



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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VIRGINIA IA 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

From May 31 through June 3, 2018, 166 registrants gathered in Richmond, Va., for the 47th Annual Society for Industrial Archeology Conference. This was the SIA's first annual meeting to be held in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The conference headquarters was the Omni Richmond Hotel, located within the historic Shockoe Slip district. The hotel sits above remains of the Kanawha Canal Basin, and just six blocks from Richmond's historic Main Street Station. The conference planning committee organized a full program of tours and paper sessions that took advantage of the former Confederate capital's unique mix of antebellum and post-Civil War industrial history that developed at the fall line of the James River. Tours featured Richmond's long history of metal processing, tobacco production, and maritime and transportation infrastructure, with explorations west to Charlottesville, east to the Virginia Peninsula, and south to Petersburg, covering a broad swath of the Old Dominion.

The conference followed a familiar schedule of early bird tours and a reception on Thursday; historic site and process tours Friday; paper sessions, annual business meeting, and banquet on Saturday; and optional tours Sunday. Attendees at Thursday's opening reception were treated to an orientation to the history of Richmond by Gregg Kimball, Director of Public Services and Outreach of the Library of Virginia and author of *American City, Southern Place: A Cultural History of Antebellum Richmond* (Univ. of Ga. Pr., 2000). Following a full day of paper sessions on Saturday, attendees celebrated at the Stone Brewery in Richmond's East End. Adjacent to the Fulton Gas Works site (operable from 1856–1956), the newly opened facility occupies 216,000 sq. ft. and is San Marcos, Ca.-based Stone's first brewery on the east coast.

The all-day early bird tour on Thursday, May 31 was a visit to the **University of Virginia** in Charlottesville and the **Crozet Tunnel**, about 80 mi. west of Richmond. The

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Patrick Harsberger

The furnace and casting floor at O.K. Foundry.

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**SOCIETY FOR
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CALENDAR

2018

Sept. 13–16: Preserving the Historic Road 20th Anniversary Conference, Fort Collins, Colo. Info: www.historicroads.org.

Sept. 27–30: SIA FALL TOUR, DAYTON, OHIO. Info: www.sia-web.org.

Oct. 11–14: Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Oct. 17–20: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills Annual Conference, East Meredith, N.Y. Info: www.spoom.org.

Nov. 10: GREAT FALLS SYMPOSIUM ON THE IA OF THE NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY AREA, PATERSON, N.J. 38th annual event held by the SIA's Roebling Chapter. Info: [http://roeblingsia.org/symposia.html](http://roebblingsia.org/symposia.html).

2019

Jan. 9–12: Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, St. Charles, Mo. Info: www.sha.org.

Mar. 27–30: National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Hartford, Ct. Info: www.ncph.org.

Apr. 24–28: Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference, Providence, R.I. Info: www.sah.org.

June 6–9: SIA 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO, ILL. Info: www.sia-web.org.

Aug. 9–14: Assn. for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, Somerset, U.K. Info: www.industrial-archaeology.org. ■