



# NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 18

JANUARY 2002

*Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hÉireann*

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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## PROGRAMME

- Ongoing: *Mining through the Millenia* Exhibition in GSI during working hours.
- 16th February: EGM and Field Meet of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland near Bunmahon as per timetable below. This coincides with the *Copper Coast* being officially launched as an European Geopark. **Newsletter 18 is accompanied by a brochure with a map of the area and a list of B&B's.** Stradbally GAA hall is on the northeast side of the small village.

### AGM and Field Meet of Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2002

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

1.00 pm. Meet Stradbally GAA hall for Lunch (€4)

2.00 pm. AGM of Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

4.00 pm. Geophysical Report on Tankardstown Engine House complex by Kevin Barton.

4.45 pm Reception and dinner.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.

10.30 am Official Launch of European Geopark.

11.15 am The first tour of the European Geopark - the mining heritage.

11.15 am Alternative. Underground at Tankardstown with Ike Wilson.

1.00 pm Lunch .

2.00 pm European Geopark tour continued –. Dunhill, Annestown, Fenor, Kilfarrassy.

4.00 pm Reception and Launch of book *The Mines and Miners of the Copper Coast*.

- **6/7 April (provisional) Ben Bulbin barite mines, Co Sligo**
- **A weekend trip to the mines of West Carbery is being planned, including a visit to Glandore. Provisional date is in May or June**
- **NAMHO 2002, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales 5-8<sup>th</sup> July. The application of water power in mining.**

Don't forget to check the constantly expanding website: [WWW.MHTI.IE](http://WWW.MHTI.IE).

## **The Allihies Man Engine House Conservation Project.**

Unfortunately not very much to show for our efforts this year – primarily due to Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions which precluded any form of physical works on the building, as it is located on commonage grazed by sheep. And, to add to our frustrations, we had to return an award of £25,000 made by the Heritage Council earlier in the year under their “Buildings at Risk” register scheme, as we could not undertake any on-the-ground work. That completes the glass half empty report. Now to the glass still half full.



The Heritage Council were very sympathetic to the predicament that we found ourselves in and signaled that they would look sympathetically upon the grant situation in 2002. At the time of writing we have formally reapplied and await notice of a final decision in mid-February. On other fronts, we have had a series of very encouraging meetings with the CEO of the West Cork LEADER programme, who considers that the Man Engine House could provide a pivotal icon not just for the local community in Allihies, but perhaps further afield in the Beara Peninsula. On that basis, he signaled that the LEADER programme might take a strong interest in the conservation project. Further meetings are scheduled and we anticipate lodging an application for grant aid early in the New Year. In a similar vein, we are also exploring seeking grant aid under the Clár programme, to which an application was lodged on Dec. 10th. This is a scheme managed by the Dept. of Agriculture as part of their rural re-development strategy within the framework of the National Development Plan.

On other fronts, the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society have very generously indicated their willingness to contribute to the project, as well as act as a facilitator for arranging meetings with some of their major corporate members. The Exploration and Mining Division of the Dept. of Marine and Natural Resources continues to provide very strong support and encouragement for the project. As with our own on-the-ground efforts, their offer to install a gate into the fenced off area around the Man Engine House also had to be suspended this year because of Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions.

While 2001 has turned out to be a damp squib in some ways, the vista of new and potentially substantial funding opportunities in 2002 is very encouraging. The £200,000 plus cost of the

conservation and partial restoration (roof, windows, doors, bob plat) of the building is certainly beginning to look a lot less daunting. Even so, we will still have to undertake a preliminary ecological survey of the building, and apply for planning permission to undertake the proposed works. But, as always, any offer of help and further financial assistance will always be gratefully received – is there an architect out there who might be willing to help us draught planning application documents?

Other groups are also making significant advances on their own separate conservation/presentation projects on other facets of Mine Heritage features in the Allihies area. The Allihies Parish Cooperative has successfully raised very substantial funds sufficient to initiate restoration of the derelict Methodist Chapel as a Museum, as well as commission a consultant to design and implement the Museum display. An Oige, owners and managers of the sole remaining Mine Captains House at Kealogue, now operating as a Youth Hostel, received grant aid from Cork County Council towards the restoration of the roof under the Protected Structures grant scheme. They have also signaled their keen interest in developing the Youth Hostel in a manner sympathetic to its original design and purpose, but also in a way which is complementary to the other conservation/adaptive reuse efforts now in progress. Some suggested options being considered include a technology display centre, and/or a field and/or genealogical studies centre.

### **John Morris.**

Paid your sub for 2002? (The date of membership year is on the envelope in which this came)

€15 or stg £12 for individuals, to the membership secretary: Dr. Wayne Cox, Exploration and Mining Division, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin 4.

Don't forget, only paid-up members get the journal.

## **MHTI JOURNAL AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

All members should have received Journal No. 1. A 76 page, A4 format was used to enable more readable copies of maps and plans to be reproduced. **Extra copies may be ordered through Dr. Matthew Parkes at GSI, Beggars' Bush, Dublin 4 at €10 or stg£6.50 per copy, €11 or £7.50 including p&p.**

Off-prints of individual articles are also available for €1.50 or stg £1, postage included.

Journal 2 will appear towards the end of 2002 but meanwhile it is intended that there will be occasional publications, two of which are also planned for 2002. First there are MINET proceedings of the Nenagh Conference of November 1999. While these were published shortly afterwards copies were only made available to those who attended. These proceedings will now be sent to all members during 2002.

Secondly, are the long delayed *Mineral Statistics* to be jointly published with Northern Mine Research Society. These will give the production figures for all Irish mines by county with notes on personnel and ownership plus grid references and maps. Thirdly *The Mines and Miners of the Copper Coast* is to be launched during the AGM weekend of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland in Bunmahon (see programme). These two will be offered at a special discount to members.

**ARTICLES FOR JOURNAL NO. 2 NOW BEING SOUGHT**

## IHAI email discussion group

The Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland have set up an email discussion group to allow MHTI members to get email information on both MHTI and IHAI events.

To subscribe: [industrialheritage-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:industrialheritage-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [industrialheritage-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:industrialheritage-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Thanks to Fred Hamond and Nigel Monaghan

### GOING TO HOLLAND?

During a geological conference in Holland recently, we were shown a new geological section exposing the Cretaceous – Tertiary boundary. Why, you may ask, is this of interest to MHTI readers? Well, the section was only recently exposed in some stone mines, due to a roof collapse. To this visitor however, the stone mines were the most interesting part of the visit.

They are situated in the very south of Holland, at Geulhemmerberg, near Maastricht. In effect, the highest hills found in Holland are composed of Chalk, and are being removed to feed a major cement plant. In the quarry, older stone mine workings are intersected in several faces, and in other places access is possible into the original adits. The mines have been used over centuries for more than just taking out freestone for local buildings, but have sheltered Christians during times of persecution, and many other purposes, including World War II usage. Nowadays, guided visits can be made, and adventure groups take vicarious pleasure in ‘blind’ trails and exploration of this immense network. I would recommend a visit to any mining enthusiast.

**Matthew Parkes**



The ENCI Cement Works quarry intersects older stone mine workings, near Maastricht.

Inside an entrance at Geulhemmerberg there are old plans of the stone mines on the walls, but the potential for getting lost is quite high!



## CORRESPONDENCE

### **Ken Brown writes re Paddy O'Sullivan's observations on GLANDORE in Newsletter 17**

"I was interested to see the photograph of the Glandore engine house in the October Newsletter and to have the date 1882 for its erection. Two years earlier the Mining Journal reported that a new company had been formed to work the mine and that they had decided to erect a 24-inch engine for winding, crushing and pumping. One might deduce from this that they had a second-hand engine in mind. There is evidence on site that the engine drove a crusher but I found nothing to suggest that it wound and crushed as well. The cylinder bed in the house is compatible with a 24-inch bore.

The doorway on the boiler side of the house was for the engineman to reach the boiler, a standard feature of Cornish engines. In some instances the driver also had to stoke the boiler. To answer Mr. O'Sullivan's query about the position of the chimney, this was always determined by foundation conditions. On a sloping site like Glandore, the bedrock would be nearer the surface and the stack could be made shorter if it were located on the side where the ground was higher. The consequent saving in stonework would more than outweigh the trifling cost of running the flue across the rear of the house"

**Fred Hammond wonders about a Lead and Copper Mill in Palmerstown Lower**, marked on the 1837 6 inch OS map, Dublin Sheet 17. A Michael McGarry then owned it. The building was out of use as a mill in 1865 but still survives. It is two storeys high with windows going from the ground up almost to roof level. A photo of about 1900 shows a pyramid shaped roof with a vent on top. Perhaps some reader could suggest what sort of activity took place there to require such windows and the vent.

### **Tom Shanahan enquires about Hollyford Copper Mines, Co. Tipperary**

The following email enquiry was received recently by MHTI. If any members can offer suggestions, information etc., could they communicate them direct to Tom Shanahan - thanks.

"I have been put in contact with you by Peter Claughton of Exeter University, in my quest to find out as much as possible about the old copper mine in Hollyford. The miners were all believed to be of Cornish descent, according to folklore. The ventilation chimney still stands today, and the location of many shafts still known locally.

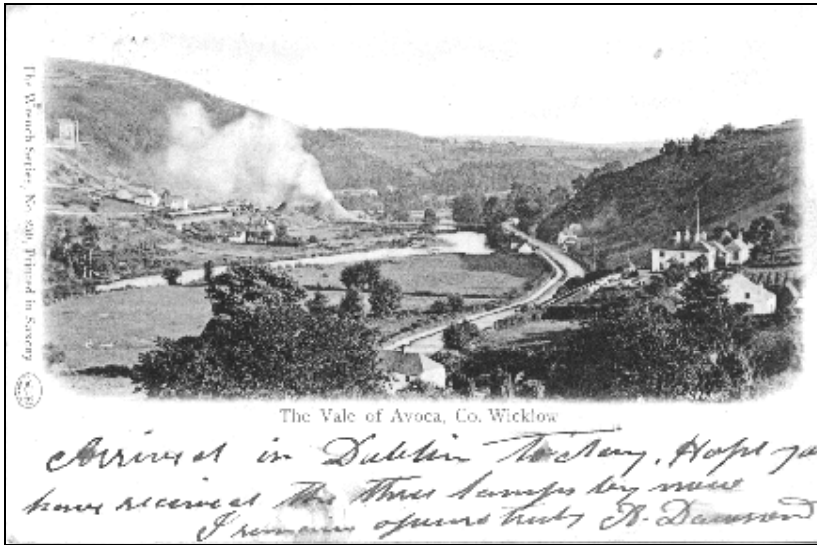
I would dearly love to find out more information on this mine, as I myself have been involved on mining in the UK and would be intrigued to view plans to discover the workings of such a mine, including resources and mining techniques.

I would be very grateful for any sources or knowledge I might acquire on this subject.

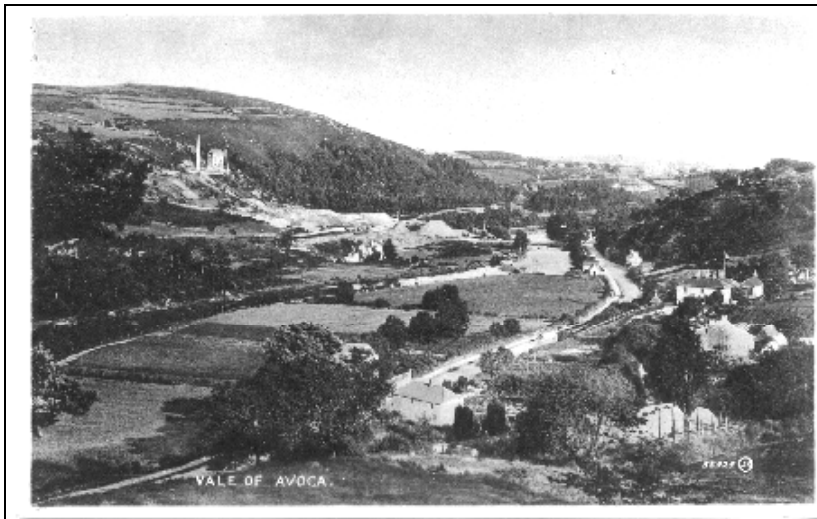
Tom Shanahan  
Foilmacduff,  
Hollyford,  
Co. Tipperary  
Ireland.

## SOME MINING POSTCARDS

These postcards were bought by John Morris at an auction in Dublin recently and may be of general interest to readers.

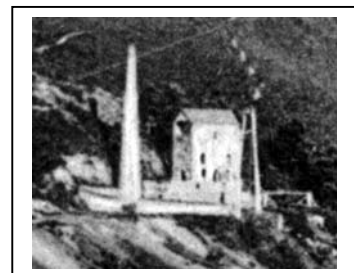


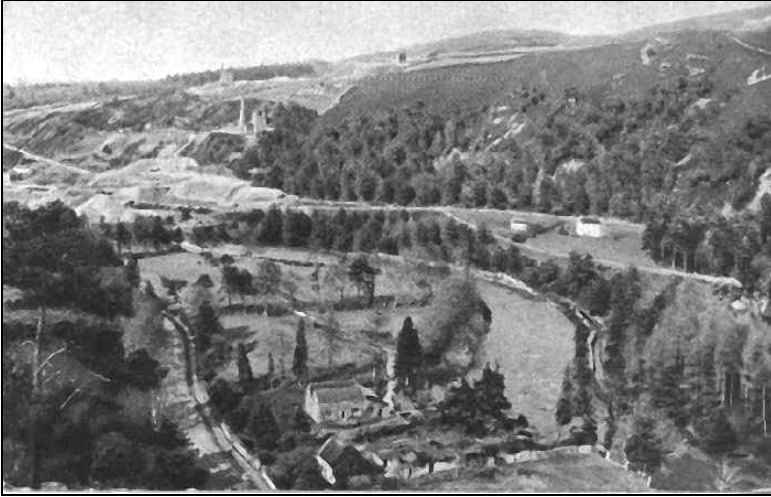
This black and white card shows the Avoca mine area with a mysterious cloud drifting over Tigrony. Williams' engine house is clearly visible on the left. The original picture is in black and white, and it does not occupy the full size of the postcard. A "Wrench Series" card, No. 250, printed in Saxony. The card is postmarked Dublin, 6:30pm, October 17, 1904, and it was addressed to a Mr. H.H. Perry, Sunnyside, Lower Road, Cork. There is a conspicuous cloud of smoke issuing from the top of a conical shaped pile. The mine had obviously been abandoned by this time, so what was this pile – sawdust perhaps at a sawmill?



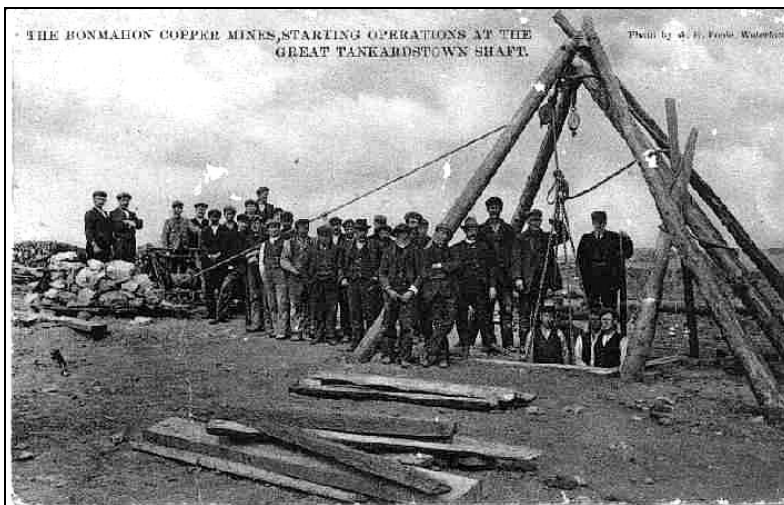
This shows a very similar scene to the card above but is hand-tinted. William's engine house is clearer and the detail in the inset shows the sheer-legs still in place, and what may be a collar around the engine shaft on right. A wall surrounds the building and chimney. Undated, colour printed postcard. Signal Series, published by E & S Ltd, D & B (Dublin and Belfast?). A very clear view showing layout of the Williams Engine House and associated spoil heaps, Tigrony. Note long covered shed (?) along line of railway, and conical, flat topped pile just to the left of the bridge over the Avoca River.

The Williams Engine House (right), enlarged from above. Note how intact most of the complex is: the chimney, roof on the engine house, shear legs, and two angle bobs at right, though the boiler house is roofless. Note the aperture at the top of the rear wall, which may have accommodated the shuttering over a rearward facing bob platform and bob. Such an arrangement, to work the engine condenser, has been inferred in a survey by Ken Brown in 1997, as there is insufficient space for, and no evidence of a condenser pit on the front, shaft side of the engine house. There is no evidence in the picture of a bob in situ, though a short shadow on the face of the rear wall may reflect the presence of a platform support timber. The engine, and associated machinery were dismantled and removed from the Williams Engine House in 1881, suggesting that this picture was taken sometime after that event, but before the roof and timberworks had been totally removed.





The Williams engine house is again conspicuous in the upper left part of this view, but here roofless and without the shear legs evident in other pictures. The equally roofless Baronets Engine House is clearly visible just above and to the left of the Williams Engine House, and to the right, in the distance, roofless Engine House of the Farmers Shaft. The original of this undated "Peacock Series", "Autochrom" postcard, produced and published by the Pictorial Stationery Company Ltd., London, is hand tinted, and colour printed at "the works in Saxony".



Written across this card is *THE BONMAHON COPPER MINES, STARTING OPERATIONS AT THE GREAT TANKARDSTOWN SHAFT* with photo by Poole of Waterford. It is obviously carefully posed and doesn't look like Tankards-town.. This re-opening dates to 1906. Undated postcard published by A.H.Poole and Co., Waterford. Postmarked Kilmacthomas, 7pm, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1906, and addressed to Miss L. Kennedy, Kilcannon House, Annestown, Tramore. Now on display at the Bunmahon Heritage Centre

**MHTI Welcomes the following new members who have joined during the latter half of 2001:**

James Dormer

Daniel Sheehan

Paddy O'Sullivan

Maire Downey

Tom Davit

Brendan McLean

John Anderson

Jim Bollard

John Coffey

Maurice Shortall

**NEW BOOK:**

**Dancing the Culm. Burning Culm as a Domestic and Industrial Fuel in Ireland**

By Michael J. Conry, Published by Chapelstown Press Ltd, Avila, Chapelstown, Carlow 0503-31535

This has just appeared, and looks like an excellent read, replete with colour and black and white photographs. A proper review will follow in the next newsletter.

## MINING THE WEB

A rich vein of information is constantly appearing on the Mining History mailbase at [Mining-history@JISCMail.AC.UK](mailto:Mining-history@JISCMail.AC.UK) - perhaps one of the better examples of genuine "sustainable development"! We would strongly encourage MHTI members to subscribe to this group, not only so that they might receive at first hand the type of information summarised below, but also sample the other more eclectic offerings – and contribute their own. All the following information, unless otherwise indicated, was posted to the newsgroup between September 2001 and early January 2002. In each instance, the name of the originating subscriber is noted in parentheses. All web addresses were checked and were fully functional on Jan 11, 2002, other than the two noted below.

To subscribe to the Mining History discussion group, go to:

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/files/mining-history/>

### A. GENERAL WEB SITES

**STEAM ENGINES** (John Morris – this was not posted to the newsgroup)

<http://www.steamenginesociety.org>

Paul Stephens, Bristol, came across the Allihies Man Engine House on the MHTI web site while browsing the web in connection with his interest in stationary and marine steam engines. He has invited MHTI to submit an article on the work at Allihies to the Bulletin of the International Stationary Steam Engine Society (ISSES), and he provided the web address of the Society, given above.

### COAL

**CASTLECOMER** (Roger Gosling)

<http://www.sip.ie/sip019B/index1.htm>

The web address above is to a school project on the coal mines of Castlecomer.

There are lots of pictures, interesting information and also a lecture by Seamus Walsh, author of the book 'In the Shadow of the Mines'. For a school project, it really is a very interesting site. [Editorial note: we fully agree with Roger's assessment!]

**HAIG COLLIERY MINING MUSEUM** (John Greasley)

<http://www.haigpit1.freeserve.co.uk>

This is the address of the new, completely redesigned Museum web site.

**TICCIH COLLIERY MONUMENTS LIST** (Peter Claughton)

<http://www.mnactec.com/TICCIH/coal.htm> (not working on 11-1-02)

In October 2000, a draft copy of the TICCIH – International Colliery Monuments List was posted to the Mining History list for comments. A revised copy of the monuments list is now available on the Web at the above address, and this list will be the subject for discussion at the forthcoming TICCIH mining section conference in Barcelona, 11-14 April 2002 (see Conference listings below)

**MINE HEADGEAR (Mainly UK collieries) (Thomas Imgrund/ Harald Finster)**

[http://home.arcor.de/thomas.imgrund/uk\\_headgears.htm](http://home.arcor.de/thomas.imgrund/uk_headgears.htm)

Notice of this photographic inventory (taken during 1995 – 2001) website was posted to the Mining History list in December, to general acclaim. Harald Finster subsequently provided a link to additional photographic records, mainly of South Wales mine headgears taken from 1990 onward. These photographs are to be found at:

[http://www.hfinster.de/StahlArt/MinesCokeplants.GreatBritain.SouthWales\\_main.html](http://www.hfinster.de/StahlArt/MinesCokeplants.GreatBritain.SouthWales_main.html). Other aspects of industrial history are recorded at:

[http://www.finster-stahlart.de/industrial history and architecture](http://www.finster-stahlart.de/industrial%20history%20and%20architecture)



## A POT POURRI OF OTHER SITES

### **ELECTRIC MINERS LAMPS** (Tony Oldham)

<http://www.etw-ltd.co.uk>

The web page of the manufacturers of miners safety lamps.

### **TREVITHICK SOCIETY** (Peter Joseph)

<http://www.zawn.freerve.co.uk/>.

The Trevithick Society web address was cited as a source for obtaining copies of a recently published book on the history of the Holmans Engineering Company, Cornwall, a company intimately associated with the Cornish mining industry. [Note. The book is: "Holman - Cornish Engineering 1801 –2001: Two Centuries of Industrial Excellence in Camborne" by Clive Carter. Published by CompAir, UK, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 8LN, in 2001. ISBN 0-9540405-0-3]

### **LES MONTS D'ARGENT: Puy de Dôme Auvergne** (Peter Claughton)

<http://www.monts-d-argent.com> -

Projet de valorisation scientifique et touristique du patrimoine minier du canton de Pontgibaud.

The lead/silver/zinc mines at Pontgibaud, on the north-western edge of the Massif Central, in France, were the subject of British investment during the 19th century. They have, however, a history of exploitation going back to the early medieval period. The current 'valorisation' project plans to increase awareness of the site and open it to the public, presenting its archaeology and history as part of an ongoing research programme.

There is now a website for the project where you will find a slick little presentation.

### **WELSH MANGANESE MINES** (Dave Linton)

<http://www.btinternet.com/~birchlands/Merioneth-Manganese/>

A web site created to document and record the disused manganese mines of the former county of Merioneth in north Wales. The site is under active development and additional material will be posted to it as and when it becomes available.

### **MINE MODELS IN AUSTRALIA** (Roger Bradford)

<http://freepages.travel.rootsworld.com/~miningmodels>

This website provides a photographic archive of various types and sizes of mine models made by Roger Bradford since the early 1970s. The models include horse whims, stamps, water wheels, headgear, etc.

## B. REFERENCES

### **QUARRIES** (David Poyner)

<http://www-users.aston.ac.uk/~poynerdr/quarbib.htm>

This site address provides access to the introductory page of a stone mining and quarrying bibliography. Unfortunately, there are no hot-links to the alphabetically listed references, which instead have to be accessed by using a subsidiary page address as follows: <http://www-users.aston.ac.uk/~poynerdr/a.htm> for the entries starting with a, then b.htm for entries starting with b, c\_d.htm for c to d, e\_g.htm for e to g, h\_j.htm for h to j, k\_m.htm for k to m, n\_r.htm for n to r, s.htm for s and t\_z.htm for t to z. A temporary index to the stone mining and quarrying bibliography is also available at:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~pfclaugh/mhinf/contents.htm#resources>

[Editorial Note. This bibliography has not been searched exhaustively for references relevant to Ireland. However, an initial perusal quickly revealed a 1935 reference to Irish Slate production under references beginning with the letter A.]

## C. CONFERENCES

Unless otherwise indicated, all the following postings to the Mining History mailbase were made by Peter Claughton. For a full list of mining history conferences go to:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~pfclaugh/mhinf/contents.htm#conferences>

### 2000

#### **5th International Mining History Congress, Greece: Sept. 2000**

<http://www.heliotopos.net/conf/past/imhc/proceedings.htm>

The proceeding of the 5th International Mining History Congress, held on Milos, Greece, September 2000, have now been published. Copies are available at 40 Euros, plus shipping. The order form is available on the above website.

### 2002

#### APRIL

#### **TICCIH MINING SECTION : International meeting, 11 - 14 April 2002, Terrassa, Barcelona**

<http://www.mnactec.com/TICCIH/> [not working 11-1-02]

TICCIH is the world organisation for industrial heritage, promoting preservation, conservation, investigation, documentation, research and interpretation of our industrial heritage.

The Conference will be hosted by the Museu de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya, in association with the Trevithick Trust. Following the conference of the Textile Section last year, the first full meeting of the Mining Section of TICCIH will combine papers on the conservation and interpretation of historic mining sites with a full programme of visits. The proposals by TICCIH for international coal mines sites for ICOMOS will be publicly presented and discussed. The meeting will also establish the basis for its future work, research and study. Registration will be 90 Euros for members and 100 Euros for non-members, and will include reception and meals for the full days of the conference. All the information necessary to register is on the TICCIH web page above, including booking accommodation. Places are limited so people interested in attending should contact the following address:

TICCIH Mining Section meeting, Museu de la Tècnica i de la Ciència de Catalunya,  
Rambla d'Egara 270, 08221 Terrassa, Spain; T: +34 93 736 8966 F: +34 93 736  
8960 <TICCIH@correu.gencat.es>

#### JUNE

#### **6th International Symposium on CULTURAL HERITAGE IN GEOSCIENCES, MINING AND METALLURGY**

**Idrija, Slovenia, June 17 - 21, 2002**

<http://www.rzs-idrija.si>

The Final Announcement (Brochure) is now available on the above symposium Website:

#### JULY

**NAMHO 2002, Aberystwyth, 5-8 July 2002.**

**“The application of water power in mining”**

[http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~pfclaugh/mhinf/namho\\_02.htm](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~pfclaugh/mhinf/namho_02.htm)

A weekend conference with supporting programme of field and underground events. Details on the above website, including a preliminary registration form.

#### JULY

**AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

<http://www.gu.edu.au/conference/aha2002>

The Australian Mining History Association conference will be held in Brisbane, 3-7 July 2002, in conjunction with the Australian History Association. Details on the above website.

## 2003

### SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MINING HISTORY CONFERENCE,

Hokkaido, Japan.

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~pfclaugh/mhinf/contents.htm#conferences>

The 6th IMHC is to be held in Japan, in Hokkaido Prefecture, from 26 to 29 September 2003, inclusive. There will be an optional four day tour starting on the 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **Ben Bulben Barite mines**

**John Anderson**, one of our new members is a keen hillwalker who has been examining the barite mine site on Ben Bulben, above Glencar Lough. He has provided many photographs and new information on this very interesting site. Look out for further information in the next newsletter and on the website as soon as we get a chance to put the new material on the site.

#### **Glandore manganese mine**

**Paddy O'Sullivan** has been undertaking detailed research into the Glandore mines and likewise, has provided much new material which you should look out for in the newsletter and on the website.

In both cases we hope that the Journal in 2002 may include the definitive record of these researches. If you too, have potential contributions, start thinking about it now!

### **DELVING THE RECORDS: DISCOVERING MINING HISTORY (Seminar in Geological Survey of Ireland on 10<sup>th</sup> November)**

The purpose of this seminar was to introduce members to sources of Irish mining history and through workshops to show how the results of research may be interpreted and presented.

Rob Goodbody gave examples of how mining history emerges from general studies of local history. Dalkey lead mines for instance is shown on Roques map of 1760. Surveys such as that conducted for the (Royal) Dublin Society often give details of mine workings, as sometimes do travel writers such as Mr and Mrs Hall. Where sites are known the various valuation books frequently give rich details, as do deeds where names are known. Hayes' Indexes are available for other manuscript material and for mining articles in periodicals while the Parliamentary Papers have their own indexes.

Seamus Walsh told us something of the process of gathering oral and other material for his book, *In the Shadow of the Mines*. He conveyed much of the life of the coal mining community around Castlecomer through his own experiences and that of his late father. Emphasising the unromantic nature of the mines (rats and accidents), he also conveyed the disaster that closure in 1969 was for the community.

John Morris introduced us to web searching for mining history. He took as an example the relatively obscure figure of Thomas Skimming who for a period was mine agent at Tassan in Monaghan. Using the Mining History Mailbase ([mininghistory@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:mininghistory@jiscmail.ac.uk)) led him to find not only about Skimming from Bradford but also about his associates there who financed the operation. He explained how one name led to the next as he pursued the main shareholders and built up a profile of Tassan mining company in a way that would not have been possible without the net.



Phelim Lally described the resources of the Geological Survey in which we were meeting providing examples of the mine plans and reports that are available to the public. He explained how the catalogue of such material was organised and how once a document was ordered it would be brought to a viewing room. Out of ensuing discussion however, he did make clear that there were limitations to the accessibility of documents.

Pat Power illustrated the scope of material available for Avoca mines ranging from an inscribed silver chalice in a local church through artistic representation of the area to the records of the landed gentry including Charles Stewart Parnell who hoped to redeem his failing fortunes by a rich ore discovery on his estate. His adit still survives.

Des Cowman conducted a workshop on the use of historical material beginning with a series of reports on Caime lead mine in County Wexford. He suggested a possible structure for a history of Caime based on these and each participant wrote a paragraph. This led to lively debate about why the mine closed.

His second workshop was more skills-based and was phrased as “Would you buy shares in Carysfort Mining Company?” In teams the participants looked at various parts of the company’s prospectus and this also led to animated discussion. Some would have bought shares in 1856, but not at present!

Twenty-two people attended and then participated in the launch by Ruth Delaney of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland’s first Journal. Praising the work of the Trust, she stated that the publication of a regular journal was an important step forward and very much in line with the thinking of the Heritage Council. The day finished with a sociable glass or two of wine.

