



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 53

Spring 2024

Number 2

N-C-O RAILWAY COMPLETES WOOD SPECIES ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC RAILWAY CARS

Eric DeLony Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant Update

The Nevada-California-Oregon Railway (N-C-O), headquartered in Alturas, Calif., is a nonprofit historical society dedicated to preserving the 50-year legacy of the narrow-gauge railway that once ran from Reno, Nev. to Lakeview, Ore. Thanks to a grant from the SIA's Eric DeLony Industrial Heritage Preservation Fund, the N-C-O has been able to complete a wood species analysis identifying types of wood used in the construction of four historical pieces of rolling stock.

The four cars analyzed provide a glimpse into the N-C-O's

car-building practices. The N-C-O was one of the last long-distance, narrow-gauge lines constructed in the West. The first spike was driven in May of 1881, in Reno, Nev. Among other hurdles, lack of revenue, lawsuits, and cost reductions slowed construction. The line would not reach Lakeview, Ore. until Dec. of 1911 and Graeagle, Calif. until 1916. At its peak of operations, the N-C-O system was 275-miles long, making it one of the longest narrow-gauge railway systems in North America.

No piece of rolling stock built by the railway has been

(continued on page 2)



Shane Starr

200-series boxcar.

In This Issue:

- Renovations at the Burden Iron Works
- IA Sites on List of Most Endangered Historic Places

thoroughly documented for preservation purposes. The historical society is fortunate to have saved the last surviving example of the 200-series boxcar, 500-series refrigerator car, and a passenger car that were all built by the N-C-O at their Reno facilities. A second passenger car, Combine No. 12, has also been acquired by the society, but its builder history is unknown.

The society is in the beginning stages of developing preservation plans for each piece of rolling stock. These plans will consist of scale drawings and blueprints of each piece, 3D schematics of each cast-metal component, paint samples and analysis, and documentation of construction methods used. The identification of wood species used in the construction is required to successfully complete the wood materials preservation section of these plans. Each completed set of plans will then be used in the restoration work.

Each of the four cars for this study had a wood sample

The *SIA Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Society for Industrial Archeology. It is sent to SIA members, who also receive the Society's journal, *IA*, published biannually. The SIA through its publications, conferences, tours, and projects encourages the study, interpretation, and preservation of historically significant industrial sites, structures, artifacts, and technology. By providing a forum for the discussion and exchange of information, the Society advances an awareness and appreciation of the value of preserving our industrial heritage. Annual membership: individual \$50; household (joint) \$55; full-time student \$20; institutional \$75; contributing \$100; sustaining \$150; corporate \$500. For members outside of North America, add \$10 surface-mailing fee. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Society for Industrial Archeology to SIA-HQ, Dept. of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295; (906) 487-1889; email: sia@siahq.org; website: www.sia-web.org.

Mailing date for Vol. 53, No. 2 (Spring 2024), June 2024. ISSN 0160-1067. If you have not received an issue, apply to SIA-HQ (address above) for a replacement copy.

The *SIA Newsletter* welcomes material and correspondence from members, especially in the form of copy already digested and written! The usefulness and timeliness of the newsletter depends on you, the reader, as an important source of information and opinion.

TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Marni Blake Walter, Editor, *SIA Newsletter*, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; sianeditor@siahq.org.

taken from the floor sill framing, siding, and roof. The refrigerator car had its interior enclosed as the body had been insulated to retain the cold air from the ice used to refrigerate it. A sample was removed from this interior enclosure for analysis as well. Due to the fact each car had been exposed to the elements for over 90 years after being sold off by the railway in 1929 to private owners, the society had to be diligent in finding wood samples on the body that were not too far decayed. Though a challenge, quality samples were removed from each car.

These wood samples were delivered to Seri Robinson with the Dept. of Wood Science & Engineering, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis. The thirteen samples were soaked in distilled water for 48 hours prior to analysis. After soaking, the samples had thin sections of wood hand cut from the transverse, tangential, and radial planes. These pieces were placed on glass slides and viewed with a light microscope under various magnifications.

After several hours of study, wood species were identified for each sample except for the hard pine samples. When interpreting the results, Robinson noted there are some species that are not able to be sorted via microscopic identification as they share critical identifying features with other species. As such, identification was given as hard pine instead of a full species. Surrounding Reno are two specific types of hard pines: ponderosa and yellow pine. Both types will be considered for future restoration work.



Baggage Mail Car No. 22.

Shane Starr



Combine No. 12.

Shane Starr

The identification of wood species is a major first step in our eventual goal of restoring each car. Further research will be needed to attempt to identify possible suppliers of the lumber used in the construction of the cars for historical purposes. One interesting outcome of this study is the use of redwood on Combine No. 12's siding. The N-C-O was not known to use redwood in the construction of any of its rolling stock or facilities. Therefore, we presume the car may have been the combine purchased second hand in 1908 from the North Pacific Coast Ry. as documented in one of the corporate ledgers. The NPC had most of its passenger cars sided in redwood as built by the Kimbell Car Builders in San Francisco. Combine No. 12 would be one of only two surviving cars manufactured by Kimbell if its association can be further documented.

To learn more about the society and its work to preserve the legacy of the narrow-gauge railway, visit NCORy.org.

| Type of Car | Area of Sample | Wood ID |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 12 | siding | redwood |
| 12 | roof | hard pine |
| 12 | sill | Douglas fir |
| 22 | sill | Douglas fir |
| 22 | siding | hard pine |
| 22 | roof | hard pine |
| boxcar | roof | Douglas fir |
| boxcar | siding | hard pine |
| boxcar | sill | Douglas fir |
| fridge | interior siding | Douglas fir |
| fridge | roof | hard pine |
| fridge | exterior siding | hard pine |
| fridge | sill | hard pine |

Shane Starr

Breakdown of wood ID by car and structural component.

Modoc Country Museum collection



“Freighting out of Alturas.”

Shane Starr



500-series refrigerator car.

IA ON THE WEB

AARoads (www.aaroads.com). Featured are highway photo guides, history, project news, maps, and other resources. Designed to aid in trip planning and research while providing the latest information on an assortment of subjects covering roads across the U.S.

Arte y Ferrocarril: El ferrocarril en la literatura, el cine y las artes plásticas (Art and Railway: The railway in literature, cinema and plastic arts) (<https://arteyferrocarril.blogspot.com>). By Jordi Font-Agustí, a blog from Spain on art and railways. Started in 2011, it publishes an article or two per month, with plentiful accompanying illustrations. [Hint: it is possible to read the articles without knowing Spanish by using the translate feature in most web browsers.]

Coal at Sunset: A Colorado Town in Transition (<https://coalatsunset.org>). Podcast series and website about the closing of a coal mine and power plant in Craig, Colo. These changes are a result of Colorado's landmark legislation passed in 2019 that committed the state to a 50% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and a 90% reduction by 2050. Includes the voices and stories of a variety of people who live and work there, as well as others. The episodes discuss the challenges of a major change in technology for generating electrical power from coal to renewable energy sources. Another important issue is the future of the people who work at the coal mine and power plant. The State of Colorado created an Office of Just Transition to enable

coordination of state and federal resources to support the workers and community. The website includes links to other resources.

East Patchogue Monorail (<https://screanews.us/ScreaNews/ScreaNews1003/MonorailEastPatchogue.htm>). A page about the Boynton Bicycle RR, Eben Moody Boynton's idea for a type of monorail with one track on the ground and another track overhead. A section was built in 1894 between East Patchogue and Bellport, Long Island, N.Y., but ultimately it was unsuccessful. Includes narrative info, photos, and news clippings.

Industrial Archeology Image Archive (IAIA) (<http://www.indarch.mtu.edu>). This online IA archive, available since the early 2000s, has been updated for compatibility with modern browsers and with improvements in its search capabilities. The archive contains over 2,000 images from the Robert M. Vogel slide collection, with more to be added. See more info on p. 10 in this issue. The IAIA can also be accessed via a link on the SIA website "resources" page: <http://www.sia-web.org/resources/>.

IA on the Web is compiled from sites brought to the editor's attention by members, who are encouraged to submit their IA Web finds: sianeditor@siahq.org. ■

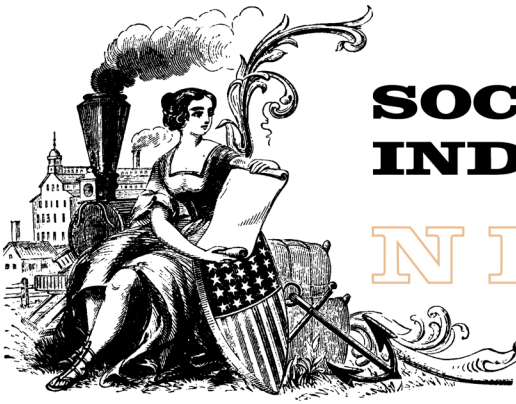
CHAPTER NEWS

Northern New England (NNEC-SIA) hosted the New England Chapters' 35th Conference on New England Industrial Archeology, Mar. 16, 2024, at McAuliff-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord, N.H. Presentations included David Dunning [SIA], *Implosion and Recycling of the Old Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital*; David Moore, *Bridgewater, Mass.—“Iron Town USA”*; Ron Romano, *Billboard Monuments of Northern New England*; Eric Peterson, *Industrial History New England: A Collaborative Effort to Re-Engage*; John Mayer [SIA], *National SIA: An Update and Discussion*; and Pat Malone [SIA] and Chuck Parrott [SIA], *Material Evidence for the Recreation of a Waterpower System*.

Oliver Evans (Greater Philadelphia) held several presentations during the spring. A. Leonard Pundt presented *The History of the Fairmount Water Works*, Feb. 14; Joel Spivak spoke on *The First Subway in the World (London England)*, on Mar. 13; on Apr. 10, Harry Garforth presented on *The History of Rail Transportation in Frankford*, including the Frankford Elevated, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in Nov. 2022. Copies of Garforth's book, *Frankford's Elevated Railway and*

Its Predecessors, were available for purchase. The talks were held at the Parkway Central Free Library (Philadelphia, Pa.), and some are recorded and available on the library's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryFLP/videos/>. In addition, Rich Wagner gave a talk on *Brewing in Norristown, Gulf Mills, and Conshohocken*, Mar. 10 at the Conshohocken Brewing Co. Tap Room (King of Prussia, Pa.). On Mar. 24, the chapter also toured a historic forge, the Blacksmith of Trenton (N.J.), which has operated since 1823. Daniel Lepidow gave a tour and demonstrated the use of tools and equipment. He trained in the shop and now is assistant to the owner blacksmith and is also a collector of anvils.

Roebling (Greater N.Y.-N.J.) held its first tour of the year on Apr. 20, a walking tour of Historic Speedwell, birthplace of the telegraph. Members viewed the Speedwell Ironworks exhibits of ironmaster Stephen Vail, and the factory buildings where Vail's son Alfred and Samuel Morse worked on and first demonstrated the telegraph. The mid-19th-c. building now contains exhibits that tell the story of how an idea was developed into a world-changing invention. ■



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Vol. 53, No. 2

Spring 2024

COMPILED BY

Mary Habstritt, New York, N.Y.; Patrick Harshbarger, Wilmington, Del.;
Daniel Schneider, Lake Linden, Mich.; and Marni Blake Walter, SIAN editor, Westmoreland, N.H.

GENERAL INTEREST

- ◆ **IA Review**, Vol. 45, No. 2 (2023) includes Yingfu Li, Chunyan Ma, Fang Liu, Wan Huang, and Yuniu Li, *Archaeological Investigation and Industrial Heritage Study of the Wanshan Mercury Mining Site in Guizhou Province, China*; Steve Tamburello, *The Offerton Hat Works and Stockport's Felt Hat Industry*; Rachel Williams and David Dungworth, *Park Glasshouse, Birmingham—a Site of 19th-Century Innovation*; Rachael Matthews, Ric Buckle, and Liz Govier, *Lead Houses: White Lead Processing at the Chester Leadworks*; Philippa Hunter, Simon Cosedge, Michael Nicholson, Rachael Lightfoot, Robin Holgate, and Joseph Empsall, *The History and Archaeology of Hendon Sidings Enterprise Zone, Adjacent to Prospect Row, Port of Sunderland*; book reviews: *Industrial Architecture: Designers and Plans*, edited by Lukáš Beran, 2021, *The Quest for Universality: The Contexts of Industrial Architecture in Czechoslovakia, 1945–1992*, by Jan Zikmund, 2020, and *Industrial Contexts: Place, Form, Programme (The Architecture of Conversion)*, edited by Benjamin Fragner, 2021, reviewed by Axel Föhl; *The Architecture of Steam: Waterworks and the Victorian Sanitary Crisis*, edited by James Douet [SIA], 2023, reviewed by Keith Falconer; *L.T.C. ROLT: A Collector's Bibliography*, compiled by Peter R.G. Roberts, reviewed by Chris Pickford.
- ◆ Michael W. Nagle. **The Forgotten Iron King of the Great Lakes: Eber Brock Ward, 1811–1875**. Wayne State Univ. Pr., 2022 (paperback forthcoming 2024). 320 pp., 32 b&w illus. \$26.99 hardcover, \$34.99 paperback. Eber Brock Ward (1811–1875) began his career as a cabin boy on his uncle's sailing vessels, but when he died in 1875, he was the wealthiest man in Michigan. Ward was engaged in the steamboat, railroad, lumber, mining, and iron and steel industries. In 1864, his facility near Detroit became the first in the nation to produce steel using the more efficient Bessemer method. Makes extensive use of Ward's correspondence, business records, contemporary newspaper accounts, and other archival material to craft a balanced profile.
- ◆ Pamela H. Smith. **From Lived Experience to the Written Word: Reconstructing Practical Knowledge in the Early Modern World**. Univ. of Chicago Pr., 2022. 346 pp., illus. \$95 hardcover, \$35 paperback, \$34.99 ebook. Focusing on metalworking from 1400–1800, Smith studies present-day and historical practices, objects, recipes, and artisanal manuals to consider how to reconstruct centuries of largely lost knowledge. She aims not only to unearth the techniques, material processes, and embodied experience of the past but also to gain insight into the lifeworld of artisans and their understandings of matter. Rev.: *NY Review* (Sept. 22, 2022) <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2022/09/22/artisanal-work-discovery-knowledge-anthony-grafton/>.
- ◆ **TICCIH Bulletin 102** (4th Quarter, 2023), includes Miles Oglethorpe, *Inspiring Industrial Heritage Across the World*; Camilo Contreras, *The X Latin American TICCIH Congress in Mexico*; María Esperanza Rock Núñez and Marion Steiner, *Industrial Heritage, Social Issues and Challenges for a New Governance: The IV International and Interdisciplinary Cultural Heritage Congress in Chile*; worldwide reports: Facundo S. López, *An Artificial Fauna: Railway Structures in the Argentine Pampas*; Pit De Jonge, *Antwerp Under Pressure*; Francisco Rivera, *Digitization Contra Erasure: Bonne-Esperance's Industrial Fishing Heritage*; Boris Cvitanić Díaz, *Oil Industry in Chile: Heritages of National Dimension*; Mina Ibrahim, *On the Legacy of Shubra's Archives—Salam Tram Project*; Sevly Eka Putri, *Sawahlunto: From Ghost Town to World Heritage Site*; Massimo Preite, *The Recovery of the Chiozza Starch Factory: A Successful Example of the Synergy Between Voluntary Work and Public Initiative*; Jose A. Saez Calvo, *Exploring the Industrial Heritage of Sugarcane in Eastern Andalusia: Vestiges and Significance Along*

the Mediterranean Coastline; Steve Gray and Stephen Fielding, *The Kempton Steam Museum: An Introduction*; conference and workshop reports: Patrick Viaene, *The AIA 50th Anniversary Conference and Seminar: A Brief Report*; Robin Debo, *SBA (Section for Business Archives) Conference 2023*; and Mirhan Damir, Moulshri Joshi, and Athira Tp, *Back From Riyadh: IIE (Institute of International Education) 3-Day Workshop on Documenting Industrial Heritage in Saudi Arabia*.

TEXTILES

- ◆ Rachel Slade. **Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (and How It Got That Way)**. Pantheon, 2024. 352 pp., \$28 hardcover. A personal account of one couple's attempt to do the impossible: produce an American-made, union-made, all American-sourced sweatshirt—an American hoodie. Their story takes readers from the Mississippi cotton fields to New York City's hollowed-out garment district to a family-owned zipper company in Los Angeles to enormous knit-and-dye factories in North Carolina. Offers a unique look at global politics, economics, and labor through the story of textile manufacturing.

IRON & STEEL

- ◆ Lynne Squilla. **The Historic Preservation of the 48-Inch Universal Plate Mill**. *Rivers of Steel Blog* (May 16, 2024). <https://riversofsteel.com/the-historic-preservation-of-the-48-inch-universal-plate-mill/>. After spending decades in storage, the 48-in. Universal Plate Mill from the Homestead Works (Pittsburgh, Pa.) is undergoing historic preservation work at the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark. The Smithsonian Institution identified the 48-in. rolling mill as the last of its kind in the world. Tells the story of its dismantling, subsequent moves, and current plans for restoration; includes photos and video.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Marc Belanger, Reno, Nev.; James Bouchard, Montreal, Que.; Arlene Collins, Calumet, Mich.; Bob Frame, St. Paul, Minn.; Mary Habstritt, New York, N.Y.; Patrick Harshbarger, Wilmington, Del.; Neill Herring, Jesup, Ga.; Arron Kotlensky, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Patrick Malone, Barrington, R.I.; Anthony Meadow, Santa Fe, N.M.; Bode Morin, Mountain Top, Pa.; Steve Muller, Troy, N.Y.; Fredric Quivik, Saint Paul, Minn.; Lynn Rakos, Brooklyn, N.Y.; John Reap, Sun City West, Ariz.; Daniel Schneider, Lake Linden, Mich.; Shane Starr, Alturas, Calif.; Robert M. Vogel, Washington, D.C.; Steven Walton, Hancock, Mich.; Suzanne Wray, New York, N.Y.; Helena Wright, Washington, D.C.

With Thanks.

- ◆ Leslie Wayne. **Exploring Pittsburgh's Legacy of Steel**. NYT (Apr. 27, 2024). www.nytimes.com. As part of its Forum Series of commissioned art from living artists, the Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, Pa.) presents "Land Stitches Water Sky," a multi-ton sculpture of steel by the interdisciplinary artist Marie Watt that explores the region's industrial history with I-beams and glass. The article also describes the art-collecting history of Pittsburgh capitalists Carnegie, Frick, and Mellon. The sculpture will be on display through Sept. 22.

LUMBER & PAPER

- ◆ Thomas Curwen. **Storied Presses Print LA Times for the Last Time**. *LA Times* (Mar. 10, 2024). <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-03-10/olympic-plant-last-day>. March 10 was the last run of the *LA Times* at the Olympic printing plant. Editions will now be printed in Riverside by the Southern Calif. Newspaper Group. The presses will be scrapped out and the building will be converted to a movie-TV studio. Dedicated in 1990, the 684,000-sq.-ft. *Times* facility was one of the nation's largest printing plants, employing roughly 450 at its peak. Each of the six press lines was capable of running 70,000 96-page editions. A time capsule was ensconced in the floor of the elegant lobby, to be opened on the paper's bicentennial: Dec. 4, 2081. Feature essay with photography by Genaro Molina.
- ◆ John Lazzaro. **Inside the Abandoned Newton Falls Paper Company**. *Untapped New York* <https://untappedcities.com/2024/04/25/abandoned-newton-falls-paper-mill/>. Newton Falls (N.Y.) Paper Mill prospered for over a century, at times employing hundreds. After many changes in ownership and equipment upgrades and changes, the mill closed in 2011. Features a brief history of the mill and numerous photos.

WATER TRANSPORT

- ◆ SWCA. **Retracing the Past: Historic Preservation of a New England Canalway** (Feb. 5, 2024). <https://www.swca.com/news/2024/02/retracing-the-past-historic-preservation-of-a-new-england-canalway>. Documentation and preservation of the Hampshire and Hampden Canal in western Mass. is underway by SWCA and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). The canalway operated from about 1835–1845. The multi-year project combining historical records, data, LiDAR technology, aerial imagery, and local insights will contribute to a National Register nomination and community projects. Includes photos.

RAILROADS

- ◆ Albert J. Churella. **The Pennsylvania Railroad, Vol. II: The Age of Limits, 1917–1933**. Indiana Univ. Pr., 2023. 891 pp., \$60 hardcover. The author continues the story of the Pennsylvania RR in this volume from the beginning of World War I to the

Great Depression in 1933. Extensively researched and well illustrated, it offers an unparalleled look at the history, the personalities, and the technologies of this iconic American company in a period that marked the shift from building an empire to exploring the limits of corporate power. Rev.: *EH.net* (Mar. 2024): https://eh.net/book_reviews/the-pennsylvania-railroad-volume-ii-the-age-of-limits-1917-1933/. An interview with the author (video or audio-only podcast) is available on the Hagley website: <https://www.hagley.org/research/history-hangout-albert-churella>.

BRIDGES

- ◆ Ronald G. Knapp and Terry E. Miller. **The 1804 Waterford Union Bridge: Correcting the Record.** *New York Almanack* (May 2, 2024). www.newyorkalmanack.com. History of the bridges that have spanned the Hudson at Waterford, N.Y. with a focus on the original 1804 timber bridge built by Theodore Burr and its successor built by his associate Reuben Field in about 1815.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING

- ◆ Mark Milligan. **Excavation Uncovers 19th Century Chocolate Factory in Barcelona.** *Heritage Daily* (Feb. 9, 2024). www.heritagedaily.com/2024/02/excavation-uncovers-19th-century-chocolate-factory-in-barcelona/150495. Archeologists from the Barcelona Archaeology Service (ICUB) excavating in the Ciutat Vella district in Barcelona have uncovered traces of

a 19th-c. chocolate factory. The discovery was made during the renovation of a four-story building in the Plaza de la Llana. During the mid-19th-c., the property was occupied by the Clemente Guardia chocolate factory, one of the most celebrated chocolatiers in Barcelona. Archeologists found architectural elements from the factory, in addition to storage vessels, large pliers, and lead plates used for making labels.

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

- ◆ Eric Curl. **Hotel Proposed to Replace Former Machine Shop Near Waterfront.** *Savannah Morning News* (Feb. 24, 2024). www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2024/02/24/. A new hotel is being planned for the Savannah (Ga.) Downtown Historic District, and the project's architect, J. Elder Studio, petitioned the Historic District Board of Review on behalf of the owner to demolish a former machine fabrication shop at 512 Indian St. as part of the project. The warehouse to be demolished dates back to 1945 and previously housed the Dixie Machine and Fabrication Co., which provided pump repairs, propeller work, and complete welding services, according to the shop's sign.
- ◆ Daniel Dassow. **1940s Stack at Oak Ridge National Laboratory Gets Repaired After Crews Climb 250 Feet Up.** *Knoxville News Sentinel* (Apr. 19, 2024). www.knoxnews.com/story/news/local/2024/04/19/. At a 250-ft. stack at Oak Ridge National Laboratory built in 1949, crews removed the top five feet of the tower and installed a new cap. The 3039 stack is still an operating stack, providing ventilation for the lab's waste

(continued on page 10)

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

TICCIH 2025 Kiruna, First Call for Sessions. The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) invites interested researchers and practitioners to submit proposals for conference sessions to its 19th congress, "Heritage in Action: Legacies of Industry in Future Making" in Kiruna, Sweden, Aug. 25–30, 2025. The congress focuses on controversies surrounding industrial heritage and its relation to wider tensions in present-day society, and addresses key global issues connected to the U.N. sustainability goals and pathways to bridging tensions through heritage. In addition to the overall theme there are 10 sub-themes. Themes will range from sustainability, inclusion, and colonialism to future generations, popular culture, and AI. There also will be several pre- and post-congress excursions offered. The 19th TICCIH Congress is organized by Luleå University of Technology, in collaboration with TICCIH Sweden and Norway, the Swedish National Heritage Board, the municipality of Kiruna, and regional industry and civic leaders. Submit your session abstract of no more than 300 words describing the objectives/topic of the session/

roundtable talk, and a short description of each paper presented (if applicable). **Deadline of call for sessions: Sept. 1, 2024.** For details on sub-themes and to submit a proposal: <https://ticcih2025-kiruna.se/first-call>. ■



Aitik copper mine near Kiruna.

Major Renovations Near Completion at Burden Iron Works Museum

The Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway's Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy, N.Y. is nearing completion of several major exterior renovation projects to the 1882 building. The major projects include the replacement of the main entrance steps and basement steps, and the restoration or replacement of all doors, windows, storm windows, and window trim. The steps, windows, and doors are original to the building, while the storm windows date to the mid-1970s when the Gateway acquired the building from Republic Steel. A less visible but still important element of the project is the installation of insulation in the at-

tic to tighten the building envelope. This work is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the State of New York, with private donations accounting for a 25% match.

Over the past several years the Gateway completed interior renovations to the museum, the principal being restoring and repainting the original plaster walls. The museum floor has been rearranged to improve the visitor experience, and new exhibit space—including a new Precision Instruments Room—was created. This work was funded by private donations and American Recovery Act funds awarded through the City of Troy.



Interior view of museum during soft opening, Fall 2023.



The Burden Iron Works Museum, Troy, N.Y.



A view of exhibits in the museum during the soft opening, Fall 2023.

The museum's collections highlight multiple aspects of the region's industrial past. Artifacts on display cover Henry Burden and his invention of machines to make railroad spikes and horseshoes; the foundry industry, especially stoves and valves; the collar and cuff industry (Troy was known as the "Collar City"); bell casting; precision instruments (the museum has a rare Arms Dividing Engine); and Troy-Bilt rototillers.

The current renovations are expected to be completed by mid-June. At that point the Gateway will resume offering tours on Wed. through Fri., from noon to 5 p.m. Visitors should check the Gateway's website, hudsonmohawkindustrialgateway.org, to confirm when the museum reopens.

A presentation on the long history of renovations to the building was made at the 2018 SIA Annual Conference (Richmond, Va.).

Steve Muller

NOTES & QUERIES

Call for Proposals: The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announces a new book series: **Practical Guides for the Public Historian**. With a focus on establishing accessible introductions to timely topics in public history, this new series will appeal to an audience looking to build careers and solve practical issues. Books in this series will offer brief introductions to fundamental skills and topics of interest to those working with state and local history. Clear language and real-world examples will provide actionable steps for public historians of all backgrounds and organizations of any size. Possible initial titles include Developing a Civic Engagement Plan, Developing an Annual Operating Budget, Diversifying Board Leadership, and Navigating Crisis Management at Small Museums. The books will be published by Rowman & Littlefield. For more info and to submit a proposal: <https://aaslh.org/new-series-practical-guides/>. ■

IA EXHIBITS

New and Improved! The Age of Convenience in the Home, on view at the National Museum of Industrial History (Bethlehem, Pa.) through Sept. 29, 2024, examines what it means to strive for the American Dream following WWII through the end of the 1970s. Advancements in mass production allowed people to acquire prestigious, affordable objects, many of them electrified, designed to make life easier. The exhibit is a multi-dimensional experience that invites the visitor to explore the evolution of material culture in the modern home. Info: www.nmih.org.

Two photographic exhibits related to railroading are on display at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (Altoona, Pa.). **Passing Freight** features modern railroad photography by Stephen Mallon, celebrating the unique beauty and function of freight cars in the U.S. **Contours: Land, Rail, Rau** contains 19th-c. Pennsylvania RR photos by William H. Rau, and is guest-curated by Julie Rockwell, the archivist of the East Broad Top Archives & Special Collections program. Both exhibitions engage the railroad as subject, one documenting its past and the other, its present, in order to stimulate conversation about the future of the railroad and of Altoona. These exhibits will be on display through July 7, 2024. Info: sama-art.org.

Scott Herring 50th Anniversary Photography Retrospective is on view at the Anthracite Heritage Museum (Scranton, Pa.) through Jan. 2026. Beginning as a 13-year-old with a basic camera, Herring dedicated much of his free time to recording and documenting the last vestiges of the once-vast anthracite industry. Over a half-century he amassed an exceptional library of over 288,000 images capturing the

mines, machinery, landscape, and people engaged in the industry that gave meaning, economy, and identity to millions of Northeast Pa. residents. Info: www.anthracitemuseum.org.

Structures of Steel—traveling exhibit available. This exhibit is readily available to museums and historic sites from the Steelworks Center of the West in Pueblo, Colo. The center has budgeted for free shipping in crates to interested museums or historic sites. The exhibit includes photographs and framed copies of 30 original and architectural and engineering schematics created during the early part of the 20th c., when the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. (CF&I) in Pueblo underwent a massive expansion program between 1895–1905. The images include headframes, skip cars/hoist house, blast furnace, dust catcher, gas washer, helical stairways, chimneys for the blast furnace, and more. Exhibit terms are negotiable; contact Victoria Miller, victoria.miller@steelworks.us, to learn more or make arrangements for your institution. ■



Industrial Archeology Image Archive (IAIA) Revamped

The online IAIA—or (IA)²—hosted at Michigan Tech (<https://indarch.mtu.edu/>) was created in the early 2000s to make the Robert M. Vogel slide collection available to the public for research and viewing. More recently, updates were needed in order to restore compatibility with modern operating systems and the university's web security protocols. Over the last academic year the programming team that was rebuilding the university archives' image database for similar reasons also ported the IAIA database and associated images over to their new Drupal open-source web content management system (many thanks to Bob Cowling and his team!), and it is once again live and aesthetically much improved.

The site now hosts nearly 2,000 images from Vogel's extensive 35mm slide collection. Images can be viewed by site name, country, or industry type (currently food processing, tourism, manufacturing, materials, mining,

power, transportation, warehousing, or "general"), by a specific industry (nearly 2 dozen terms), and by type of structure (dam, railroad switch, steam engine, etc.). Corrections continue to be made as needed, such as adjusting images or industry type labels. A general keyword search with Boolean capabilities, as well as multiple tagging options, are also in the works.

It is hoped that next academic year we can get funding to clean up the existing database, scan and add more of Vogel's slides, and also add scans from a slide collection bequeathed to Michigan Tech by Edward Rutsch. We encourage you to browse and enjoy the IAIA and use the images in your research. Please contact SIA HQ (sia@siahq.org) if you would like to use them in publications or other media.

Steven Walton

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (continued from page 7)

operations. It is expected to operate another 10 years before it is taken down. Includes photo gallery.

- ◆ Charles Ellery Hall. **Hudson River Brick Making: Two Kingston Brick Yards, 1905.** *New York Almanack* (April 30, 2024). www.newyorkalmanack.com. Excerpt of article from July, 1905 issue of *Building Trades and Employers' Association Bulletin* describes operations at the Schulz and Terry Bros. brickyards in Kingston, N.Y.

MISC. INDUSTRIES

- ◆ **Kaolin Clay Smoking Pipes: History Fragments With Stories To Tell.** *New York Almanack* (Apr. 30, 2024). www.newyorkalmanack.com. Archeologists identify pipe fragments found at Schoharie Crossing State Park (N.Y.) as the product of the Tippet family, a major manufacturer of clay pipes in England in the 17th and 18th c.
- ◆ Rachel Lerman (photography and videos by Kate Dearman). **Vinyl LPs Now Outsell CDs. See How Records Get Made in 2024.** *Washington Post* (Apr. 20, 2024). www.washingtonpost.com/business/interactive/2024/how-vinyl-records-made-taylor-swift/. The *Washington Post* visited Nashville's United Record Pressing, which made the first Beatles single in the U.S. in 1963, to witness the 2024 vinyl-making process and watch a Tyler, the Creator record get pressed. Story, photos, and videos show how records are made, from lacquer to label.
- ◆ Helen Allen Nerska. **E.H. Barnum, Maker of 'All Kinds and Qualities of Combs.'** *New York Almanack* (Apr. 30, 2024). www.newyorkalmanack.com. Describes how combs were made by cutting and heating shell, horn, or hoof material in the early 19th c., based on

what is known about a comb factory that once operated in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CBT | = <i>Covered Bridge Topics</i> , published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges |
| IA Review | = Journal of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (U.K.), www.industrial-archaeology.org . |
| NRHS | = National Ry. Historical Society |
| NYT | = <i>New York Times</i> |
| SCA | = Society for Commercial Archeology |
| SPOOM | = Society for the Preservation of Old Mills |
| TICCIH | = The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, https://ticcih.org . |
| TT | = <i>Timber Transfer</i> . Published by Friends of the East Broad Top. Avail. with membership. \$30/yr. www.febt.org . |
| WSJ | = <i>Wall Street Journal</i> |

Publications of Interest are compiled from books, articles, and digital media brought to our attention by you, the reader. SIA members are encouraged to send citations of new and recent books, articles, CDs, DVDs, etc., especially those in their own areas of interest and those obscure titles that may not be known to other SIA members. *Publications of Interest*, c/o Marni Blake Walter, Editor, SIA Newsletter, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; sianeditor@siahq.org. ■

SITES & STRUCTURES

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2024 includes three places with IA interest:

Estate Whim Museum, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The St. Croix Landmarks Society (Landmarks) has leased and operated Estate Whim as a 12-acre historic site since 1954. It includes sugar mills, slave quarters, a bathhouse, a cookhouse, a watch-house, and a great house built in 1794. The museum's collections include Crucian furniture, decorative arts, and other artifacts, as well as a research library and archives significant to understanding the history of St. Croix and the broader Caribbean. Hurricanes Irma and Maria severely damaged Estate Whim Museum's historic buildings and structures in 2017. Landmarks recognizes the urgent need

to repair and secure the historic buildings and collections at Estate Whim Museum, but they need support and resources to move forward. Info: www.stcroixlandmarks.org.

Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, Athens, N.Y. Opened in 1874, the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse is one of only two "middle-of-the-river" lighthouses remaining on the Hudson River. The lighthouse was built to guide vessels around a shallow area in the river near the towns of Athens and Hudson, and continues to serve as a navigation aid today, helping commercial and leisure mariners safely navigate this portion of the Hudson. It is also open to the public as a museum. Erosion caused by ever larger and deeper commercial ships traveling the Hudson River, as well as ice flows, tides, and currents, has significantly damaged the 200 underwater wood pilings that support the lighthouse, and engineering reports indicate the building is at risk of collapse within three years if no action is taken. The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society has begun a campaign to raise funding to restore the lighthouse and install an underwater steel curtain which would keep it from collapsing into the river. Info: halps.org.

New Salem Baptist Church, Tams, W.Va. Built in 1921, the New Salem Baptist Church is a physical reminder of the important contributions of Black coal miners to the coal industry in the U.S. The church was a center of community for Black families in the culturally diverse coal company town of Tams, once home to around 1,250 people. After the mine closed in the 1960s and the last residents left Tams in the 1980s, the membership of New Salem Baptist Church declined. Although community support for the church is strong, the building needs more upkeep and repairs than the small, geographically dispersed congregation can currently handle. The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is working with the congregation and area residents to raise awareness and funds for preservation of the New Salem Baptist Church. Info: www.pawv.org. ■



User: Kadim2048, CC BY-SA 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons

Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, 2006.

**Need a gift for a Graduate?
Give an SIA membership!**



TRUSS us, they'll have a **BLAST** and the price is a **STEEL**!

See the SIA website for details and to purchase your gift:
<http://www.sia-web.org/membership/gift-membership/>

**SOCIETY FOR
INDUSTRIAL
ARCHEOLOGY**

Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton MI 49931-1295

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Houghton, MI 49931

CALENDAR

2024

June 24–26: World Canals Conference, Bydgoszcz, Poland. Info: inlandwaterwaysinternational.org.

July 9–14: Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Viña del Mar, Chile.
Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Aug. 26–31: National Railway Historical Society Convention, Harrisburg, Pa. Info: nrhs.com/convention/.

Sept. 14–29: Anthracite Heritage Museum U.K. Industrial Heritage Tour 2024, Glasgow to Portsmouth.
Info: www.anthracitemuseum.org/united-kingdom-industrial-heritage-tour-2024/.

Sept. 20–22: Society for Commercial Archeology 2024 Roadtrip: A Walk Through Nashville's Neon Canyon, Nashville, Tenn. Info: sca-roadside.org.

Sept. 21–26: 16th Symposium of the International Molinological Society, Ponte de Sor and Valongo, Portugal. Info: www.molinology.org.

Sept. 27–28: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Annual Conference, West Plains, Mo.
Info: www.spoom.org.

Oct. 4–6: Association for Industrial Archaeology Conference, Cardiff, U.K. Info: industrial-archaeology.org.

2025

Aug. 25–30: TICCIH (The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage) 19th Congress: Heritage In Action: Legacies of Industry In Future Making, Kiruna, Sweden. See call for sessions in this issue. Info: <https://ticcih2025-kiruna.se>.

Sept. 23–26: Early Railways 8: International Conference on Early Railways, Darlington, U.K.
Info: rchs.org.uk/early-railways-conference-combined/.