Call for Abstracts

Iron

Histories of Iron in Construction History
CHS Annual Conference in collaboration with Cambridge Faculty of Architecture
Queens’ College, Cambridge, 3-5 April 2020

The aim of this year’s Annual Construction History Society Conference from the 3-5 April 2020 is to explore the interrelationship between construction and iron in the history of building technology. The aim of the first day is to provide a forum in which scholars from a variety of disciplines can explore the subject of iron and architecture and engineering from multiple perspectives. Topics might include (but are not limited to):

- The history and development of iron manufacturing
- Iron and steel roofs and columns
- The transition from the use of iron to the use of steel in building construction
- The use of iron and steel in floor construction
- The development of iron and steel ties and fixings from the ancient world to the present day
- The role of various crafts and trades in the manufacture of iron and steel
- The role of professions in specifying iron and steel and designing iron and steel elements
- The history of iron and steel grills, gates, doorknobs, hinges, windows casements and ironmongery in general
- The manufacture of iron buildings and building elements in the 19th century and their exportation
- Trade catalogues
- Iron and steel in the development of bridges, building frames and facades

Authors are asked in preparing their abstracts to distinguish between iron and steel, and between cast iron and wrought iron.

The second day will consider any paper on the subject of construction history including a special session on fountains (see separate calls for abstracts).

This is a history conference. The review panel will only accept papers that are based on historical research or involve the study of historic technologies. Papers on building conservation, such as the retrofitting modern services into historic building, are not within the scope of this conference and will not be considered.

Abstract submission

This first call is a call for abstracts. Abstracts should be 300-500 words long and should include the full names, academic affiliation or employer, a description of the subject proposed, the sources to be used, and where it fits within, or how it relates to the current literature on the topic, together with address and email contact details. Submissions should be made to chs@aha.cam.ac.uk The submission date for the abstracts is 21
October 2019

Process and Paper Submission

The abstracts will be peer-reviewed and the authors informed of the results by 7 November 2019. The final paper must be submitted by 20 January 2020. Final papers will be 5000 words/30,000 characters and can include 10 images. The editors reserve the right to reject papers that do not meet the necessary standards at this stage.

Publication and Obligatory Attendance at the Conference

Successful papers will be prepared for publication in February and printed in March. The proceedings are published as an edited book.

All final accepted papers must be presented at the conference by at least one of the authors

Papers will only be accepted by those who are prepared to pay the full registration fee (typically in the range of £65-100 per day) and are able to attend the conference. The conference runs from 3-5 April 2020 in Queens’ College, Cambridge. Please do not submit an abstract if you are unable to attend.