
GUEST EDITORIAL

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I am very pleased to welcome the publication of this interesting special issue by the ABD-BVD dedicated to matters related to the documentation and recognition of industrial heritage. In my role as President of *The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage* (TICCIH)¹, it is my pleasure to promote and support the disciplined study and preservation of tangible and intangible remnants of the processes and products of industrialization worldwide.

We represent a global group of scholars, managers, and activists who assert that the rise of industrialized societies has been one of the most important and transformational social movements in the history of humanity, shaping societies and the global environment in ways that rival the inventions of agriculture and metallurgy in terms of their impact on the modern world. As such, we both practice and support the study and conservation of evidence related to these profound changes as critical clues and symbols of our shared heritage.

This volume represents a welcome addition to the literature and thinking about topics related to industrial heritage, and should serve to broaden the scope of discussion and knowledge production.

While TICCIH's primary focus over our more than three decades of work has concentrated on the physical evidence of industrialization – sites such as mines, factories, canals, bridges, company towns and landscapes of industry – we have increasingly turned attention to the archives, narratives, and more ephemeral elements of industrial heritage. This has been explicitly articulated in our joint declaration with the *International Council on*

Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) known as *The Dublin Principles* ², and resounds strongly with the scholarly offerings in this volume.

We find it exciting to learn that more colleagues in libraries, archives and museums are joining in the careful preservation and use of resources related to industrial heritage, and urge these colleagues to consider making connection with TICCIH in our increasingly overlapping area of interest and research.

Of course, Belgium has a strong tradition of celebrating her rich industrial history, at every scale from the local to the national and international. Of particular interest for Belgian readers who may not be otherwise aware is the work of very active Belgian TICCIH colleagues who have a long history of conservation activism; one way to read of recent activities within your country and others is in the TICCIH National Reports, reproduced on the TICCIH website³.

I trust that we can all anticipate more spirited and stimulating discussion on these topics being engendered by this publication; I for one look forward to it!

Sincerely,

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Notes

¹ The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage. *TICCIH.org* [online] <<http://www.ticcih.org>> (consulted on 5 April 2016).

² Dublin Principles. Joint ICOMOS – TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes. *TICCIH.org* [online] <<http://ticcih.org/about/about-ticcih/dublin-principles/>> (consulted on 5 April 2016).

³ TICCIH Congress 2015 – TICCIH National Reports 2013-2015 Published. *TICCIH.org* [online] <<http://ticcih.org/the-international-committee-conservation-for-the-industrial-heritage-ticcih-congress-2015-ticcih-national-reports/>> (consulted on 5 April 2016).