions.** Ashgate, 2009. 156 pp. \$99.95. Collection of essays describes episodes of the exchange of glassware and glassmaking technology among European (principally Venetian) and Chinese merchants and glassmakers. Rev: *T&C* (Apr. 2011), pp. 393-94.
- ◆ Norman L. Dean. **The Man Behind the Bottle, The Origin and History of the Classic Contour Coca-Cola Bottle as Told by the Son of its Creator.** Xlibris, 2010. 162 pp., illus. \$19.99. Earl R. Dean was a designer for the Root Glass Co. of Terre Haute, Ind., in 1915, when the Atlanta soft drink firm solicited designs for a distinctive bottle to distinguish its product from those of imitations. According to this account, the author's father made the mold into which glass was blown for the Root Co.'s winning entry in the contest. The patent was issued in the name of a different employee, while still another was also credited with the design. The Dean version is supported by

considerable evidence, including early drawings in the possession of the family, and even a production example of the prototype bottle. The book offers a picture of the craft influences at work in the early-20th-century glass container industry, in addition to lengthy discussions of the “iconic” bottle as a marketing tool. Of some interest is the fact that the Root family’s investments in Coca-Cola bottling operations proved highly lucrative, even as the glass container business was later sold to the giant Owens-Illinois.

TEXTILES

- ◆ Marc N. Belanger [SIA]. **A Guide to Fall River’s Mills and Other Industrial Sites.** 2013. 85 pp., illus. \$26. Avail.: www.lulu.com. A guide to the textile mills of Fall River, Mass., past and present. Prepared to mark the 200th anniversary of industrial development along the Quequechan River.
- ◆ Joe DePriest. **Day by Day, Loray Mill Building Coming Back to Life.** *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* (Sept. 6, 2013) and C. J. Hughes. **A Historic Textile Mill Begins a New Chapter.** *NY Times* (May 8, 2013), p. B7. A \$39M project is underway to convert the 600,000-sq.-ft. brick textile mill in Gastonia, N.C. into offices and apartments. The Loray Mill is best known as the site of a bloody strike in 1929, marking the spread of labor unrest into the southern textile industry. The mill was purchased in the 1930s by Firestone’s textile division. The mill made fabric for tires and stayed in operation until 1993.
- ◆ Joseph DePriest. **Original Belmont Mill Building Emerges as Bricks Removed.** *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer* (Sept. 13, 2013). The 1902 Chronicle Mill, Belmont, N.C.’s first textile mill, was not thought to survive, but it remained at the core of a larger complex that had expanded around it over the years. The current owner is no “thinking about restoration” rather than complete demolition.
- ◆ Vera Haller. **Because the Doorman Doesn’t Iron.** *NY Times* (July 14, 2013), p. RE 1. Profile of the family-owned W. H. Christian & Sons in Brooklyn, which has been providing and

cleaning uniforms for doormen, security guards, and other building staff since 1924. It is estimated that on any given day, 100,000 workers in metropolitan New York are wearing uniforms provided by this company.

- ◆ Michael Haskey. **Eagle & Phenix Contractor Brasfield & Gorrie Receives Award for Textile Mill Project.** *Columbus (Ga.) Ledger* (Sept. 6, 2013). *Engineering News-Record* is awarding “best renovation and restoration project in the Southeast” to a condominium project at the Eagle & Phenix Mill No. 2, built in 1860.
- ◆ Cathy Horyn. **Dirty Old Factories.** *NY Times* (Aug. 15, 2013), p. E1. Story of the 100-year-old L.C. King Manufacturing Co. in Bristol, Tenn., said to be the oldest cut-and-sew factory operating in the U.S. under its founding family. The company made its reputation with workwear for agricultural workers and outdoorsmen but has been reinvigorated by contracts for jeans from fashion designers.
- ◆ Sarah S. Kilborne. **American Phoenix: The Remarkable Story of William Skinner, A Man Who Turned Disaster into Destiny.** Free Pr., 2012. 448 pp. Skinner, an English silk dyer, arrived in the U.S. in 1845, penniless, but he soon acquired work in a fledgling Massachusetts silk mill and quickly rose to prominence. In 1874, a flood destroyed Skinnerville when a dam broke. Undaunted, Skinner mounted a comeback, rebuilding his mill and workers’ village.
- ◆ Bruce Lowry. **In Silk City, the ‘History Wars’ Rage On.** *North Jersey* (July 26, 2013), www.northjersey.com. Editorial decries the half-hearted political commitments that have prevented Paterson, N.J., from living up to its potential as a heritage tourism destination. The latest episode involves a petty dispute between the mayor and the development corporation over repairs to the roof of the Paterson Museum, located in a former Rogers Locomotive shop building.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING

- ◆ David W. Dunlap. **Relics of the Domino Sugar Refinery, Frozen in Time and Syrup.** *NY Times* (Oct. 24, 2013) p. A24. Update on re-development plans for what once was the world’s largest sugar refinery details what will be preserved, including the bulk unloading cranes (tour site—2002 SIA Annual Conference, Brooklyn).
- ◆ **In Urban Revival Beer Creates Small Business Hubs.** *NY Times* (July 4, 2013). Craft beer makers such as the Brooklyn Brewery, located in the former Hecla Ironworks in the Williamsburg section, often lead to neighborhood gentrification but are then priced out by rising real estate values. The article makes a case for protecting the urban manufacturers who have anchored redevelopment efforts.
- ◆ **The International Molinological Society (TIMS) E-News** includes an extensive round-up of news and notes from mills around the world. Info: www.molinology.org.
- ◆ Chris Seward. **Raleigh’s Landmark Nehi Bottling Building Will Get Makeover.** *Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer* (Sept. 19, 2013). The Moderne-style bottling plant was built in 1938. It is being rehabilitated for offices.
- ◆ Gordon M. Winder. **The American Reaper: Harvesting Networks and Technology, 1830-1910.** Ashgate, 2013. 278 pp., illus. \$119.95. Traces the international diffusion of the reaper through the patent licensing and sales efforts of International Harvester.

ARMS & MUNITIONS

- ◆ Katherine Calos. **Arsenal Blast in 1863 Killed Dozens, Rocking Richmond.** *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (Mar. 4, 2013), p. 1. Lengthy article provides perspective on an explosion at

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With Thanks.

the Confederate munitions factory at Brown's Island on Mar. 13, 1863. Part of a series marking the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

- ◆ Karen Jones, Giacomo Macola, and David Welch, eds. **A Cultural History of Firearms in the Age of Empire.** Ashgate, 2013. 330 pp. \$134.95. The essays presented in this volume extend the study of the gun beyond the confines of military history and the examination of its impact on specific colonial encounters to a fuller cultural understanding of some of the most significant consequences of British and American imperial expansions.
- ◆ Denise Kiernan. **The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II.** Touchstone, 2013. 400 pp. \$27. Based on interviews with 10 women workers, this is a social history of the secret factories enriching uranium for weapons at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

MISC. INDUSTRIES

- ◆ James Barron. **Notes of Sorrow in Changes at Steinway.** *NY Times* (July 12, 2013). Piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons (tour site—2002 SIA Annual Conference, Brooklyn) has been sold to a private equity firm that owns 15 other companies making everything from windshield wipers to sewing machines. Musicians are concerned that Steinway will be forced to alter its highly regarded manufacturing traditions.
- ◆ Miguel Hernandez. **Torcedores: Gotham's Hispanic Cigar Rollers at Work.** *New York History Blog* (Apr. 3, 2013), www.newyorkhistoryblog.org. In 1883, cigars were manufactured in 127 tenements in New York City, employing nearly 8,000 individuals. Descriptions of work conditions in Hispanic cigar workshops.
- ◆ Ian D. Rotherham. **Peat and Peat Cutting.** Shire Pub., 2011. 64 pp, illus. \$12.95. Yet another in the informative series of Shire Library books on aspects of craft and life in the British Isles, this little volume compiles material on the use and history of peat as a domestic fuel and sometime industrial fuel. Once widely used as a substitute for wood, it is harvested by cutting into blocks the size of large bricks. Extensive illustrations show the production of peat in numerous locales in the British Isles, and details of tools, cutting, stacking, transport, and storage. Industrial-scale production of peat-based chemicals and fuel gas is described and illustrated; even highly mechanized harvesting machinery was developed and employed before competition from other fuels restricted peat's use to isolated locales.
- ◆ Robert Shaw and Peter Szego, eds. **Inventing the American Guitar: The Pre-Civil War Innovations of C. F. Martin and His Contemporaries.** Hal Leonard Performing Arts Group, 2013. 308 pp. \$50. Explores Martin's evolution as a craftsman and entrepreneur with essays by prominent guitarists and writers. Martin is largely credited with the development of the American flat-top guitar. The C. F. Martin & Co. (tour site—2002 SIA Fall Tour, Lehigh Valley) is celebrating its 180th anniversary with this book and a year-long exhibit of guitars at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

MINES & MINING

- ◆ Diane Cole. **Alaska's Fallen Copper Kingdom.** *WSJ* (Sept. 17, 2013), p. D5. Preservation of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Monument.
- ◆ Colin Hennessy, Louis E. Hunsberger, Robert Downey, and Brock E. Barry. **New Perspectives on Military Engagements.** *Civil Engineering* (Sep. 2013), pp. 62-77. This trio of articles presents current geotechnical analyses of mining used in military strategy: the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg, Va., during the U.S. Civil War, trench warfare in France during WWI, and Japanese tunnels on Iwo Jima during WWII.

- ◆ Andrew E. Kramer. **A Russian City Named for Asbestos Can't Give Up Its Carcinogenic Livelihood.** *NY Times* (July 14, 2013) p. 16. Profile of Asbest, a one-industry town where citizens take for granted asbestos dust in every aspect of their lives because it is the only way to make a living there.

WATER CONTROL & RECLAMATION

- ◆ Jeff L. Brown. **Supermodel: The Mississippi Basin in Miniature.** *Civil Engineering* (Oct. 2013), pp. 42-45. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mississippi Basin Model near Clinton, Miss., was used to study proposed flood control measures from 1935 until the 1970s. The 1:2,000-scale model initially covered only part of the river basin but was expanded to cover the entire basin using German POW labor between 1943 and 1946.
- ◆ David F. Martin and Margaret Bullock. **Austere Beauty, The Art of Z. Vanessa Helder.** Univ. of Wash. Pr., 2014. 128 pp., illus. \$24.95. A survey of the artist's work, the best known being a remarkable series of 22 watercolors documenting the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam.

WATER TRANSPORT

- ◆ Bruce Cole. **The Sunken Treasures of the Arabia.** *WSJ* (Sept. 4, 2013). The *Arabia* was a steamboat that foundered on the Missouri River near Parkville, Kan., in 1856. Buried by silt, she was rediscovered by treasure hunters in 1987. A new museum recently opened in Kansas City, Mo., to display the amazing collection of artifacts, ranging from a paddlewheel and huge boilers to hundreds of everyday objects being carried to frontier settlements. Several IA connections including a carpentry shop, various armaments, and a sawmill and fixtures. Info: www.1856.com.
- ◆ David W. Dunlap. **Waterborne Workhorses Time Staten Island's Tides.** *NY Times* (July 31, 2013), p. A14. Profile of the Caddell Dry Dock and Repair Co., a 110-year-old, family-owned shipyard.

RAILROADS

- ◆ **100 Years of Canadian Railway Recipes.** Exporail, the Canadian Ry. Museum, 2013. 200 pp., illus. \$39.99. Avail.: (450) 638-1522, ext. 221. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Canada's railway heritage. A collection of 90 recipes from three major Canadian railways: CN, Canadian Pacific, and VIA Rail Canada. Includes photographs of mouthwatering dishes, railroad artifacts, anecdotes from workers, and historic information on life aboard dining cars and in the kitchens. "A century of culinary expertise is highlighted to satisfy the most discriminating palate!"
- ◆ John W. Diers. **St. Paul Union Depot.** Univ. of Minnesota Pr., 2013. 304 pp., photos. \$39.95. History of the grand depot (tour site - 2013 SIA Annual Conference) that united passenger and mail services for nine railroads. Also, **Whither the Passenger Train? St. Paul Union Depot: Decline and Rebirth.** *Ramsey County History* (Summer 2013), pp. 12-23. Based on the recent book, analyzes the reasons for the demise of passenger service that led to near-abandonment of the Union Depot. Scant attention is given to the re-uses of the late 20th century or the projected rebirth as a multi-modal transit center.
- ◆ Joseph B. Raskin. **The Routes Not Taken: A Trip Through New York City's Unbuilt Subway System.** Fordham Univ. Pr., 2013. 336 p., illus. \$34.95. Looks at the subway system that might have been and what kept portions from being built or left unfinished. The dramatic stories include clashing political agendas, financial shortfalls, and community battles that resulted in many false starts and tunnels to nowhere.
- ◆ Robert L. Reid. **CSX 'Daylights' Pennsylvania Tunnel to Permit Stacked Loads.** *Civil Engineering* (Sep. 2013), pp. 18-20. As part

of its National Gateway project to open routes for double-stack container traffic, CSX daylighted the 130-year-old Pinkerton Tunnel near Somerset, Pa., converting it to an open cut.

- ◆ Ralf Roth and Henry Jacolin, eds. **Eastern European Railways in Transition: Nineteenth to Twenty-First Centuries.** Ashgate, 2013. 428 pp., \$134.95. By the beginning of the 20th century the great cities of the continent were linked by a complex and extensive rail network. Yet this high-point of interconnectivity was abruptly cutoff after 1945, as the Cold War built barriers between east and west. In this volume, scholars take a fresh look at this situation, and the ramifications it had for Europe. As well as addressing the parallel development of railways on either side of the Iron Curtain, the book looks at how transport links have been reconnected and reconfigured in the twenty years since the reunification of Europe.

AUTOMOBILES & HIGHWAYS

- ◆ Steven Kurutz. **Life in the Ruins.** *NY Times* (Feb. 7, 2013), p. D1. Tale of a man who lives and works in one of the buildings of the former Packard automobile plant in Detroit (tour site—2005 SIA Fall Tour).
- ◆ Bill Vlasic. **100 Years Down the Line.** *NY Times* (Oct. 30, 2013), p. F1. How the assembly line developed by Henry Ford has been adapted to suit current needs of the auto industry. Includes comments from historian Bob Casey [SIA].

AVIATION & AEROSPACE

- ◆ John Burgeson. **Historian: Smithsonian Aviation Curator Should Resign.** *AviationPros.com* (Aug. 19, 2013). John Brown, an aviation historian, has given new life to a long-standing controversy over whether Gustave Whitehead or the Wright brothers were the first to fly a heavier-than-air controllable airship. Whitehead supporters say that he achieved flight two years before the Wrights, lifting off on Aug. 14, 1901 in Fairfield, Conn. Brown persuaded *Jane's All the World's Aircraft* to list Whitehead over the Wrights and has demanded that Tom Crouch, the Smithsonian's senior aviation curator, resign his post.

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

- ◆ Michael R. Adamson. **A Better Way to Build: A History of the Pankow Companies.** Purdue Univ. Pr., 2013. 460 pp. \$45. History of a major West Coast contractor, historically notable for playing a role in the development of slip-forming, pre- and post-tensioning, and pre-casting concrete construction methods since the 1960s. Founder was Charles Pankow, who was instrumental in the formation of the Design-Build Institute of America in 1992. Rev: *CHSA Newsletter* (July 2013).
- ◆ Melissa Eddy. **Uncertainty over a Palace of Parking.** *NY Times* (Aug. 19, 2013). The preservation of the Kant Garage in Berlin has become a tough sell to the German public. The 6-story garage, built in 1929, is considered a landmark of modernist architecture, including its revolutionary double-helix ramps. The building survived the Allied bombing of WWII, but now the owner wants to tear it down.
- ◆ Kristina Torres. **Georgia State's Kell Hall To Be Torn Down.** *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (Oct. 2, 2013). Includes timeline of this remarkable building, which was constructed in 1925 as Atlanta's first parking garage. Known originally as the Ivy Street Garage, it was acquired in 1945 by the Atlanta Center Evening College and converted into an academic building. The ramps were viewed as an asset for veterans with disabilities returning from WWII.

BRIDGES

- ◆ Ben Benton. **Bridge Friends Pledge to Continue Effort to Save B. B. Comer Span.** *Chattanooga Times* (Aug. 16, 2013). The 83-year-old, through-truss bridge over the Tennessee River east of Scottsboro, Ala., is scheduled for demolition as a new parallel bridge takes shape.
- ◆ Jeff L. Brown. **Still in Service: America's Enduring Stone Railroad Bridges.** *Civil Engineering* (Sep. 2013), pp. 48-51. These three early-19th-century bridges have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks: the Carrollton and Thomas viaducts in Maryland and the Canton Viaduct in Massachusetts. All three continue to carry frequent rail traffic.
- ◆ Frank Griggs. **Piscataqua Bridge.** *Structure* (Aug. 2013), pp. 28-30. Continuing his exploration of late-18th-century timber bridge builder Timothy Palmer's work, Griggs describes the Piscataqua Bridge, a multi-span structure completed across Great Bay west of Portsmouth, N.H., in 1794. The longest span, 244 ft., included three arched chords and held the U.S. record until 1812. **The Permanent Bridge: America's First Covered Bridge.** *Structure* (Oct. 2013), pp. 39-41. While explaining that the name "Permanent Bridge" was intended to contrast the 1804-50 incarnation of Philadelphia's Market Street Bridge from an earlier floating bridge on the same site, Griggs attributes its 46-year lifespan to Timothy Palmer's advocacy for covering the timber trusses. Without the covering, it might have lasted only a decade.
- ◆ Alice Oviatt-Lawrence. **Engineering History: Gustav Lindenthal's New York City Hell Gate Bridge.** *Structure* (Oct. 2013), pp. 16-19. This article takes a detailed look at the technical details behind the NY Connecting RR link between Long Island and the Bronx, including design loads, geotechnical issues, materials testing, and the 1996 repainting in "Hell Gate Red" that "faded immediately," resulting in litigation.

POWER GENERATION

- ◆ **Tide Mill Times** (Summer 2013), *www.tidemillinstitute.org*. Articles include plans for a permanent Tide Mill Institute building; tide mills in Brooklyn, N.Y.; a tide mill and open-pit mine in Brooksville, Me.; a photo gallery of tide mill dams; an update on the status of the Souther Mill in Quincy, Mass.; and the Perkins Grist Mill in Kennebunkport, Me.
- ◆ Frank Urquhart. **Dounreay Documents Set for Nuclear Archive.** *The Scotsman* (Aug. 19, 2013). Britain's new National Nuclear Archive is to be built close to Wick Airport, near the Dounreay experimental power complex, Britain's first fast-breeder reactor. Documents from Dounreay will be the first items stored in the archives.

ABBREVIATIONS:

CHSA = Construction History Society of America
WSJ = *Wall Street Journal*

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