

Editorial

A STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society was formed in 1967 after three years of intensive study of industrial archaeology in the Bristol region. Interest in the subject had been stimulated in the Spring of 1964 by the establishment of a Department of Technology at Bristol City Museum and the creation of the Centre for the Study of the History of Technology at Bristol College of Science and Technology, now Bath University of Technology. Various activities related to the study of industrial archaeology quickly developed around this Bristol-Bath axis, including an adult class organized under the auspices of the Extra-mural Board of Bristol University and meeting at the Bristol Folk House. During much of the three years of its existence the register for this class was over-subscribed, and it generated such an amount of interest and enthusiasm that the demand to have a Society devoted to the promotion of industrial archaeological research in and around Bristol became at length irresistible. The formation of BIAS is thus a logical step in the development of industrial archaeological studies in the Bristol region, and should help both to co-ordinate these studies and to make them more productive in terms of systematic research and publication.

One of the explicit aims of BIAS is: 'to publish the results of its research in the best possible way'. The Journal is designed as the primary vehicle towards achieving this objective, although it will not of course preclude the possibility of publication elsewhere as opportunities arise. We hope that the regular appearance of the Journal will encourage members of the Society to commit their research to paper, and stimulate others to undertake specific projects. There is no shortage of suitable material in the Bristol region, but it will require some exertion on the part of our members to work up this material into a form appropriate for publication. We look forward hopefully to receiving a steady supply of contributions of this sort.

The Journal, however, will not confine itself to the narrow fulfillment of one item in the aims of the Society. We intend to use it also as a means of reporting on the activities of BIAS and on other matters which are likely to be of interest to our members. In addition, we plan to carry book reviews and bibliographical articles on material relevant to the Bristol region. Furthermore, there will be regular features on aspects of the study of industrial archaeology which will be of interest to a more general readership. Elsewhere in this issue the case is argued for shifting the focus of industrial archaeological studies away from the parish pump in order to assist such desirable developments as the emergence of a national policy for the preservation of industrial monuments. We see it as one of our purposes to contribute to the national and, indeed, the international consciousness of industrial archaeology.

For all this, our main emphasis will fall naturally on industrial archaeological work in the Bristol region. This may be defined roughly as the river basin of the Bristol Avon and its tributaries, stretching southwards to the crest of the Mendips and northwards to the water-shed with the valley of the Little Avon in South Gloucestershire. Alternatively the region may be defined in quasi-political terms as that around the Bristol-Bath axis to which reference has already been made. From this point of view the term "Bristol region" denotes a sphere of interest and has no precise geographical limitations.

We plan to have a special feature in each issue of the Journal which will represent the work of a group project. The special feature in this issue, for example, is a summary of the survey of turnpike trust relics carried out by BIAS members over about two thirds of the region in the summer of 1967. In future numbers we hope to carry features on the results of similar team-work at the Warmley spelter works and the surviving sites of the lead industry on Mendip. There will be occasional supplementary pieces which fill out details in the group project, such as the illustrated note on Bath Turnpike milestones and boundary posts in the present issue. The other regional articles will be a more random collection, depending on the work in progress and the nature of the contributions which we receive, but we hope to be able to include regularly reports of such detailed work as Mr. Jeffery's survey of the PBA Underfall Yard Workshop which we publish in this number.

In producing this first issue we are conscious of joining a group of similar enterprises which have already made a distinguished contribution to industrial archaeological studies. We are thinking in particular of the excellent publications produced by the neighbouring Societies in Gloucestershire and South East Wales. We trust that the appearance of these pages will help towards an even greater facility in the exchange of information and experiences between the regions than that which exists already. There is a great deal of work to be done in extending and deepening the scope of industrial archaeological studies, and it is

important, if the job is to be done well, that it should be tackled systematically and with the greatest possible co-ordination between practitioners in different regions. It is our intention that BIAS Journal should have a share in this enterprise of promoting the study of industrial archaeology.