



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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IRON & STEEL MUSEUM ACQUIRES TWO HISTORIC MILL BUILDINGS

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum (NISHM) announced the acquisition in late 2016 of two historic mill buildings, known as the 120-in. rolling mill and the motor house, which were used in the former Lukens Steel Co. in Coatesville, Pa. (tour site, 2004 SIA Fall Tour, Wilmington, Del.). These two buildings were added as part of the WWII effort, where steel for battleships, aircraft carriers, submarines, destroyers, landing craft, and tank parts was manufactured. Production was halted in 1982 when rolling-mill machinery parts were moved to another plant in Conshohocken, Pa. (the former Alan Wood Steel Plant, now owned and operated by ArcelorMittal). The mill buildings are a gift from ArcelorMittal, the international steel corporation of which Lukens Steel became part in the 2000s.

ArcelorMittal and its predecessor companies have been continuously producing iron and steel in Coatesville since 1810. The town's ferrous-metal story began in that year, when two men purchased a section of Moses Coates's farm that contained a saw mill. They converted the saw mill to an iron works for a new venture called the Brandywine Iron Works & Nail Factory. Soon after, Dr. Charles Lukens married proprietor Isaac Pennock's daughter, Rebecca, and joined his father-in-law in the iron business. Lukens was interested in developing new products, especially iron plate for boilers, a fundamental component of the new steam-engine technology. In 1818 Lukens's mill became the first in America to successfully roll boiler plate. With a strong and growing demand for dependable boiler plate, progress was fast apace in the Lukens mill.

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Sam Radzwilluk/NISHM

The 120-in. mill with Steelworkers' Memorial (World Trade Center steel trident) in foreground.

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CALENDAR

2017

July 13–15: Petroleum History Symposium, Findlay, Ohio.
Paper sessions and field trips. Info: <http://petroleumhistory.org/>

July 23–29: International Assn. for Caribbean Archaeology Biennial Conference, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
Covers all archeology from prehistoric through colonial to WWII. Info: www.stcroixarchaeology.org/iaca.html.

Aug. 25–30: Assn. for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, South East Midlands, Northampton, England, U.K. Info: www.industrial-archaeology.org.

Sept. 14–16: SIA FALL TOUR, NASHVILLE, TENN.
Info: <http://www.sia-web.org>.

Sept. 24–28: World Canals Conference, Syracuse, N.Y.
See description in this issue. Info: <http://wcc2017syracuse.com/>.

Oct. 4–7: Society for Commercial Archeology Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Info: www.sca-roadside.org.

Oct. 11–14: Assn. for Preservation Technology International Annual Conference, Ottawa, Ont. Info: www.apti.org.

Oct. 11–14: Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Annual Conference, York County, Pa. Info: www.spoom.org.

Oct. 26–29: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa. Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Dec. 11–15: ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, “Heritage & Democracy,” Delhi, India. Info: <http://icomosga2017.org/home-page/>.

2018

June 7–10: Mining History Assn. Annual Conference, Deadwood, S.D. Info: www.mininghistoryassociation.org.

July 9–13: 6th International Congress on Construction History, Brussels, Belgium. Info: <http://6icch.org>.

Sept. 13–15: XVII TICCIH Congress, Santiago, Chile.
TICCIH's first in Latin America. Info: www.ticcih.org. ■