

# THE TREVITHICK SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 19

NOVEMBER 1977

Edited by J. Hodge at Trannack House, Penzance



The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel High Street Dartford Kent

Built in 1703 to serve London to Dover coaching traffic the recently restored Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel has played its full part in Dartford's history. It was here that famous Cornish inventor Richard Trevithick died and later Queen Victoria rested overnight.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society  
held at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London on 24 September 1977.

1. **PRESENT:** Chairman, Secretary and Twenty-six members
2. The Chairman welcomed members to the Science Museum and the A. G. M. of the Society
3. **APOLOGIES:** The Secretary presented the apologies of the President, Mr. Jenkin, Mr. Trounson, Mr. Harris, Mr. Yelland and seven others
4. **MINUTES OF THE 1976 A. G. M.** - Mr. Messenger expressed a desire that the reasons for his decision not to stand for re-election at the previous A. G. M. should be corrected and on his proposition and being seconded by Mr. Shambrook the following alteration was proposed to the 1976 Minutes (para 9 (c)):-

"Whilst it is true I was a member of the Cornish Waterwheels Preservation Society at the time the Gawns was in danger of collapsing, I was not involved in its dismantling. In fact I was Secretary of the C. W. P. S. at that time and was very closely involved in the negotiations with E. C. C. Directors and the local landowner that led to this great wheel being dismantled and saved. I hope that this puts one aspect of my deep disaffection with the policies of this Society's Council in better perspective."

5. There were no matters arising

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT:- The Secretary presented his Report in the form annexed hereto.

Discussion ensued on the situation regarding the East Pool compressor and winding house. The Chairman referred to the difficulties faced by the National Trust in considering the future of Robinson's Engine and Mr. Messenger, after commenting that these buildings were rare if not unique, proposed that the action of the Secretary both at the site meeting discussed and in his subsequent comments to the Press be supported. This was seconded and carried unanimously. Further comments were made on the question of the possible demolition of the E. P. A. L. stack and on the general tone and moral attitude of the owners of historic buildings which were blighted from present use without being maintained. It was suggested that the sale of the machinery in the buildings served as an indication of the Company's attitude.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Secretary - Mr. Messenger proposed Mr. Stephens as Secretary for the ensuing year and this was seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer - Mr. Stephens proposed Mr. Batters and this was seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JOURNAL EDITOR - Mr. Stengelhofen was proposed, seconded by Mr. Messenger and the motion was carried unanimously.

Council of Management retiring in rotation - The Secretary proposed that Messrs. Yelland, Brooke, Hodge, Trounson, Stengelhofen and Law should be re-elected en bloc and the resolution was carried unanimously.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT - Accounts had been circulated which had in fact been prepared by Mr. Messenger. The Secretary had spoken to Mr. Batters in the last few days and it appears that there were no urgent matters which Mr. Batters wished to draw to the attention of the Society.

9. The Chairman drew the attention of the Meeting to the proposals for a mining museum at Tregurtha Downs to be developed by the National Trust with the possibility at least that the Society might be able to play some part and possibly have a headquarters on the site.

Mr. Law commented on the organisation of the A. I. A. 1978 Conference and made the point that help was needed from as many members as possible unless an intolerable strain was to be placed on the officers of the Society. He asked for any member willing and able to help to contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

Mr. Messenger urged most strongly that the Society should indeed have its own base which he thought was necessary for the continued momentum of the Society, which he felt was suffering from only a few members actually participating actively in the work of the Society. Mr. Messenger commented that it would be a disaster for the Society if the Secretary should resign and suggested again that more meetings should be held to draw members together and that the Society could do with a thorough shake-up.

Finally, it was proposed by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mr. Chris Trounson that:-

"This Society would wish to consider an offer of the East Pool compressor and winder house buildings if offered by South Crofty Ltd. without expense to the Society."

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.15 a. m.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

I must apologise to members this year for what will be a shorter report than usual. I have recently completed moving house and I am sure members will be well aware of all that this entails. Perhaps this would be a good opportunity to give notice that all future correspondence to me should be addressed to Prospect Villa, Greenbank Road, Devoran, Nr Truro, Cornwall.

The Society had a quieter year generally, and while the Council of Management has continued to meet on a regular basis it is fair to say that it has been a year of consolidation. I am pleased to say that membership has continued to increase and it is to be hoped that the increase in subscription at the last AGM will ensure that the Society's finances remain on an even keel for some time. The Society must now really be looking forward to hosting the Association for Industrial Archeology national conference in September 1978 in Penzance. This will require a considerable amount of work and organisation to make a success and members who are able to help in any way - particularly those living in the Penzance area - are asked to contact the Secretary as soon as possible. We shall require Stewards, Guides, and many other posts filled to make sure the Conference runs smoothly.

So far as publications are concerned, again I am afraid that the Journal is not ready for distribution. I hope, however, that it may be ready and indeed already dispatched by the time these remarks are read in the Society's November newsletter. Mr. Jack Trounson's collection of historical photos has now been completely sifted and a final selection made. The Society is in

active consultation with Publishers with a view to having this volume published during 1978. Bryan Earle's Cornish Explosives is with the Printers and we hope to have this available before many months have passed.

The changes in Council during the year really only affect the Treasurership which Mr. John Batters has kindly taken over.

The most immediate and serious problem of the year has been the proposal by South Crofty Ltd to apply for listed building consent to demolish East Pool Compressor and Winder House. The Society has made representations to the local Planning Authority, the Department of the Environment, and the Company and attended a site meeting at which there was a vigorous but constructive discussion. The application has subsequently been withdrawn and it only remains to ascertain what action will be taken by South Crofty with regard to repairs to the building. This is a matter which must continue to be watched carefully, but there would not seem to be any useful purpose served by going into details here at the present time.

My thanks must go to Rodney Law for taking over the Chairmanship, Mr. Trounson for making available his collection of photographs to the Society, Mr. Batters for acting as Treasurer (and Mr. Messenger for his efforts in the past) and Jim Hodge and John Stenglehofen for respectively editing the newsletter and journal.

While I have referred to the year as one of consolidation it could be said to be one in which forward momentum has slackened. It seems to me that there has always only been a relatively small group of persons in the Society who are actively carrying out its work and the Society has not carried out any real survey recording or preservation work. I personally feel that this is perhaps connected with the lack of our own premises to act as a real base and focal point for the Society's work. The Council of Management has considered the problem on numerous Occasions but so far no real solutions have presented themselves. Mrs Lindy Stengelhofen (45 Treworder Road, Redannick, Truro, Cornwall) has kindly assisted me by taking over the post of Sales & Publications Officer and in future all enquiries for publications should be addressed to her. Nevertheless, for personal reasons I think that I should give notice to the Society now that I feel a change in Secretary would be desirable before too long.

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#### A descendant of Richard Trevithick in Japan.

Vivian Willis has provided a cutting from a recent issue of the excellent local magazine issue "Cornish Life" which will be of interest to members. It reads as follows:-

Neil Pedlar, one of our readers in Yokohama, Japan, has written to us with details of a remarkable Cornish link - a Japanese man living in Yokohama with Cornish blood in his veins, the blood of the great engineer Richard Trevithick (1771-1833). He writes: "Richard's prolific son, Francis, had ten children and two of these came to Japan in the middle of the 19th century to build the first railways and get Japan on the industrial trail. One of these sons, Francis Henry who died in 1931, married a Japanese girl and had four children, and one of these, Yoshitaro Richard, studied navigation in London. He returned to Japan and was appointed captain of the 'Hakusan Maru' that ran, in those pre-airline days, between Yokohama and London calling at Hong Kong and other ports en route. The Japanese authorities insisted that he should change his name before he could become a master in a Japanese shipping company, and so Mr. Trevithick became Captain Okuno. It was the captain's son who talked to me, with the help of an interpreter, just a few days ago. Taro works for Lloyd's of London here in Yokohama and, although he has never set foot in Cornwall, he is truly proud of his ancestry and the effect that his family has had on the world since the 'Puffing Billy'."

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Our Secretary provides the following reviews and notes:-

#### PAMPHLET REVIEWS

Dr. R. A. Buchanan, the immediate past President of the A. I. A. has issued as a booklet (available at 10p from the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology, Exeter University, Claverton Down, Exeter) under the title "The Progress of Industrial Archeology" his personal thoughts on the nature of industrial archeology and such aspects as recording, protection, and preservation. Of particular interest to members of the Society will be Dr. Buchanans choice of a cover illustration - Robinsons Engine House at South Crofty.

Professor Minchinton's Exeter AIA group have produced two new publications on Windmills and Toll Houses in Devon. Windmills of Devon by Walter Minchinton (56 pages - A5 - 60p from the Department of Economic History, University of Exeter) is a gazetteer of all known Windmills in Devon with photographs and plans and is very much in the format of the previous tidemill publication. It is to be hoped that in future years a further edition can be produced to give more details of the history of the use of some of the more obscure examples.

Devon Toll houses by John Kanefsky (A5 - 30p) is similarly in a gazetteer format but contains a most useful introduction on various elements of the turnpike trust system.

#### REGIONAL IA GUIDES

For members visiting different parts of this country on holiday pocket regional guides can be worth their weight in gold. Two examples have come to light.

First, a guide to the Industrial Heritage of Merseyside (48 pages available from Merseyside County Museums, William Brown Street, Liverpool.) which has been published by the North Western Society for Industrial Archeology as long ago as 1974. One dreads to think how many of the entries will have vanished since then. This seems an extensive list including such diverse monuments as Canal Locks, Tarworks, Breweries, Brickworks, Safety fuse Manufacturers, Paper Mills etc. Some photographs are included and each site has an OS reference.

Secondly, Industrial Heritage, issued by the East Midlands Tourist Board of Bailgate, Lincoln at 50p. This is more concerned with sites and museums actually open to the public and contains opening times.

#### OTHER IA SOCIETY JOURNALS

Three journals, all A4 in size, have recently come into the hands of the secretary. Together they show the ability of local societies to develop to the point where they can produce and support their own journal, and in each case the standard of cover design is of particular excellence - although for one of them, "bias", this is really only what has come to be expected from Roy Day.

The "bias" journal (90p from the Society at Bristol City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol) is of 40 pages and as well as book reviews and a notes and news section, there are articles in this issue on the old brass mills of Saltford, the early years of Stoddart and Pitt and the identification of any early plan of Bristol showing industrial sites. This can only be a selection to whet the appetite. The production is clear with good reproduction of photographs and drawings and plenty of footnotes for further research.

By contrast while the journal of the North Western Society for Industrial Archeology and History has a most interesting cover design, the standard of the printing and quality of reproduction of photographs leaves a lot to be desired by comparison. However, the contents of this 26 page volume includes articles on the St Helens Canal extension 1830-1833, the Windmills of Wirral and glass making in St Helens among others which will undoubtedly be of interest to a wider group than the members of that Society alone. It is perhaps debateable whether it is worth attempting photographs by the Society's current printing process or whether the space might be better given over to text.

Lastly, the journal of the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society. This is a volume of 48 pages at a price of 75p and is available from the Secretary of the Society at 33 Barrow Drive, Taunton, Somerset. This must surely take the prize for the most improved journal of 1976. The Society's first issue in 1975 was of interest, but issue 2 is more than an improvement, it is a transformation. The Cover design is particularly striking, being devoted to a line drawing of a locomotive in use on the West Somerset mineral railway in the early years of this century. The plans and drawings are clear and are in dual measurement scales, the type is clear, the text well laid out with useful paragraph headings. On reflection the only surprise is the absence of any photographs, which is presumably due to the printing process employed. Nevertheless the standard of the publication and its appearance is so good that this can only be a minor blemish. As for the contents there are most interesting articles on the development of a quarry, the prehistory of the West Somerset railway and proposed extension of the West Somerset railway to Eisen Hill - the latter two articles both from private papers which have only recently come to light. However, this reviewer must declare interest in the article by F & P Hawtin on the Stogumber Brewery, 1840-1873. Although now apparently demolished this reviewer has memories of visiting this site some ten or more years ago on a brilliant summer afternoon and finding the semi-ruinous buildings in their silvern setting calmly considering a world which had passed them by but apparently satisfied by their recollections of days when, with the Queen Empress securing the prosperity of her people, the brewery at Stogumber was able to make use of its nationally acclaimed supply of pure water to supply beers and mineral waters to a wide market. The plans are good, but in this case particularly a photograph above all else would have been such a valuable addition. Similarly an illustration by way of example of beer label or advertising poster would have been most welcome. Instead, we have an example of industrial verse which goes a long way to make up for these other losses:-

Stay, Reader! Stay a little while,  
Whilst fifty thou canst scarcely number,  
And read, pourtrayed in homly style,  
The praise and virtues of Stogumber.

Go search the Kingdon thro' and thro' --  
From Royal Thames to Northern Humber,  
No ale, or Porter, Man can brew,  
Will bear the prize from bright Stogumber.

Ye cider sellers, hide your head;  
Rejoice each painter and each plumber, --  
You all who dabble much in Lead,  
May safely quaff the pure Stogumber.

Does pain of Mind or pain of Body,  
Weight you down or banish Slumber?  
Fly from Brandy--Fin-- or Toddy--  
But take a glass of rich Stogumber.

Do Aching Thighs (whene'er you move)  
And Stiffening joints, your walk encumber,  
Would you move brisk? then haste and prove,  
The Strengthening power of pure Stogumber.

But one month since, my Legs were lank,  
Each rib with ease I then could number,  
But now I'm plump, and how? I drank,  
Each day, a pint of pale Stogumber.

Last year the Society's Chairman, Brian Murles found his choice of verse quoted and again his extract from "A sketch of Bridgewater and its Neighbourhood" by G. Parker gives a pleasant rural inflection to industrial archeology in Somerset:-

'Tis pleasant, when the summer breezes play  
Along the Parret's winding banks to stray,  
To meet the vessels with their flowing sails,  
Bearing their cargos from the coast of Wales..."

#### INDUSTRIAL MUSEUMS

Members intending to go on holiday to different parts of the country may find details of the following museums of use:-

1. The National Musical Museum, 368 High Street, Brentford, Middx.  
Tel: 01-560-8108  
Open Sats and Sun. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. April to October inclusive.  
Admission 60p.
2. Pilkington Glass Museum, Prescott Road, St. Helens, Merseyside  
Tel: St. Helens (0744) 28882  
Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Wed 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (March to October only)  
Weekends and Bank holidays 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
Admission free
3. Coalport Chinaworks Museum, Ironbridge Gorge near Telford, Shropshire  
Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in April to October inclusive - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. November to March inclusive  
The Museum buildings form the former Coalport China Works and there is an extensive display of the former Company's products in the bottle ovens
4. Mining Museum, Lounde Hall, Retford, Notts.  
Tel: Mansfield 860728  
Open on the first Sunday of each month. April to October - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. November to March - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Some of the exhibits include an underground canal barge, two locomotives, tramway waggon, turbo generator, winding equipment, underground galleries, head stocks, miners' lamps and documents such as posters and Union activities.
5. The Bass Museum, Horninglow Street, Burton on Trent, Staffs  
Open daily from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
(Sat Sun and Bank Holidays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.)  
It is possible to arrange visits to the Brewery if you pre-book. The Museum is laid out to present a panoramic view of the growth of the industry and incorporating sections which cover the evolution of brewing, early brewing in Britain, the developments of brewing at Burton Abbey, the importance of Burton well water, the Trent navigation and the Trent & Mersey canal, the Baltic trade, E. India Pale Ale and the Indian market, the growth of Burton and the coming of the railways, the developments in engineering, the growth of the home trade, the influence of the pub, World War I and II, advertising, the social life of the Company and the modern developments.  
External exhibits will include a compound steam engine, a complete Victorian model brewery and an early Bass steam locomotive and Directors' coach.
6. Worsbrough Mill Museum, Worsbrough, Barnsley, St. Yorks.  
Tel: Barnsley 0226-203961  
Sited on the A. 61 and open from Wed. to Sun. between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Admission 10p.
7. N.W. Museum of Science & Industry, 97 Grosvenor Street, Manchester  
Tel: 061-273-6636  
Covering the industry of Manchester and the north Western areas, the Museum is open Monday to Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. throughout the year.  
Admission free

8. Dinting Railway Centre, Dinting Lane, Dinting, Glossop  
Tel: Glossop 5596  
Daily from dawn to dusk - locomotives in steam each Sunday from early March to end of October and Bank Holidays. Various locomotives on display
9. Helmshore Textile Museum, Holcombe Road, Helmshire, Rossendale  
Located in a Mill constructed in 1789 there is 20' water wheel and early textile machinery. Visits by appointment only - Tel: Rossendale 26459
10. Lewis Textile Museum, Exchange Street, Blackburn, Lancs  
Tel: Blackburn 667130  
Established in 1937. Different textile machines of the industrial revolution are on display including Hargreaves' spinning Jenny. Arkwright's frame and Crompton's mule  
Open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and on Wed & Fri 10 a. m. to 7 p. m.  
Closed on Sundays
11. Steam Town, Carnforth, Lancs  
Tel: Carnforth 2625 or Hest Bank 823368  
A large collection of railway engines from Britain and abroad  
Open 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

Justin Brooke has lent a photocopy of a letter from Andrew Vivian (Trevithick's partner in the early locomotive work) to Richard Tregaskis, dated 8 April 1834. It is reproduced here, with the text below.

Camborne 8 April 1834

Dear Sir

I have yours dated 3 March which I believe was written the 3rd Instant, as on that day I received it, and in reply I beg leave to inform you that I do not know the exact date of the patent it being left with Trevithick who cannot now give any Acc<sup>t</sup> of it

In referring to my book I find the following entries

1807 James Watt's (with additions by Trevithick) process of patent 1178  
 Decr 22 Balance of Bill of Patent office paid by Watt 1761  
 You also entries for machine at Camborne had which brought into the world May 22 1804 This carriage mine at Camborne some considerable time before the patent was obtained Any further information that Mr. Clegg may wish to be informed of shall be happy to give as far as my power

and am  
 My Dear Sir Yours Most truly  
 Andrew Vivian

*R. Tregaskis*

Copy of letter

Camborne 8 April 1834

Dear Sir,

I have yours dated 3 March which I believe was written the 3rd Instant, as on that day I received it, and in reply I beg leave to inform you that I do not know the exact date of the patent it being left with Trevithick who cannot now give any Acc<sup>t</sup> of it.

On reference to my Cash Book I find the following entry  
1802 Jan'y & Feb'y Cash advanced to Trevithick procuring patent £100-11  
March 22nd Balance of Bill at patent office paid by A. V. - 19-16-6

I find other entries for erecting a Carriage at Camborne paid wheel wright, smiths etc dated May 22nd 1801, this Carriage runed at Camborne some considerable time before the patent was obtained. Any further information that Mr Enys may wish to be informed of shall be happy to give as far as in my power.

and am

my Dear Sir

Yours Most Truly

And.<sup>w</sup> Vivian

Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Tregaskis

(Patents were evidently very expensive even at the beginning of the 19th century, but in 1834 the post, without benefit of stamps, was more reliable than nowadays. Ed.)

Listing - of watermills in particular

Our member, J. Burrows of 35 Cleveland Gardens, Earnes, London SW13 is particularly concerned about listing and preservation of the surviving water mills in Cornwall. In this connection and because of the slowing down of the re-survey work being carried out by the conservation staff of the D. O. E., he sends copies of two documents which are of interest. The first is an extract from a letter written by the Chief Investigator of Historic Buildings at the D. O. E., - Oct 1971, to a County Planning Officer. In this he says:

"Surviving water mills are almost always listable, particularly when, as in this case, they still contain their original machinery. I have recommended that it should be added to the Statutory List."

The second is a press handout from the D. O. E. dated 7 Oct 1977 and is quoted in full:

7 October 1977

HISTORIC BUILDINGS LISTING TO BE SLOWED DOWN

Because of staff cuts the Department of the Environment is slowing down its national resurvey of buildings of special architectural interest, but amenity societies have been told that this should not mean that any buildings worth listing should be lost.

At a meeting last night with representatives of the main amenity societies, Lady Birk, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, said that the conservation staff of the Department, like any other branch of the Civil Service, had to face cuts. She had the difficult task of deciding where staffing economies would do the least harm. It was essential that the more immediate conservation work of the Department should continue, so that no building in the department's care or in receipt of grant aid should suffer. One course then was to suspend the resurvey for listed buildings. She had strongly and successfully resisted this and was able to reassure amenity societies that the resurvey would continue, necessarily at a slower pace.

"Although the resurvey has unfortunately had to be slowed down no building which merits inclusion in the statutory list and which is threatened will be lost", said Lady Birk. "The local authority can issue a Building Preservation Notice which will protect the building until the Department decides whether to uphold the listing. When the local authority refuses to issue a Building Preservation Notice the Department would itself use the emergency listing process."

Lady Birk said it had been a hard choice to make "I wanted to avoid reducing staff employed in conserving ancient monuments and historic buildings in the Department's care, or those administering the conservation and repair grants made to local authorities and private owners for work in conservation areas and on outstanding historic buildings. It must be remembered that the Department had now taken on the new responsibility for giving grants to historic churches, without additional staff. I decided therefore that repair and maintenance of buildings must come before progress on the statutory lists."

Lady Birk said eleven professional and administrative posts would be saved, by normal retirement and transfer - a modest reduction in view of the pressing need to reduce the manpower in the public sector.

During discussions, Lady Birk said it was possible that members of amenity societies could help make the best use of the Department's reduced resources by collecting information on historic buildings in their areas. The representatives of the amenity societies said they would consider this and discuss it at their next joint meeting.

The organisations represented at the meeting were the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Georgian Group, Victorian Society, Ancient Monuments Society, Council for British Archaeology, Civic Trust, Council for the Protection of Rural England, and Save Britain's Heritage.

#### NOTE TO EDITORS

Listed buildings are those buildings of special architectural or historical interest which cannot be demolished or altered significantly without formal consent.

The resurvey of historic buildings throughout the country was started in 1967 and was not expected to be completed for another ten or fifteen years.

A Building Preservation Notice is served by a local authority. It protects a building for up to six months while the Secretary of State determines whether it should be added to the statutory list.

Mr. Burrows himself works in the listing section of the D. O. E. and writes:

If you consider it worthwhile to pursue the exercise perhaps you would care to send me lists (preferably District by District or Parish by Parish) of all the surviving mills not already listed or scheduled.

All I would need would be the correct name and address, in each case, and a site plan or map reference.

If there were photographs this would be a bonus - although I could in fact ask the District Councils for photos. As you say it will be years before the Investigators are able to visit Rural areas but these mills could be assessed from photographs if they were adequate: I will have a go at photographing some myself next summer, but in the meantime, would greatly appreciate your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

J. Burrows

Will any member who can help, please get in touch with Mr Burrows direct.

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Roy Shambrook, of 29 Fairlawn Grove, Chiswick, London W4, writes as follows:

#### Meets 1978

"A friend and I would like to extend an invitation to members of the Society to accompany us on a combined surface and underground meet to the Carodon/Phoenix/Tokenbury/Darleyford Areas at Easter 1978.

At this juncture, the meet will commence on Good Friday and close on Easter Monday p. m. Most Cornish members know where Crows Nest Village (foot of Carodon Hill) G.R. 264694 is situated, or alternatively all could meet outside Butterdon Mill Nr. Merrymeet A. 390.

For those wishing to camp, Butterdon Mill is a recognised site with all amenities, also provisions can be obtained nearby.

We envisage both surface and underground trips, and possibly evening entertainment i. e. mineral specimen swapping and photographs - also we are trying to arrange a speaker to give us a talk on Mining royalties/leases etc.

Excuse my mentioning next Easter so soon - it would give members plenty of Advance warning!

I would suggest that everyone should make their own camping etc arrangements. More precise details will follow nearer the time.

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#### New Books

John Taylor - Mining Entrepreneur and Engineer 1779 - 1863, by Dr. R. Burt.  
91pp. Published by Moorland Publishing Co., The Market Place, Hartington,  
Buxton, Derby, SK17 0AL. Price £2-00.

Treasurer of the Geological Society of London and of University College London, as well of The British Association for the Advancement of Science (of which he was a founder member) and too a Fellow of the Royal Society, John Taylor has waited too long for a biography. Not that this one is full - it cannot be, for as Dr. Burt himself says, "It does little more than pull together scraps of information and accounts of particular activities gleaned from a multiplicity of different sources and present them in a general chronological and topical form," and there are as yet no other sources. The reader will look in vain, for instance, for details of John Taylor's home and family life - my observation that such details were lacking when I presented my note in the July/August 1975 Newsletter still stands. To quote again Dr. Burt, the present volume puts forward "... a business biography and a record of his public interests and contributions;" it is a credit to the author that he does it well. Taylor's involvement in mining throughout the United Kingdom is well covered, including his rare failure in Derbyshire, at Alport Mines. His only other major (but colossal) failure, in Mexico, is considered in detail - indeed this chapter presents a story not previously readily available to the U. K. reader. But there are still gaps in the narrative and the start of some of Taylor's projects remains unclear - and both may remain so for some time. For instance, one looks in vain for much detail in Taylor's Irish involvement. However his expertise in selecting subordinates is well brought out by Dr. Burt and the keystones



to Taylor's U.K. success are clearly described. The relevance of these latter to the Mexican fiáscio and to the end of Taylor's Consolidated venture in Gwennap is well drawn out. Yet Cornish mining only plays one role in the story - Taylor was a Norwich man and his business was London based. The story Dr. Burt has reconstructed is a valuable one and the publication of this book (by Moorland Publishing Company, The Market Place, Hartington, Buxton, Derbys. SK17 0AL at £2, paper covered) is an important step in mining history. A must for all mining historians' bookshelves.

Reviewed by C. C. Short

(In summing up the book as a whole, I think that Colin Short has perhaps played down a little too much its interest to those concerned with Cornish mining in particular. It is indeed a fascinating record of some important aspects of Cornish mining and its connection with mining elsewhere in the first half of the 19th century. Ed)

"The Search for Silver" Cornish Miners in Mexico 1824-1947

by A. C. Todd. To be published by Lodenek Press, Padstow, Cornwall November 1977. 212pp text + 24pp of photos etc and 4 of maps. Published price £5-25. Prepublication price £4-75 inc p & p.

No copy is yet available for review, but a descriptive leaflet is enclosed with the Newsletter. Will members ordering direct on the form attached to the leaflet please note the fact that they are doing so as a result of receiving it with the N. L. by marking the order "member of Trevithick Society".

"SONG FROM THE EARTH" :

Selected poems of John Harris, Cornish miner 1820 - 1882. Edited by D. M. Thomas.

The name of John Harris has appeared from time to time in the Trevithick Society's newsletter, over various verse on mining themes. Harris was something of a phenomenon in his time; a very considerable poet who wrote and published fifteen books of verse and an autobiography, he survived twenty years of work at Dolcoath mine in its heyday (when the average expectation of a miner's life was less than thirty years). The interest shown in him by the mine captain, Charles Thomas, and other gentlemen, led to a post being obtained for him as Bible Reader or town missionary in Falmouth. But the mines run like an irresistible theme throughout his verse: his longer poems such as A Story of Carn Brea and Kynance Cove, as well as many of his shorter pieces, are full of mining imagery and experiences.

Harris has been neglected and almost forgotten since he died. Now, with the aid of an Arts Council grant, the Lodenek Press, Padstow is publishing a wide selection of his works, illustrated with fine photos by David Hills of Camborne. There is a critical introduction by the modern Redruth poet, D.M. Thomas, who has made the selection, and a long extract from Harris' own biography. Anyone interested in 19th century Cornish life will be fascinated by John Harris and his poems - a treasury rediscovered.

(To be published at the end of November, price £1-20 in paperback; £3-50 in hardback.)

The following are two samples of John Harris' poems:-

COPPER AND TIN

Copper has colours different in the ores,  
As various as the rainbow, - black and blue  
And green and red and yellow as a flower;  
Gold-coloured here, there dimly visible,  
Though rich the same in measure and in meed.  
'Tis found alike where glittering granite gloams,  
Where killas darkens, and where gassans shroud,  
And oft where wise ones write it cannot be,  
Thus wisely scattered by the Hand Divine.  
Tin is more secret far, with duller eye  
Oft hiding in the river's shingle bed  
Or the flint's bosom, near the Central fires;  
In chambers wide, or veins like silken lace;  
So that the labourer, stumbling on a start,  
Wipes his hot brow, and cries, "Lo, here is tin."

John Harris

from THE MINE

Hast ever seen a mine? Hast ever been  
Down in its fabled grottos, wall'd with gems,  
And canopied with torrid mineral-belts,  
That blaze within the fiery orifice?  
Hast ever, by the glimmer of the lamp,  
Or the fast waning taper, gone down, down

Towards the earth's dread centre, where wise men  
Have told us that the earthquake is conceived,  
And great Vesuvius hath his lava-house,  
Which burns and burns for ever, shooting forth  
As from a fountain of eternal fire?

Hast ever seen the miner at his toll,  
Following his obscure work below, below,  
Where not a single sun-ray visits him,  
But all is darkness and perpetual night?

John Harris

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"Two Centuries of Industrial Welfare - The London (Quaker) Lead Company 1692-1905"  
by Arthur Raistrick. Published by Moorland Publishing Co. price £3-95 (£4-50 inc p & p).

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"From Rock & Tempest" by Nigel Tangye

Nigel Tangye recreates from the records of the time the events leading up to the wrecks of four vessels on the rocks of the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, in the 19th century. Each one of these vessels was well built and seaworthy, with nothing to suggest at the start of her voyage that it would end in disaster.

The author, who has previously shown his skill in evoking the human condition at sea, has chosen four events, each different in character, which have one thing in common, the amalgam of fear and courage, numbed acceptance and grim lethargy which infect the majority of victims. The long drawn-out ordeal of disaster unfolds to the dictates of wind, tide and sea.

The frigate Anson left Plymouth in December 1808 and she was wrecked a few days later. It was this wreck observed by Henry Trengrouse, of Helston, that was to lead to his invention of the rocket life-saving apparatus still in use today. The John left Plymouth in 1855, and only a few hours later was wrecked off Lowland Point. She was an emigration ship bound for Canada, and the author conveys an authentic picture of the sordid conditions the emigrants generally had to endure in the era of mass emigration. The other two voyages that are chronicled are those of a Dutch East India Company vessel (1807) and a luxury transatlantic passenger steamer, the Mohegan.

Nigel Tangye, in recreating these dramas never departs from the substance of the evidence as recorded at subsequent official enquiries. But this material is so handled that in each the reader closely identifies himself with those on board, and those involved in rescue. And providing a continuous background to the four episodes he conveys the strange and brooding atmosphere of the Lizard Peninsula with its contrasts of peaceful villages and stormy dangerous shores.

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At the last meeting of the Council of the Society, I told the members that owing to greatly increased pressure on my time, I shall have to give up the editorship of the Society's Newsletter. So after this the nineteenth issue, covering almost five years, this is my swansong. I hope that the new editor will be appointed at the Council meeting to be held soon after I write this, so that he will be able to pick up the reins in time for the February issue. In the meantime correspondence can be sent to me or to the Secretary (at his new address) and will be dealt with or passed on to the new editor. I have much enjoyed producing the Newsletter and particularly the help and friendship of those who have contributed to it. May my successor have an equally happy time.

Jim Hodge.