

Your Bookshelf

Researching older publications

Lawrance Hurst BSc, FCGI, CEng, FICE, FStructE, FBEng

When a client contacts a conservation engineer about a new job, one of their first actions is to consult references or check Google Earth to discover what the building looks like. From this, they'll see its likely date and gain some idea of the type of construction. If this is pre-Victorian, the options are few, but if it dates from the Victorian era or later, when types of cements were changing and framed construction started to be introduced, reference to contemporary text books is invaluable. Old technical books are becoming increasingly hard to find and unduly expensive when you do locate them, and resource to libraries is not always convenient – there is nothing like having them to hand at your desk. So we should be grateful to publishers like Donhead who are issuing an increasing range of facsimile editions of building construction and other old text books. This note is prompted by the recent appearance in their list of the 1912 edition of Adams' Building Construction; an invaluable and well illustrated guide to the construction you are likely to find in late 19th and early 20th century buildings. The earliest in Donhead's current list is Pasley's Practical Architecture. Originally written in 1826 as a guide for budding Royal Engineers to all aspects of brickwork and

mortars, it contains valuable information that does not appear elsewhere. Next in date is Scott Burn's Masonry Bricklaying and Plastering of 1871, followed by Rivington's Building Construction and Macey's Specifications in Detail, both 1904, and Mackay's Building Construction of 1938-44. A good range of dates, providing guidance to what you may find when exploring old buildings. Warland's Modern Practical Masonry of 1929 is particularly valuable for comprehensive illustrations of the stone cladding details that lead to water ingress and rusting. Donhead's list (www.donhead.com) also includes a comprehensive range of guides to plasterwork.

Electronic copies of old books are becoming increasingly available by searching the web. The Institution of Civil Engineers' virtual library contains a large number of books, readily available on your screen. Many are also available as hard copy, including their recent facsimile of Cresy's Dictionary of Civil Engineering of 1847. But electronic copies are not always easy to use for reference, and you can miss the happenstance items found when browsing through an index, that are sometimes the most important. There is nothing like the hard copy beside your desk and we should be grateful to ICE and Donhead for making facsimile available.



Competition Terms and Conditions

There is no specific guidance on the theme of photograph so we hope to receive entries showing the full spectrum of conservation, including the good and even 'the bad'

Maximum of three entries permitted per person.

Photographs to be A4 size at 300 dpi resolution and in jpg format.

Include a brief title and summary of the picture(s).

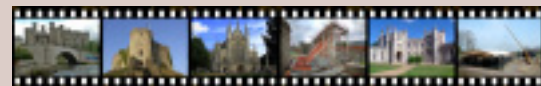
By entering you are confirming that you hold the copyright of the photograph(s) and grant CARE, ICE, IStructE and Donhead Publishing Ltd the right to use photographs in subsequent publicity.

Closing date for submissions is 23 December 2011.

Winning submissions will be notified by 31 January 2012, and will be published in the next edition of the CARE newsletter.

Photographic Competition

Over the autumn period, the CARE Panel are inviting submissions of conservation related photographs. The best three submissions will receive one copy of either: Adams' Building Construction, Modern Practical Masonry or Surveying Historic Buildings, kindly donated by Donhead publishing.



Please email submissions to registers@ice.org.uk with the heading 'CARE Photographic Competition'.