IABSE symposium London, 10 and 11 September 1981: selection of structural form

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1. Obituary – Nécrologie – Nachruf

Sir Hubert Shirley-Smith

Sir Hubert Shirley-Smith, CBE, died on February 10 after a distinguished career as a designer and builder of steel bridges in many parts of the world. He was 79.

Born in Hendon, north London, on October 13, 1901, Hubert Shirley-Smith obtained in 1922, his BSc (Eng) from London University after study at the City & Guilds Institute. He also gained the Diploma of Imperial College. Joining in 1923 the staff of Sir Douglas Fox & Partners (now Freeman, Fox & Partners), his ability was quickly recognized and for some years he assisted on the calculations and designs for Sydney Harbour bridge.

The outbreak of war found Shirley-Smith busy on the foundation work and superstructure of the Howrah bridge, Calcutta, but he returned home in 1942 to establish for Arrols a new shipyard on the Forth for the building, launching and fitting out of all-welded tank launching craft for the Normandy invasion. Following 1945, he managed the London office of the Cleveland Bridge Company, joining the board in 1951.

He was a member of the board of Cleveland Bridge, Dorman Long (Auckland) and also of the A. C. D. Bridge consortium for which he acted as site agent in charge of construction of the Forth Road bridge. This was in 1960-65. On retirement in 1967, Shirley-Smith set up in private practice, in 1969, becoming consultant to W. V. Zinn & Associates.

Like many men of his generation, Shirley-Smith worked hard in committee for the civil engineering profession. He had been a member of council of the Institution of Civil Engineers from 1952 until 1967, when he became President; from 1958-65 he was on the council of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. He assisted in the revision of British Standards governing the quality and design of steelwork in structures, and in the drafting of the 1962 Regulations applying to works of engineering construction. In 1964 he was appointed Director and Chief Engineer of the North Sea Marine Engineering Construction Company, of which he became managing director in 1966. He was a member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers.

Sir Hubert Shirley-Smith had been a very active member of the IABSE. From 1963 till 1969 he was vice-president of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, of whose UK group he was chairman in 1963. Sir Hubert was made Honorary Member of the IABSE in 1969.

2. IABSE Symposium London, 10 and 11 September 1981
Selection of Structural Form

The British Group of IABSE will conduct the IABSE Symposium at Imperial College, London, England, on 10 and 11 September 1981.

The Summaries of the Papers to be presented have been published and mailed to all IABSE members. Copies are still available at the IABSE Secretariat.

The Symposium will be conducted in four sessions, which are listed hereunder with the speakers' names:

Session 1
The Influence of Forces on the Selection of Structural Form:

R. J. Mainstone, A.G. Davenport, K. Kordina, D. Ghiocel, M. Fintel, A. Glerum, J. Schippers, H. Mathieu, A. R. Flint.

Session 2
Environmental Influences on the Selection of Structural Form:

J. M. Fitch, D. Hawkes, D. J. Croome, K. Odeem, B. Baumberger, J. Page.

Session 3
The Influence of Materials on the Selection of Structural Form:

S. Wainwright, J. Gordon, E. Happold, H. J. Degenkolb, H. Isler.

Session 4
The Effect of New Construction Knowledge on Possible Design Solutions:

H. J. Cowan, T. Renzulli, C. Viggiani, F. Hansen, R. Frangi, P. Dunican.

The Final Invitation to the Symposium presents further details on the Symposium and on the excellent technical and social programmes prepared by the British Group of IABSE. It was mailed in April to IABSE members and other interested persons. Copies can still be obtained by application to the British Group of IABSE:

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