

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
Newsletter February 1989.

Future Meets

April 22/23 - Derbyshire Mines, Ancient & Modern. Leader G.B.Greenough. Tel. 0253 723987.

Sat. 22nd. Meet at Sallett Hole Mine, in Coombs Dale, S of Stoney Middleton NGR SK223743. Use private roads from Cavendish Mill or by side of playing field on Calver/Stoney Middleton road. This is a working fluorspar mine on Deep rake, operated by Laporte Minerals. Numbers on visit limited, booking with G.B.G. is essential, telephone or write with s.a.e. First group will meet at 9.30am, if enough apply a second group will meet at 11.30. Priority to members, in order of application. Helmets essential, wellingtons very desirable; Laporte can provide lights etc. Easy. Those not underground will do a short walk to see Deep rake surface workings during both trips.

p.m. Surface walk at Magpie mine site, entrance SK173677, S of Sheldon.

Sun. 23rd. Assemble outside cemetery just W of Lane Head, NE of Tideswell, SK158763 at 10am. Follow series of rakes and mines from Tideswell Moor to Eyam. All surface, car & foot.

Although not part of meet, caving enthusiasts with approx 40ft electron ladder may wish to visit Carlswark cave some time during the weekend.

May 6th - General Meeting - The Ascot House Hotel & Restaurant, (previously Hotel Italia), 53 Kings Road, Harrogate at 2pm. to be followed by lectures and slides.

- Annual Dinner to be held here in the evening. (details & Booking form elsewhere).

Sun. May 7th - Greenhow Area. Leader M. Street. Tel. 0532 401542. Meet NGR SE063620 at 10.30am. (Note This is a change from the printed Meets card). This is on the road leading from the B6265 Greenhow/Grassington road to Appletreewick. Surface Meet: however there are a few short levels that can be explored.

May 20/21 - Black Country Coal Mines. Leader N.A.Chapman. Tel 021 429 3930.

Sat 20th Meet at Warren Hill Park on B4171 above Netherton Canal Tunnel NGR SO956387 at 10.30am. Visit Cobbs engine house; New Hawnw Colliery Bech Tree & Oldmall sites. All surface.

Sun 21st Meet at Black Country Museum Car Park on A4037 NGR SO950914 at 10.30am. Looking at Museum Colliery surface & (hopefully) underground.

An addition to Meets Card:-

June 24/25 - Teesdale. Leader M. Street. Tel 0532 401542.

An underground meet in Teesdale (subject to permission being granted). Meet, each day, at 10.30am by the fountain in Middleton-n-Teesdale NGR NY947254.

We will be camping behind the Strathmore Arms at Holwick NGR NY909268.

July 1/2 - Wales, Slate & Gold. Leader N.Catford. Tel 01 644 0118. Details later.

Meet Report - Greenhow, Sunday 15th May, 1988.

When I arrived at Duck Street Quarry at 10.30am I found about a dozen members all ready and waiting to be led. After studying a couple of general plans of the Greenhow Mining Field we walked up into the quarry and examined the outcrop of the Greenhow Rake Vein. Bruff states that this vein was known to the locals as "Slifter" as it is the biggest slifter. ("Slifter" was the old mans term for a vein slit out of a hillside, standing open to the top for its full height.)

We then walked past St.Mary's Church, which was the highest parish church in England in the nineteenth century, and down the lane past the Vicarage. A little further on we crossed the Waterfall Vein which runs SEA 16 SWAM. The vein is identified by a number of large shaft mounds. About half way down the track from here to Farside the Chimney Shaft was pointed out. John McNeill explained to the members about the Society's exploration of the same in 1976. (Ref. British Mining No. 21.) He told us that when they reached the

boiler room, they found that the copper fireboxes had been removed from the 3 boilers. This happened sometime in the 1920's as Bruff states in his manuscript; Fred Marshall, "Dodger", and "Lile Will" told me yesterday (17th December 1921) that they had just got through to the old pump and boiler which they said was quite alright yet, having Copper firebox and Brass tubes....." and George Boddy states that "After the directors decided it would not be profitable to go on working the mine, we removed the Copper firebox out of the boiler."

(.....Perhaps it's as well we didn't know that for sure at the time, or we mightn't have dug as enthusiastically as we did - copper was way up in price and we were way down on cash. Still!!!!....Ed.)

After walking down track past Low Farside, we came to the site of the Cockhill Mine. Here we inspected the entrance to Cockhill Level, then past the remains of the Cockhill smelt mill to Jackass or Hammonds Level, part way up Sand Beck. This is a very old level, driven before the days of Gunpowder. The level is driven straight into solid gritstone, about 2 feet wide and 4 feet high, with pick marks present on the walls. It was driven South to the Waterhole Vein. Walking back down to the main valley we passed Gillfield Level, which is now used by Leeds University's department of mining. Crossing over Brandstone Beck we arrived at the Providence smelt mill where various members took photographs. Following the track up through the long abandoned village of Hardcastle, we eventually arrived at the Prosperous smelt mill. This mill is unusual as the power for the bellows came from underground. Next to the mill is Smelt Mill Shaft which contained three waterwheels. The top wheel powered the bellows by means of a drive shaft running up the Shaft. Smelt Mill Shaft is blocked now, but the drive shaft can still be seen.

Lunch was taken, in bright sunshine, on a grassy area opposite the mill by the entrance of Yorke Level. After lunch we walked up Ashfoldside Beck, noting the Yorke Level airshafts along the Way, until we came to the waterwheel pit near the modern aqueduct. The wheel was used for pumping the adjacent Woods Shaft, using the lower end of Yorke Level for the spillway. The wheel itself was removed for scrap in the 1940's but the pit remains in good condition. A little further upstream from here we came to Storey or Jossie Level. This level is still open for a good distance and near the final fall wooden rails can still be seen in situ.

Walking back towards Greenhow the party split up just before Hardcastle. Half of the party went the direct way back, whilst the rest of us went the long way round via Holebottom. It just goes to show that even when you know a place well, you can still miss things. As we were walking down towards Hardcastle Bridge someone pointed out what looked like a level in the field opposite. On closer examination it appeared to be an old level, partially collapsed and used at one time as a water supply.

Just below Hardcastle Bridge we examined the entrance of Ebenezer Level. This was driven as a cross cut into the Providence Vein System and was later used as an airway for the Perseverance Mine workings.

Then we made our way back to Greenhow via Holebottom and Coldstones Fold.

My thanks to all who turned up and to the chap in the sky for the sun.

Malcolm Street.

Rio Tinto and SW Iberia

Following the success of the tour last year Jamie Thorburn has planned another for May 1989. To give more time for both mines and a stop-over in Seville, this will be a 12-day tour from 1st to 12th May. The tour will include both the large working mines, such as Tharsis and Rio tinto, and the smaller abandoned and ancient workings. We will also spend two days in Portugal. The price is £450 which includes flights to Portugal, half-board accommodation, transport and guide notes. The party will be limited to 7 people.

More details from Jamie Thorburn, Ceinionfa, Penglais Terrace, Aberystwyth SY23 2ET.

Meet Report Quarries & Coal Mines of the Ingleton Area.

Clear night skies; morning frost, the 30th October, 1988 provided Noddy & Big Ears and 14 members superb weather. I was to find my friend and quarry guide had looked at the skies and hot-footed it to the "Lakes". Not to be outwitted I must thank Colin Froyl of 6 Foredale Cottages who overheard my knocking and a few curses. Colin, having been a employee of the slate quarry in 1956 quickly took up the post of guide.

This quarry, beginning in the 1880's for its slate, was later to continue as a limestone quarry until 1960. Known locally as Coombe and Nibble Quarry it had a mini railway skirting its perimeter with one of diesel loco's saved from the "hammer" by a preservation society.

The prize of "Golden Chicken" must now fall to the individual who gathered us all together for that "group shot" only to discover the film had been used up. Sheep, mountain goat and all at Foredale gathered and waved the posy of twelve vehicles claw its way back down to the roadside at Helwith Bridge.

Now in glorious sunshine and off to Ingleton and the Mason Arms. One hour was allocated to eats and drinkies.

Thankfully my second much organised guide, John Bentlet, lead us to "Brick Row" mining cottages and to the remains of Wilson Wood Colliery. Sunk in 1842, this area shows the scars of those mining days - against the other fourteen working pits around the area in the late 1880's.

Parkfoot and Faccan Farm was to be our next call, it is documented and considered this "much marked area" the search for coals began here. The "four foot seam" strikes through the bed of the River Greta at this point. Strong sunlight covering this wide river made it a most pleasant place to be - expelled energies at bashing stones, the party then retired to view the remaining bell pits. Retreat led us to the nearby home of Mr & Mrs D. Gibson and Kepp House for tea & cakes.

Bernard Bond

P.S. Noddy had to leave before tea & cakes arrived - did Big Ears eat my cake - bet you he did!.

Items from a Notebook

Medieval mining, Derbyshire- The effects of the Black Death were such that, in 1354, a lead mine at Ashford held by John, Earl of Kent, which had been worth £20 per year was "stopped for want of workers".
Cal. Inq. Post Mortem Vol X.

Miners from the Forest of Dean demolish house in Wiltshire- It sounds like something out of 'The Sun', but it would appear that in 1233 ten miners from the Forest were sent to Wiltshire, on the king's instruction and at his expense, to demolish the house of G. Basset at Festerne. For doing this they were paid 3d. per day with implements for the job supplied by the sheriff. Had G.Basset perhaps offended the king such that he sent 'heavies' in; or maybe he was doing a friend a favour - "I'll send some of the lads down to give you a hand."
Cal. Liberate Rollis, Vol I, Hen III p.228.

Franklin White, mining engineer; where are his reports and papers? - White died in 1928, at the age of 78, having been actively involved in metal mining in virtually every field across the globe. How much work he did in this country I am not sure, but he is known to have prepared a report on the silver-lead workings at Combe Martin, in North Devon, and it is that which particularly interests me. That report was made available to the authors of the 1921 Geological Survey, Special Report on Mineral Resources, Vol. 21, Lead ores, but did not remain in the hands of the Geological Survey. Despite numerous enquiries I have been unable to track down any of his papers; should anyone be able to help me it would be much appreciated.

Peter F.Claughton

Peter's address is:- Blaenpant Morfil, Rosebush, Clynderwen, Dyfed SA66 7RE. (09913 578).

A Reference to Welsh Mines

Having in the past, received helpful references from the Principality, I can now make some return, for I noted the following during a recent visit to the Scottish Record Office.

Hopetoun MSS. NRA Survey No 888. Reference Vol.191.2/19

"A description by Lord Rankellor of his visit to the mines in Halliwall in Flintshire. 1688."

The Ubiquitous Mr Raspe

The same collection has also - Reference Vol.191.3/56.

"Report by R.E.Raspe on the Susanna Vein at Leadhills with drawings of winding equipment proposed. 1792."

Any enquiry about these MSS should be addressed to The Secretary, National Register of Archives (Scotland), HM General Register House, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY. (Viewing of the Hopetoun MSS is a bit troublesome since papers have to be ordered, and are then brought to the SRO in Edinburgh for examination - all of which can take time).

The Scottish Klondyke

The Glasgow Herald of 7/12/88 has an article on the "tunnel tigers who are boring and blasting into Scotland's richest gold strike" on Beinn Chuirn near Tyndrum. For the benefit of members who have visited Tyndrum, Beinn Chuirn is 'over the back', and the site of the East Arie lead trials. According to the Herald, Ennex, the mining company involved, claims there are reserves of 259,000oz of gold, and 925,000oz of silver.

But how will it all be processed? Will there be a treatment plant in upper Strath Fillan? Will Edwina Currie be warning against eating Cyanide Salmon?

Watch this space!

Bill Harvey

Report of Presidents' Talk-in. November 12th, 1989.

Events started inauspiciously with the abandonment of the prior committee meeting because a quorum was lacking. However, all items on the agenda were covered in the General Meeting where the discussion was very useful.

It was agreed that the sentence the the Constitution requiring that a General Meeting be held every quarter be deleted, because those not held in conjunction with some other event, e.g. the dinner or talk-in, had been very sparsely attended. The A.G.M. will remain in the first quarter, probably in March from 1990 onwards. There was general support for more mine meets; if the Secretary is successful in finding leaders, members must make the effort to come along. The feasibility of grading underground meets was discussed without clear conclusions. The Treasurer presented his estimates for next year with exceptional clarity, and the assembly accepted his view that we would remain solvent if we kept subscriptions the same.

Then on to events that people had really come for. The success of the Talk-in and the pie and peas involves a large number of folk doing something helpful, and to mention some of them but not others would be unfair and this account is largely anonymous. But Sue & Harry Houghton carry the main load (literally as well as metaphorically - mushy peas are heavy) and our thanks are due to them, the peas were even edible this year.

Sundry persons had produced photographs and plans of mines and there was a collection of coins and tokens issued as small change in a remote corner of U.K. This side show is an entertaining part of the Talk-in and members should not be shy to contribute.

The slide presentations covered a range of topics. We had a three part serial showing every conceivable (well, nearly) variety of underground structure, from tanneries to chapels and from railway tunnels to slate mines, some of them in parts of the U.K. not usually associated with "down under" trips. This lead on to a few photographs of mines in another down-under, Australia, where some of their earliest mines (1840) are preserved - pity you missed this, now you will never know the location of Wheal Watkins. Not surprisingly this was followed by a series of photographs taken "up-over" a lead mining area in Northumberland to see whether it was easy to discover from the air remains not apparent on the ground; the impression was not very encouraging, so we can all save the cost of aeroplane hire.

Another trip abroad took us to a very old mining area near Cartagena in Spain, still operating in parts. Climbing shafts are there by the score, with abandoned haulage shafts at intervals. If only the local police were not so keen to keep you off the area, it looked an attractive venue for an Easter Meet. Then the quiz. The quizmaster had gone to great lengths to find views of mines which he thought the Editor would not recognise, but he still won with 80% correct. The rest were nowhere, "who on earth goes to Raasay to see iron mines?" Finally a view of the oldest Newcomen engine now in existence, views of the Whiteheaps mine in Northumberland before it was tidied and a selection of close-ups of malevolent looking spiders - guess the presenter.

I hope this synopsis encourages more members to dig out a few (e.g. 10/20) slides and come along to next year's Pie & Pea, or just come to listen. There's more to NMRS than sitting at home waiting for the next quarterly newsletter.

G.B.Greenough.

The Kelton & Knockmurton Iron Mines, Ennerdale, Cumbria (BM 36)

It is very gratifying to see upon the publication of a monograph how the true mining historian immediately dons his underground equipment, gallops out into the field to prove or otherwise the authors text and data. Phew I'm OK so far!

Dave Bridge and a team from CAT descended the small winze dropping on the Croga Moss adit. The water was found to be 'nose hole' depth. During the descent branch workings on No 9 vein were explored and a second wood ore waggon was found. Just beyond the winze a passing place revealed several levels emerging but two were under water. The team followed the adit westwards (towards Kelton) until they reached No 1 and No 2 veins. Following the vein southwards the level widened into a double trackway with sleepers in situ. After 115 yards the vein split, No 1 to the right ran 120 yards to a forehead. 40 yards from the branch a heavily timbered rise/manway led up towards the Low Bottom Level. No 2 vein continued from the branch to a fall from the stopes. The fall was found to be very unstable and halted progress. The water was chest deep at the fall, but appeared to be dry beyond, and water could be heard trickling away in a southward direction and not back towards the adit entrance!

Dave contacted me and discussed the various possibilities for the movement of water. I could only suggest that the connection from Knockmurton No 13 vein, by way of the No 16 vein, had come through at a lower level. If this is so, then a winze or stope must be taking the water through a further descent of 75 feet to the Kelton 25 fathom level. It will be necessary to secure the falling rubbish and to lower the water level before anyone may risk climbing through to see what lies beyond, but when they do, the way forward could possibly open up a very large area of unexplored ground, with the possibility of providing access through to Kelton. The party returned to the main winze foot and pursued the No 9 vein northwards, where several stopes and chutes were investigated. (Did you like that? Yes, then read on.....)

During 1908 the miners at Knockmurton petitioned the management for better toilet amenities, the old tar barrel was leaking!... The company purchased two old railway carriages which were converted into a miners dry, with toilet facilities. (A new tar barrel? Exciting stuff isn't it, and there's more, Please read on.....)

Further information has been received from Dave Banks regarding Mr. Boundy who I can now confirm was a Cornishman. Boundy was quite active in Ireland discovering copper on the estate of the Parnell family at Avondale. It would appear that he was quite an independent person of a fiery spirit!! (Wild Lakeland pp214-215). Boundy leased the mines at Lough Murrigha on the coast of Mayo after prospecting the area. Miners lowered him by rope over the cliff face to inspect the copper lodes whilst the sea roared against the base of the cliff below. Several levels were driven and scaffolding erected along the face of the 1200 foot high cliffs. He also leased copper mines at Srahlaghy 7 miles inland, across a great bog. It was said that he was very popular in Ireland as well as at Ennerdale.

R.E.Hewer.

The North Pennines Mining Industry Record.

Do you have an interest in mine sites in the North Pennines? Do you have an interest in the history of lead smelting, or zinc mining or fluorspar milling? The please read on.....

At the October '88 Seminar at Alston, it was generally agreed that the North Pennines Heritage Trust could act as a coordinating body to progress the proposals made in the joint County Councils' discussion document 'The Lead Mining Heritage of the North Pennines'.

The Council of Management of the Trust has accepted that one of the first things that is needed is a list of sites in the North Pennines which are believed to be important, to have evidence available to show their importance and to rank these sites in order of importance based on criteria which also must be established.

I would, therefore, like to enlist your help. If you believe a site is important please contact me. You can write or you can phone me. My address and phone numbers are at the end of this note.

Any help that you can give will be gratefully acknowledged by the Trust.

Peter Jackson.

41 Cranswick Close, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 3NH. Tel.(home) 0642 564100

OR (work) 0642 618063 or 679151 ext 225.

Extract from Editor's Report to General Meeting 12th November, 1988.

The Memoirs file is now just about exhausted. There is one Monograph in hand for May 1989 and I understand that a further two are being prepared. These are Simon Hughes's "Darren Mines" and Alan Williams's "Bearhaven Copper Mines, S.W.Ireland". Also, Simon Hughes tell me that he intends to write a definitive monograph on 'Van Mina'.

Seemingly, nowadays, a few individuals are turning their hands to privately publishing their work; consequently, some opportunities are now closed as far as the Society is concerned. Whilst this is to be regretted, it comes as no surprise, bearing in mind that writers, perhaps, wish to receive a pecuniary advantage from their hard work and efforts, rather than merely being in receipt of six complimentary copies of the finished item. In addition, new, localised groups are sprouting up here and there, these wishing to publish the results of their activities in their own right.

In thanking those who have contributed to publications over the past 12 months, I would ask any member who has material suitable for inclusion in British Mining - particularly the Memoirs - to roll up their sleeves and get writing. .

Richard H. Bird.

The Society

Last year we had 491 members (an increase on '87), our finances are in good shape despite a very low subscription and we issued 3 excellent copies of British Mining. You might think this represents an admirable performance, and in many ways it is.

More disappointing, though, is the steady decline in the numbers of members who appear at Society functions - the lecture afternoon and Dinner; outdoor Meets and the Presidents' Talk-in. Apathy is setting in, and if the Society is to continue to flourish it is essential that the trend is reversed.

By a dint of hard work a good list of interesting Meets has been laid on this year and arrangements are in hand for an entertaining day in May. It would encourage the Committee, and do you good, to see you, at some of the events (dare we hope for 5% of the membership at a Meet and 10% at the Dinner?)!

Finally, we are much in need of one or two new people on the Committee to introduce new ideas. Not one valid nomination has come in with the subs. received to date! If there is anyone who will volunteer to come to committee meetings and contribute original ideas, we would co-opt him/her with enthusiasm. Please write to Hon. Sec. - John McNeil, 166 Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester NB3

In other words, will one or two of you please get off your backsides.

Geoff B. Greenough.

Subscriptions

As always at this time, a number of subscriptions are unpaid (a reminder should be attached if this is the case), some by members who signed a deed of Covenant that they would pay £9.00 for 4 years. Experience is that some of these are under the impression that this covenant also acts as a Bankers Order or similar, and that we can get the money automatically. NOT SO, you still have to send a cheque or something.

Several members have asked if we have a Banker's Order or Direct Debit scheme. The Society prefers not to use one, partly because the renewal slip is a convenient method of checking that our list of addresses and telephone numbers is up-to-date (there are quite a number of changes from the current list), partly because I have no great faith that the bank will show clearly without charge whence payments come, but mainly because any change in circumstances can cause chaos.

So, it would be helpful if you would all continue the minor chore of sending the renewal slip and sub. each year as soon as possible after receipt of the renewal slip and at the latest within a week or two of Jan. 1st.

Geoff B.Greenough.

The Metalliferous Mining Heritage Conservation, Interpretation & Research

A Conference organised by the Association for Industrial Archaeology
in conjunction with the

National Association of Mining History Organisations
Loughborough University - 16th & 17th June, 1989.

A great deal of concern is being shown at the moment over the future of the extensive remains of the metal mining industries of Great Britain. Various public authorities - English Heritage, the National Parks, Conservation Officers of County & District Councils - are preparing schemes to interpret sites to the public and consultants such as the Ironbridge Institute and Ove Arup Associates, as well as several private firms, are preparing reports for different public bodies. Excavations of sites like Killhope in Weardale, Nenthead in Cumbria and Minera in Clwyd are revealing the extent of previously hidden evidence and a large number of mining historians and industrial archaeologists are engaged in research both above and below ground.

AIA and NAMHO have, therefore, organised a two day conference at Loughborough University in an effort to bring together the considerable expertise which now exists in the conservation, study and interpretation of metal mining sites. The Convenor is Dr. Marilyn Palmer, President of AIA, who has herself recorded and excavated metal mining sites. Several papers have already been offered by Dr Sandy Gerrard, Dr Ivor Brown, Dr Lynn Willies, Dr Michael Stratton, David Cranstone, David Bick and Michael Gill. These will be published in the Autumn 1989 issue of Industrial Archaeology Review, which will be a *festschrift* for the eminent mining historian, Dr Arthur Raistrick.

A more detailed programme and costs are not yet available, but if you are interested and would like more information please write to :- Dr Marilyn Palmer, Department of History, Loughborough University, Leicestershire LE11 3TU. Tel. Loughborough 222890.

NAMHO Conference - 15th July, 1989.

To date, we have received practically nowt regarding details of the above Conference, but we are led to believe that it is being hosted by Lakeland Mines & Quarries Trust and is being held at the Charlotte Mason College of Education, Ambleside, over the weekend of 15th July.

We know very little really about prices or content, but understand that there is to be a party on the Saturday evening involving a 3 hour cruise on Lake Windermere, being entertained by the "world famous" Salami Brothers, and a Chicken salad supper.

If you are interested we would suggest that you contact the Conference Booking Secretary, (don't know his/her name) Slack Cottage, High Wray, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0JQ, for more details.

Book Reviews

"Tin" - A Novel by Edward Bosanketh. 163pp. 2nd edition published by Justin Brooke, Chymorvah Vean, Marazion, Cornwall TR17 0DQ. at £3.45 inc. p & p.

This book was first published 100 year ago. It is a fictional story, but there is little doubt that the author was well acquainted with the social and financial aspects of the local mining industry, and with the attitudes of many anxious to look after their own interests in the hard times of the decaying Cornish mining. He is particularly hard on a local bank with smelting interests, so much so that a bank in Penzance bought all available copies of the first edition and burnt them. The novel is not a gem of English literature and the story has touches of Victorian melodrama, but the general background rings true.

Justin Brooke has added a paragraph in which he correlates people and places in the book with real life in the St. Just area at the time (a not inconsiderable bit of research in itself).

Well worth reading to get a flavour of the 1880's.

Geoff Greenough.

"Mines D'Or" - All around Europe there is a veritable explosion of books on gold and from France, I have received "Mines d'Or" to review on behalf of Pierre-Christian Guillard. Pierre is President of the French federation of gold mining societies and clubs, and much of the organisation of the 1988 World Goldpanning Championships fell on his shoulders. To publish a definitive text book in the same year is a bravura performance. Of course, Pierre has been working on the project for many years and the book reflects his enthusiasm, his knowledge and his abilities. Of 238 pages, the book is packed with photographs, diagrams and illustrations - all of which helps to make the French text quite palatable. (Better still, of course, are the summaries in German & English which follow each chapter... but I only found this out after my second reading!)

For some reason there is no list of contents and by the third page one is plunged

unceremoniously into the "origins of gold mining in France" and for the next 200 pages the book concentrates on gold mines - from Creuse to Limousin, from Laval to Salsigne.

Each section follows a format which deals with discovery, geology, underground, surface workings & gold recovery methods, and recent history. Wherever possible there are production figures, share certificates and archive photographs. These constitute a treasure trove and seem to be the result of the mines being featured as picture postcards in their heyday. For example, at Chatelet, picture postcards were produced of 'la mine et l'usine' in 1908, 1910, 1913 & 1935. Time and again the archival views are reinforced by contemporary photographs of the same location.

A useful final chapter refers to alluvial gold and summarises the history of the present locations. The best of these are in the foothills of the Pyrenees - hence the reason why Foix hosted the World Championships this year.

The book costs 118 francs and is well produced. Anyone seriously interested in purchasing a copy should contact me for Pierre Guiollard's address - "et bonne chance, mes enfants!"

Ron Callender, 36 Broadlake, Willaston, S.Wirral L64 2XB.

Liscombe & Co.

Simon Hughes is preparing a reprint of this Liverpool sharedealers' booklet, which contains details of many of the important metalliferous mines of mid-Wales. The work is not dissimilar to Spargo's "The Mines of Wales", which Mr Hughes reprinted in 1975 and which is now long out of print. It is estimated that the reprint will run to 40 pages of original text, with about 4 pages of introduction, together with O.S. grid references. The format will be A5 with stapled card covers. Retail price is £2.00 + 50p post & packing.

If you would like to reserve a copy, please complete the order form and return it to our Aftersales address. Send NO money, you will be invoiced with the book. Estimated publication date: Whitsuntide 1989.

N.B. Closing date for orders: 30th April, 1989.

General Meeting & Annual Dinner - Sat. 6th May, 1989 at The Ascot House Hotel, (previously Hotel Italia), 53 Kings Road, Harrogate.

The General Meeting will commence at 2pm prompt.

followed by various lectures by invited Guests.

Break to allow room to be transformed for Dinner

Dinner 7.30pm for 8pm. Price £9.00 per person (Cheques to be made payable to NMRS).

A 3 course meal of:-

Cream of Tomato Soup

Main course of:-

Roast chicken & stuffing

OR

Roast Pork, Apple Sauce & Stuffing

with Vegetables of Season

Trifle OR Fruit Salad

Coffee

The enclosed booking form should be completed and returned, with full remittance as soon as possible, but BEFORE 24th April, 1989 to Bob Burns, 3 Queen Elizabeth Way, Barton-upon-Humber, South Humberside, DN18 6AJ. Tel 0652 635523.

All members are welcome to attend the General meeting & afternoon lectures whether or not they join us for the Dinner.

The Ascot House Hotel advise us that any Guests wishing to stay overnight will be offered a special tariff of £17.25 per person per night sharing a double room, to include English breakfast, Service & V.A.T. Supplement for single room £8. Book this direct with the Hotel - Tel. 0423 531005.

Don't forget the Meet on the next day - see page 1 for details.

I quite often receive newspaper cuttings for possible inclusion in the N/L, a lot of which contain no reference to the paper from whence they came, except perhaps "..... from the Herald".

The ones Ken Geddes sent, fortunately included the vital information, that the Post was "The South China Post", and the Daily was the "China Daily". More to the point, they were all printed in English.

"A man carrying an old-fashioned oil lamp in his teeth pulls a heavy basket of coal painstakingly through the dark, narrow underground pit. He is emaciated and virtually naked, and he works with the threat of tunnel collapse and gas explosions hanging over him. This is the typical image of the Chinese coal miner of former days.

But things have changed dramatically nowadays. The pride of the country's coal industry, Xinglongzhuang, which went into production in 1981, is a modern mine with an annual output of 3 million tons. The mine boasts advanced equipment introduced from seven countries. Modernisation ensures the safety of workers. Last year, the death toll in the mine was 0.32 persons per million-tons of coal. The rate reached world advanced standard.

An 18-storey apartment building provides accommodation for the single miners. All 1,400 miners who work on the coalface live in the "hotel-like dormitory" which cost more than 7 million yuan to build. The mine has built up a chicken farm, dairy farm, pig farm, vegetable farm and liquefied gas station. A new cultural centre has also been built, where people can watch films, read books and newspapers, play billiards and hold dance parties."

Sounds great don't it. Pity the rest of the cuttings tend to tarnish the image somewhat.

"At least 477 miners died in accidents in the state run coal mines last month, a 42% increase over the same period last year. The authorities of the coal mines were urged to put safety first."

"13 miners suffocated when a shaft conveyor belt caught fire because they had not been trained to use their emergency oxygen equipment, an official report said. Investigators found that the victims had tried unsuccessfully to use their equipment which included a two hour oxygen supply.

The mine had not made a serious effort to train its contract workers, and other recent mine accidents revealed that contract miners lacked even the most basic safety training."

"The manager of a village run mine where 49 workers died in a gas explosion was sentenced to seven years in prison. Two other managers of the mine got three years.

Communist China, while anxious to boost output, is trying to control the opening of new mines by individuals and villages. The authorities in one area had blown up 83 private mines which had seriously affected work at larger state mines, causing them to close for as long as several months."

At least no one can accuse us of being parochial!

Lloyds Bank Awards for Independent Archaeologists

These are annual awards made to voluntary societies and groups to purchase equipment to carry out research or excavation. The 1987 awards included 3 to industrial archaeology projects. Details of the 1989 awards from Miss W. Phillips, Royal Archaeological Institute, 304 Addison Road, St. Johns Wood, London NW8 9EL.

Assistance Required

1) Jim Irwin (surveyor for British Gypsum) is interested in miners' safety lamps and has come across an example which he wishes to find more about. It bears the names "J. Abbot & Sons, Gateshead" and "Rutledge & Johnson Patent" but may have been adapted sometime in the past. The gauze goes all the way down inside the glass but has been blanked off half way.

If anyone can assist him with information can they write to him c/o British Gypsum, Mountfield, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5LA.

2) Mr. K. Patman of Australia collects mining share certificates and would be interested in acquiring some from Britain. If anyone has any for sale or knows of any sources could they contact him at 23 Nandewar Place, Airds, New South Wales 2560, Australia.

3) A firm of Solicitors asks if anyone has any knowledge of disused mine workings at Gildersome Link, Nephshaw Lane, Leeds. Please reply to Linklaters & Paines, Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

4) Does anyone have information about the Tura Limestone Mines in Egypt, which are located South of Cairo? If so, please contact Rod Le Gear, 18 Bladindon Drive, Besley, Kent DA5 3BP.

5) Does anyone know of a connection between dead cats and mining? The Great Orme Exploration Society has found two cat skeletons underground in a situation which indicates that they had been purposely placed there. One of them had been placed at the

end of a line of dark deposits which were later identified as blackberries. This line ended at a boulder on the floor and blackberries had been placed in a semicircle around it. A flat piece of wood was also found touching the skeleton at the junction of the back and tail.

Any information would be gratefully received by Andy Lewis, Gwynedd, Tyn-y-Coed Road, Great Orme, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

/ If anyone can help any of the above, don't forget to let me have a copy of your reply for inclusion in future Newsletters. Ta!

Gwydyr Forest Access

We would remind members that they should keep out of mines on Forestry Commission land in North Wales until further notice. The main mine sites in question are Parc, Hafna, Pandora Adit, Cyffty, Aberllyn, Llanwrst, Coedmawr Pool, Klondyke, Gorlan, Tyn Twll, Bryn Eisteddfod, Alltwen, Fuchslas, Ffrith, Ffrith Sian and Coed Coch. In addition there are slate mines at Fedw, Hafodlas and Rhiw Bach.

Society Committee for 1989.

There being no other valid candidates, the following members will presumably form the committee for 1989? (You'll gather from this that I'm hoping to have this newsletter out by the A.G.M.- Time will tell !):-

President	R.E.Burns, 3 Queen Elizabeth Way, Barton-upon-Humber, S.Humberside, DN18 6AJ. Tel. 0652 635523.
Vice President	M.Street, 6 Oakwood Park, Leeds LS8 2PJ. Tel. 0532 401542.
Jnr.Vice Pres.	VACANT
Secretary	J.H.McNeill, 166 Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester M31 3NB. Tel. 061 747 8652.
Treasurer	G.B.Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St.Annes-on-Sea, Lancs. FY8 3JH. Tel. 0253 723987.
Recorder	M.C.Gill, 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley BD20 7HD. Tel. 0535 35588.
P.R.O.	H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. 0532 758505.
Librarian	D.J.McCurdy, 111 Barn Lane, Golbourne, Warrington WA3 3PR. 0942 718192.
Editor	R.H.Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL. 0909 563229.

If there is anything of importance to report, I shall do so in the May Newsletter.

Next Edition

Hopefully, I plan to have the next edition out in time for the General Meeting & Annual Dinner on 6th May, 1989 - so it doesn't give you long to put pen to paper and send your contributions in to me. Please don't leave it till the last minute -these rags aren't published and collated overnight! (We may seem to be up all night doing it though!)

Harry Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.

Remember, if you've not already paid your Subs. (a reminder will be attached instead of the official Meets Card) post your money off immediately to Geoff Greenough so that you are not cut off in your prime (so to speak). If you do not pay, this will be the last Newsletter you will receive (and there won't be anymore British Mining either) - so there. If you specially want your Meets card before the next Newsletter, then don't forget to enclose a Sae with your Sub.

In fact, that reminds me, if you write to any Society Officer and would like a reply, please enclose a Sae.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

General Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/88 to 31/12/88

INCOME

Subscriptions 1988	£2660.00
1989	1641.00
Insurance premiums	41.80
Income Tax Refund	771.75
Interest	384.19
Donations	20.45
Dinner	248.00
Talk-in	38.30

£5805.49

EXPENDITURE

Publications	£3431.49
Stationery	33.45
Officers Expenses:PRO	92.97
Secretary	35.77
Treasurer	25.72
Records	269.10
Subs to other Soc.	63.00
Hall hire	34.50
Dinner	242.99
Insurance	39.90
Additional Postage	118.00
Talk-in	20.71
Misc	12.65
	<u>£4420.25</u>
Surplus (Inc/Exp)	<u>£1385.24</u>
	<u>£5805.49</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current A/c</u>	<u>Investment A/c</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening balance	£200.59	£4025.70	£4225.70
Movement	<u>111.05</u>	<u>1274.19</u>	<u>1385.24</u>
	£311.64	£5299.30	£5610.94

Bank Balance as per Statement
at 31/12/88 £2015.64
Less cheques not
presented £1704.00
 £ 311.64

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the accounts of the Society for 1988.

J.Pulford ACMA.4/2/89.

Treasurer's Remarks

The expenditure item "additional postage" results from posting Newsletters separately from British Mining when the latter were delayed. Two bills, for stationery and hall hire, were outstanding at the year end; these would have increased expenditure by some £135. The prepayment of subs. for 1989 was greater than in 1987 by some £424; making allowance for these items means that the real surplus on the years working was around £825.00, which is still ver satisfactory.

G.B.Greenough.

Northern Mine Research Society

Publications Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/88 to 31/12/88

INCOME

Income from General A/c	£3431.49
Aftersales	2705.31
Bank interest	81.31

£6218.11

EXPENDITURE

Printing	£4821.53
Mining Biblio.	337.41
Advertising	27.30
Stationery	92.81
Postage	706.10
Editors' Expenses	8.50
Aftersales "	17.20

	£6010.85
Income/expenditure	<u>207.26</u>
	<u>£6218.11</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current A/c</u>	<u>Deposit A/c</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£ 531.79	£ 865.98	£1397.77
Movement	25.95	181.31	207.26
Closing balance as per statement	<u>£ 557.74</u>	<u>£1047.29</u>	<u>£1605.03</u>

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the Publications account for 1988.

J.Pulford ACMA 4/2/89

Notes

Item noted as 'Mining Biblio' in expenditure column refers to payment to Exeter University for the volume 'Bibliography of the history of British Metal Mining' which the Society offered to members.

Item noted as 'Advertising' in expenditure column refers to the printing of a new publications leaflet.

R.H.Bird.