

## IMA FORUM: INDUSTRIAL AND WORKING COLLECTIONS - SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES AND ABSTRACTS

Monday 6 October 2014, Guinness Storehouse

**SESSION ONE:**

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**MICHAEL CORCORAN** is President of the Transport Museum Society of Ireland and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport. He is author of 'Through Streets Broad and Narrow -- a history of Dublin Trams', 'Our Good Health - a History of Dublin Water and Drainage' and 'Winged Wheel, CIE Buses 1940—1947', co-authored with Gary Manahan. A Professional Draughtsman employed in Local Services, he is experienced in vehicle preservation and specialises in Commercial and Public Vehicle history and development.

'KEEPING' TRANSPORT COLLECTIONS

This paper will focus on the preservation and restoration of transport vehicles by the National Transport Museum and will take a practical approach to 'keeping' our transport heritage in working condition. Starting with a general overview of Industrial Preservation, the presentation will focus on the following aspects: Transport – Selection - Forward Preservation List; Removal and Storage; Vehicle Categories: Passenger, Commercial, Military, Fire & Emergency and Utility; Restoration - Planning and Work Programme; Maintenance and Presentation and Research.

**FRED HAMOND** is a Belfast-based self-employed Industrial Archaeologist working throughout Ireland. He trained as an archaeologist and has specialised in industrial archaeology since 1980. His subject matter encompasses the extractive and manufacturing industries, wind, water and steam power, road, rail and waterway transport, and utilities such as water, gas and electricity. His work entails the researching, recording, interpreting, evaluating and presenting of industrial buildings, structures, plant and machinery. Clients include the Heritage Council, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Northern Ireland Environment Service, National Museums Northern Ireland, as well as local authorities, and private consultancies and developers. He is a founder Director of the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland and of the Carrickfergus Gasworks Preservation Society.

INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY – THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM?

Industry has been a key factor in Ireland's social and economic development over the past three centuries. Central to the operation of any industry is machinery, whether it be motive plant, power transmission assemblies, or actual items of equipment. Given the significance of machinery, it is all the more remarkable, therefore, that so little of it has been curated, let alone presented, in museum contexts anywhere on the island of Ireland, Why is this so?

This presentation examines the challenges entailed in the evaluating, salvaging, conserving and storage of industrial machinery, and also its interpretation and presentation. The issues of working machinery and the demonstration of industrial processes are also considered.

**CARLA MARRINAN** holds a BA in History of Art & Architecture and Spanish from Trinity College Dublin and an MA in Cultural Policy and Arts Management from University College Dublin. Carla is the Manager of the National Print Museum, a position she has held since 2010. She is a former employee of the Irish Museums Association and currently sits on the Association's Board of Directors.

### MANAGING A WORKING COLLECTION

*This presentation explores the challenges associated with the management of a working collection in Ireland in the twenty-first century with a particular focus on the National Print Museum, NPM. The NPM is a prime example of a museum consisting predominantly of a working collection. The collection consists of letterpress printing equipment made redundant with advancements in new technologies. The NPM's permanent exhibition is, unlike the vast majority of museum exhibitions in Ireland, not behind glass or rope, but is instead displayed and organised like a traditional 1960s print-shop. The collection is moreover regularly brought to life by a panel of active retired typesetters and printers who maintain and demonstrate the equipment.*

*The NPM's working collection is, in addition to being the museum's unique selling factor, also one of the most challenging qualities of the museum with respect to its management. This presentation examines the challenges in managing the only printing museum of its kind in Ireland. It details the complexities of working collections in Ireland today with regards to interpretation, collections management and conservation, and analyses the sustainability, including the preservation of skills and knowledge of those keeping the collection alive, of the Irish working collection in the near future.*

### **SESSION TWO:**

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**ROBERT GUINNESS** has lived steam for the last fifty years. He has removed, transported and erected steam engines from all parts of Ireland in accompaniment with steam engineers, and indeed also those artisans able to step outside their trade and still do a competent job. He has been involved in work on early steam engine models and is collating material for a paper on this subject. He is curator of the Steam Museum at Straffan, the only working steam engine museum in the republic of Ireland, which last year won the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland's award as best museum, sponsored by the ESB.

### SOME REASONS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF INDUSTRIAL AND WORKING COLLECTIONS.

*The talk is based on the invention of Thomas Newcomen (1663 -1729) and his tireless determination to overcome obstacles in his path, leading to the invention of the first atmospheric steam pump in 1712. Newcomen was the direct connection for the first time between the scientist and the practical man. The talk continues to remark on other great men of steam and concludes with the advice that the importance of their work must continue to be recorded, but also remembered and understood from the machines built by them. The public then have the opportunity to understand their ability, their determination to succeed, and to learn from their creativity, which eventually led to improvements in working conditions, and sparked off a better and fairer society, such as we have with us today.*

**SEÁNEEN BELL** is the Heritage & Education Officer with The Belfast Barge since 2012. She has a degree in History from the University of Ulster, Coleraine (2006) as well as a PGCE Middle years with history from Canterbury Christchurch University, Canterbury (2007) and a MA in Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies from the University of Ulster, Belfast (2012). Seáneen has researched, designed and curated a wide variety of exhibitions and events and is currently one of the lead researchers in the 'East Belfast and the Great War' project, which aims to produce a searchable database of all men from the East Belfast area who served in WW1.

#### YOU NAME IT, THEY MADE IT! HARLAND & WOLFF'S VARIED VENTURES

*The Belfast Barge is owned and operated by Lagan Legacy, a charitable social enterprise that was instituted in 2002 by a small group of volunteers. The organisation's initial work focused on securing the immediate and continued survival of over 5000 historical artefacts that had been abandoned as a result of a Harland and Wolff building demolition programme.*

*When conserving and preparing these artefacts for the archive it was recognised that Belfast's shipyard workers, with their myriad of trades and specialities, commonly adopted their skills to make non-maritime goods and products, both industrial and domestic. This illustrated talk will step away from the dominating story of the company's shipbuilding industry and will explore and highlight some of the other markets that they ventured into, focusing mainly on but not limited to their locomotive production.*

**DONAL Ó SULLIVAN** works with Ailihies Copper Mine Museum and is involved with Allihies Parish Co-Operative Society Limited museum development. He studied Building Architecture and Engineering.

**CHRISTINE O'SULLIVAN** lives in the parish of Allihies and has worked at the Allihies Copper Mine Museum for approximately three and a half years.

#### COPPER-FASTENING: THE LEGACY OF LOCAL HISTORY AND AMBITION

*In the late 1980's/early 1990's a group of local Allihies people came together to propose the development of a museum to tell the story of the 19th Century Allihies copper mines, which had been worked on and off until the late 50's. A local cooperative group was set up with a remit to develop plans for a museum as part of an overall parish development proposal.*

*A more structured and focused approach to funding in the mid 90's and the experience of obtaining and efficiently using a grant in connection with the Millennium celebrations opened the way for greater funding. The present Museum opened in 2007 and has developed into the main cultural and heritage centre on the Beara peninsula.*

*This paper will discuss how a local living awareness of the mining history in the Allihies area was refined from concept to concrete. It will look at the challenges related to managing expectations with realistic achievements; making the change from exciting start-up to mundane management.*

## **SESSION THREE:**

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**BRENDAN DELANY** is Archive & Heritage Manager in ESB. He studied History & Economics in UCD before completing post-graduate studies in DCU and UCD. Brendan has worked in a variety of roles in ESB, and as a Consultant for the Electricity Corporation of Ghana and as Head of Control (Internal Audit) in the National Treasury Management Agency. He is currently President of the Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland.

### THE ESB ARCHIVE COLLECTION

*This Paper will provide a brief overview of the contents of ESB Archive which was established in 1991. From very modest beginnings, the Archive has become an important source of information on the history of electricity supply in Ireland from the end of the last century to the present day. As well as reflecting the company's role in laying the foundations for Ireland's rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, the archive records the enormous investment made by ESB over the years in developing a wide range of technical and other skills. The archival collection is testimony to the energy and ingenuity of thousands of ESB personnel and their contribution in helping to make Ireland what it is today – one of the most advanced countries of any developed nation. The Paper will briefly outline how some of the archival records for The Shannon Schemes, ESB's Hydro Development Schemes, Rural Electrification, The Turf Development Programme, Fuel Diversification, and Network Renewal capture some important milestones in ESB's history which contributed to industrial progress in Ireland serving both the people and the economy.*

**DEIRDRE MCPARLAND** is Guinness Archive Manager. With 15 years experience in the Archives sector and eight years working in the Guinness Archive, Deirdre is a passionate advocate of Archives inspiring all of our future endeavours. Deirdre is a graduate of History and Celtic Studies from NUI Maynooth and holds a Higher Diploma in Archives Administration from the School of History and Archives in University College of Dublin. Deirdre is an expert on all aspects of Guinness History and is an official spokesperson for the history of the Guinness Brand. Deirdre is also an active member of the Archives and Records Association of Ireland and also served on the committee as Public Relations Officer.

### CASE STUDY: THE GUINNESS ARCHIVES, THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE BREWERS PROJECT.

*The Guinness Archive is the only corporate Archive open to the public in Ireland. Based in the Guinness Storehouse, Ireland's no. 1 visitor attraction, the Guinness Archives are a treasure chest of Guinness history, focusing especially on the work and life of the St. James's Gate Brewery. The Archive holds original brewing books, advertising, memorabilia, packaging collections, engineering and architectural drawings, research and development records, documentary material and an extensive audio visual archive. Guinness Archive plays a pivotal role in inspiring all new product developments for the Guinness Brand. Using the Brewers Project as a case study, Deirdre will explore how a Brewery's Industrial collection played a momentous role in inspiring the development of two new beers, Guinness Dublin Porter and Guinness West Indies Porter.*