



The Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter — August 2001

Society Meetings - 2001

(Note: meetings continue to be cancelled due to the foot & mouth disease restrictions. - Call meet leader for information)

- Saturday/Sunday 15 – 16 September **NAMHO 2001** (Bradford) See below and inside for details.
- Thursday, 27 September **Boulby Potash Mine** Contact Derrek King (01609 775811). Limited numbers so booking essential (do not turn up without reserving a place). Please note meet time of 4 pm.
- Saturday, 13 Oct **Autumn General Meeting** - slides/social. Three Sisters Hotel, Haworth, 1.30 pm (booking form enclosed).
- Saturday, 27 Oct **Teesdale Hude Valley / Coldberry**. Leader Tony Fretwell (01388 605965). Surface and limited underground. Meet 10.30 am Middleton in Teesdale. NGR NY947255.
- Saturday, 27 Oct **Williamson's Tunnels** (Liverpool). Starting 2 pm. Numbers limited to 12 people. Contact Sallie Bassham, see inside for details.

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'Mining History and Beyond' - the new 2001 NAMHO Conference

Disappointed by the cancellation of field meets this year due to F&MD restrictions? Make up for it by attending the replacement NAMHO conference at Bradford on 15th & 16th September. A dozen core speakers have agreed to give a range of excellent talks which follow the theme of 'Mining History and Beyond'. The aim of the conference is to inspire the participants to look at aspects of mining history which they might not have thought of before and which are relevant to all mining areas. No formal field visits have been organised, but there are a number of museums and other places of interest in reasonably close proximity which form part of the local industrial heritage.

Visit our website: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRS.html>

Meet Leaders

The secretary will always welcome offers from members to organise and lead a field meeting.

If you have a suggestion for a meet, please contact:

Steve Mitchell (c/o 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 7HD)

New NAMHO 2001 Conference — Mining History and Beyond Bradford, Sept 15 & 16, 2001. Hosted by NMRS.

Programme includes the following talks:

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|--------------------------|--|
| Kenneth Aitchison | Two centuries of a colliery landscape: the archaeology of Goyt's Moss, Derbyshire. |
| Sallie Bassham | Condensers and the ecology of smelt mill flues. |
| Ivor Brown | The decline in active mining in the UK post 1950 – How much can be preserved? |
| Roger Burt | It's not what you know but who you know: networking among mining men in the nineteenth century. |
| Peter Claughton | Northern Pennine silver; legend or legacy? |
| Sarah Costley | Marrick Priory Estate in Swaledale – a case study of the relationship between mining and farming in a late 16th and early 17th century estate. |
| Ian Dormor | The management of woodland resources to meet the demands of mines and smelt mills. |
| Mike Gill | Mining population studies. |
| Rob Ixer | Re-addressing undressed ores - a role for mineralogy in mining history? |
| Gerry McDonnell | Monastic iron working. |
| Sam Murphy | Swaledale bales: their implications for mining and smelting. |
| Rosemary Preece | The future for mining museums. |
| Martin Roe | The Landscape archaeology of lead mining. |
| Sharron Schwartz | Cornwall's World Heritage Status Bid. |
| Richard Smith | Caldbeck – an Elizabethan mining field. |
| Rob Vernon | Geophysical prospection of metal mining and smelting sites. |
| Robert White | The role of a curatorial archaeologist. |

Plus various sites of interest to visit nearby. Booking form enclosed.

From the President...

The Foot & Mouth Disease restrictions have seriously affected the activities of most outdoor societies, and ours is no exception. Of the meets programme, only the Annual Dinner and George Harvey's meet at Hendre have gone ahead so far. There was no option, but to cancel the others. So, hopefully, the leaders will be prepared to offer their services again next year, when we will have moved on to the locusts and frogs (the rivers usually run red anyway after an underground trip!).

For the same reason, the start of the proposed early smelting project, in partnership with Bradford University's Archaeological Sciences Department has been delayed. It is hoped that some laboratory and desk-based work will begin in the autumn term.

The May Newsletter carried the sad news that the NAMHO field meet in Ireland, being organised by the Mining Heritage Society of Ireland, was also cancelled because of Foot & Mouth Disease restrictions. This gave us the opportunity, at very short notice, to put on a lecture led conference in a relatively urban setting. This has been hard work and I urge members to come along and help make it a success. The final session on the Sunday will be an open debate of the future of mining history.

Just in case anyone saw an obituary for Michael Gill in the early July press. I am pleased to say that *"reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated"*, it was someone else.

Mike Gill

PS. We hope that the booking forms have more success in reaching you than they did with members of PDMHS. Although posted in good time, the machinations of the Post Office meant that they arrived after the PDMHS Newsletter had been sent out. Our thanks are due to Mike and Mavis Luff for doing their best to recover the situation.

NMRS Publications

In the May Newsletter I apologised for not having produced the promised monograph – now I have to apologise again as it's still not completed, but it is much nearer now than it was then and will be on its way to you as soon as possible. Mean-

while, F&MD continues to have a severe effect on our sales, especially in the Dales, which have been our main market for the last eight years or so. No one seems to know when it will come to an end and the tourists will return in reasonable numbers (or even if all our outlets will survive). On the brighter side, material is coming in for the next Memoirs and I will start work on that as soon as the Monograph is completed.

However, after much thought, I have decided that Memoirs 2001 will be my last publication and I will not be standing for election as Editor at the next AGM. With a great deal of help from Mike, I will have done the job for nine years come September and I think that's quite long enough. We've both got plenty of projects of our own and we feel that it's now time we concentrated our efforts on those instead, but, as our customers are used to our address and we only live three doors from the Post Office, we are prepared to continue with the sale of publications.

So, if anyone out there's interested in taking over, please get in touch with either me or Mike and we can discuss what's involved.

Hazel Martell

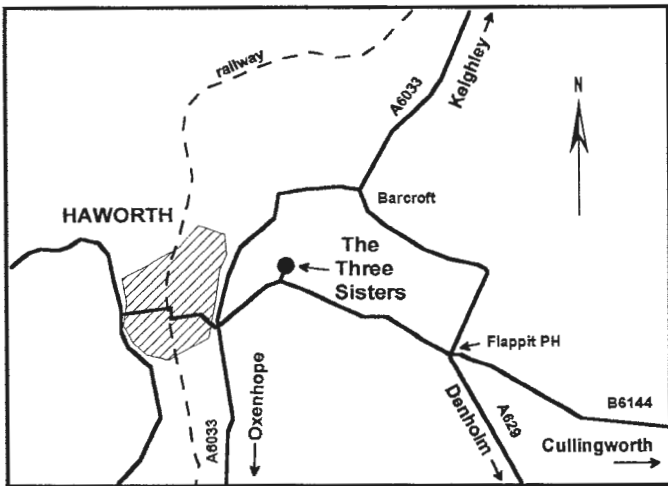
AUTUMN MEETING – Saturday, October 13th 2001.

We are trying a fresh venue this year – the Three Sisters Hotel, Brow Top Road, Haworth (SE 042373). There's plenty of parking space, the beer and the food are both good, and there are great views down the Worth Valley.

Please note that the general meeting will start at 1.30 pm (not 2.30 pm). This will be followed by a pot-pourri of members' slides and a buffet at £5.00 per head. Everything finishes around 5 pm, but the pub will be open for those wishing to stop and chat. As usual, talks will be informal – just a few slides on whatever aspect of mining you're interested in will be great.

To find us – from Halifax and Queensbury via Denholme. Follow the A629 to the cross roads at the Flappit Inn, turn left on to the Haworth (B6144) Road and follow it for 0.9 mile to the Three Sisters sign.

From Keighley, follow the Halifax (A629) Road south to the mini-roundabout at Cross Roads, then the Hebden Bridge (A6033) Road for 0.9 mile then turn sharp left onto the B6144. Go up the steep hill and a large sign for the Three Sisters will be facing you.



From Hebden Bridge follow the Keighley (A6033) Road for 1.25 mile north from Oxenhope and turn sharp right onto the B6144. Go up the steep hill and a large sign for the Three Sisters will be facing you.

WILLIAMSON'S TUNNELS, Liverpool, Saturday 27 October, 2pm. Underground Meet, but curiously, may still may be affected by F&MD restrictions. On the assumption central Liverpool will not be directly affected, and thanks to the "Friends of Williamson's Tunnels", we hope to be able to have an underground meet - even though it won't be down a mine. For further information, check the website - www.williamsonstunnels.com. Numbers will be limited to 12 - first come, first served, names to Sallie please. Those attending will be sent a map to show where to meet.

Names to Sallie Bassham (sbassham@nildram.co.uk or Winshaw Barn, Chapel-le-Dale, Ingleton, Yorkshire, LA6 3AT).

Meet Reports

Hendre Flat Workings - 29th April 2001

The party met beside the road into the present day Hendre quarry. The access agreement for the area requires everyone to have BCRA insurance so any members not suitably covered were signed up as Grosvenor Caving Club (GCC) members before going underground. The quarry has removed large parts of the old upper workings at Hendre so access now requires a descent of around 200 ft down the Olwyn Goch shaft to the level of the old Halkyn drainage tunnel (the shaft continues down for another 200 ft to the sea level tunnel). The shaft still has its wooden ladderway and platforms in place so it's a straightforward climb down the ladders.

Leaving the shaft at the old drainage level, the route heads towards Engine Shaft (now filled) on the main Coed Hendre vein. Just past Engine shaft, you turn right into a cross-cut driven to drain the lower sections of the flat workings. Falls result in the water level rising as you near the flats but the author was relieved to find that the level had dropped by about 6" since his reconnaissance trip a few weeks earlier and was now just over knee deep.

At the point where the cross-cut meets the workings, there is a short climb up a knotted rope into

the start of the flats. From here on, the workings are mostly dry until you drop back into the water on the way out. For those familiar with the flat workings in the Nenthead area, at first sight the Hendre flats don't look very flat at all. However, compared to the near vertical stopes in the main Halkyn veins, the ore deposits in Hendre have the characteristics of 'flats' even though they were worked from a series of inclines. Our trip took in three of the inclines which are stacked more or less on top of each other. A report by Walter Eddy, dated November 1887, describes the "East Main Incline" and the "No. 3 Incline" as being actively worked in the area we were now exploring. At that time they were having considerable trouble with water (this was before the connection to the Halkyn drainage level). To quote from the report:

"At present the principal part of the ores are being dug out from the bottom of an incline of 1 in 5 and in water, with pumps in the forebreast under the men's feet; pulled up an Incline of 300 or 400 yards, and trammed to the Shaft and equal distance, and the water forced up the same way and distance by Compressed-air Engines. No one would believe the difficulties and expense of raising and getting away the ore and refuse from

such places, unless they saw them, and it is only a rich Mine that could stand the cost."

The pumps have gone but artifacts still in place include the remains of windlasses, kibbles, a hand winch and a compressed-air winch.

The through-route goes up the upper incline, through some side levels and then drops down onto the middle incline. The drop down provides some fun, you have to back through a letterbox at the end of a short section of level, which is knee-deep in water, and then drop down onto the incline. A rope-ladder is in place to help but it is still tricky trying to avoid lying in the water as you back through the hole. The middle incline eventually leads back down towards the level of the cross-cut that you come in on. Near the end, a hole in the floor leads down to the lower incline.

On the reconnaissance trip, there was a fair flow of water down the hole so we gave it a miss but this had now reduced to a trickle allowing the party to descend. The hole drops you into the lower end of another incline which can then be followed up some distance until an impenetrable collapse is reached. Returning down the incline and up through the hole brings you back to the level of the cross-cut. The final obstacle is a flooded winze, with rails across it, and then you are back at the junction where the knotted rope leads up to the start. From there it is back down the cross-cut, along to the shaft, up the ladders and out. On return to the surface there was time for refreshments at a local pub before the group dispersed. Thanks go to the GCC and in particular to Graham Woolley for leading the trip.

George Harvey

Mining Biographical Sketches

Robert Brough Smyth (1830 - 1869)

A mining surveyor, son of Edward Smyth, a mining engineer, was born at Carville, near Newcastle on Tyne, Northumberland in 1830. He was educated at Whickham in the County of Durham. He soon began turning his attention to natural science, especially to chemistry and geology. He began work about 1846 as an assistant at the Derwent Ironworks, where he remained for a period of five years. In 1852 he emigrated to Victoria, Australia. After some experience in the gold-fields, he entered the survey department as draughtsman under Captain (afterwards Sir Andrew) Clarke R.E. Subsequently he acted for a brief period in the capacity of Chief Draughtsman, and in 1854 was appointed to take charge of meteorological observations. In 1858 he was appointed Secretary to the Board of Science, which included the charge of the mining surveys of the colony. In 1860 he was appointed Secretary for Mines, with a salary of £750 p.a., and acted for some time as Chief Inspector of Mines, and reorganised the geological survey, of which he subsequently became Director.

At the beginning of 1876, owing to the result of an inquiry into his treatment of his subordinates, he resigned all his offices. He subsequently went to India, where he helped to promote the disastrous 'boom' in the Indian gold mines. He died on the 10th October, 1889. He had been elected a

Fellow of the geological Society in 1856, and of the Linnaean Society in 1874; he was also a member of the Société Géologique de France, of the Society of Arts & Sciences at Utrecht, and an honorary corresponding member of the Boston Society of Natural History. Besides easy official reports and various lists and statistics for different international exhibitions, Smyth was author of:

1. The Prospectors Handbook, 8 vo, Melbourne, 1863.
2. The Gold fields & Mineral Districts of Victoria, Melbourne, 1869.
3. Hints for the guidance of surveyors, Melbourne, 1871
4. The Aborigines of Victoria, 2 vols, Melbourne, 1878

He also contributed papers on mineralogical and geological subjects to scientific journals between 1855 and 1872.

Sources:

Mennell's Dict. Australian Biog.
Colonial Office Lists 1858 - 1876
Lists of the Linnaean & Geological Societies
Reports of the Mines Dept. of Victoria
Brit. Mus. Cat.
Royal Soc. Cat. of Scientific Papers

Tony Fretwell

Book Reviews

A MINER'S DIARY OF 1907 – by Alastair Robertson. Available from Hundy Publications, 8 Jollybeard Gate, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3TG for £4.20 plus £1.50 p&p.

Published diaries are usually those of the rich and famous, but Alastair Robertson gives us the diary of an anonymous coal miner at Roachburn Pit near Alston. It covers the period from December 31st 1906 to December 31st 1907 and has many fascinating entries relating to the weather – the winter of 1906/7 was exceptional, and there were dramatic thunderstorms and displays of the Northern Lights. There are also insights into a gardener's calendar, work at Roachburn Pit, and social organisation within a rural community. For example, the miner attended Rechabite (a teetotal group) functions and met other young people at the waiting room of the railway station at Brampton Junction.

Mike Gill

BRITISH SMALL MINES (SOUTH) 2 by A J Booth 2001 96 pp, 124 photos, 28 maps. Price £15.00. I got my copy from Mike Moore. email: mike@moorebooks.freemove.co.uk

What is a railway society doing publishing a mining book? Well, all these mines have one thing in common - they have a narrow gauge railway, or to be precise, a tramway. It might only be 100 yards long on the surface, but aficionados from all over the country have come, not to collect train numbers, but to measure and photograph these final remnants of the iron horse.

Since 1980 Adrian Booth has been visiting and photographing mines all over England and Wales. In 1995 and 1997 he published two books on the coal mines of South Wales and the year 2000 saw the publication of British Small Mines (North). This current volume, number four and regrettably the last in the series, covers an area south of an imaginary line drawn between the Humber and the Wash. This book details a further 28 mines, all with NGR, description, type of coal or minerals mined, method of haulage etc. Little is ever published about these small mines and all the information herein, such as mine histories, details of coal seams, methods of working, track gauges etc has been gleaned by the time

honoured method of gaffering. The author has talked to mine owners, workmen and local people and so this book is interspersed with many anecdotes.

These mines were full of character, from the gold mines of Dolgellau, the slate mine at Aberllefenni to the coal mines of the Forest of Dean. The majority of mines, however, are to be found in and around Derbyshire. These include coal, spar, fluorspar and fireclay.

Many of the photos are already of great historical interest as numerous mines have been razed to the ground. The book is a valuable pictorial archive for many years to come.

Tony Oldham

THE KALMETER JOURNAL – by Justin Brooke. Published by Twelveheads Press, Chy Mengleth, Twelveheads, TRURO, Cornwall, TR4 8SN. ISBN 0 906294 45 2, Casebound £19.50 (post free in UK and Europe)

Besides having written a biography of the author, Justin Brooke is to be congratulated for translating and editing that part of Henric Kalmeter's journals which covers his visit to Cornwall, Devon and Somerset in 1724-25. Foreign visitors were often well educated and experienced in trade and, though their language usually makes them difficult to access, their writings on our industrial processes are often invaluable.

Kalmeter was a university educated Swede, who had also trained with the Department of Mines, and, as Brooke says, "*His notes on tin form the earliest coherent account of the industry yet seen*". He describes: lead, copper, tin and calamine mines; the dressing of those ores; the smelting processes; quarrying of stone and slate; harbours; fishing, agriculture and woollen textiles. The last two were related and formed a very important part of the region's economy. It is also interesting to see the rapid transition from smelting tin in blowing houses to the use of reverberatory furnaces which had taken place in the decade or so before Kalmeter's visit. The diffusion of this technology into the lead producing areas had been equally rapid, but the take-up was nowhere so enthusiastic.

This book, apart from making enthralling reading, is one to which readers will return regularly for insights of the various topics covered. It has 80 pages and 19 (fairly) contemporary illustrations. It has a general index, plus others to mines, the wool trade and sumames.

(Whilst in the mood for Swedish diarists, members might also like to know that "R.R. Angerstein's Illustrated Travel Diary, 1753-1755" has been translated by Torsten and Peter Berg. It runs to 400 pages, with 392 b&w illustrations, and has been published by the National Museum of Science & Industry, price £34.95 hardback – ISBN 1 900747 24 3).

Mike Gill

CARADON & LOOE: The canal, railways and mines – by Michael Messenger. Published by Twelveheads Press, Chy Mengleth, Twelveheads, TRURO, Cornwall, TR4 8SN. ISBN 0 906294 46 0, Casebound £26.00 (post free in UK and Europe)

Are you one of the many people who share an interest in mining with one in railways? Well, here's the book for you. There's even a canal thrown in for good measure. Michael Messenger's book, first published in 1978, has long been out of print, so he has fully revised the text, taking account of further research and adding many new illustrations, to give definitive histories of the Liskeard & Looe Union Canal, the Liskeard & Caradon Railway and the Liskeard & Looe Railway.

The canal was built, at the dawn of the railway age, chiefly to cut the cost of transporting the lime etc used on the acid soils south of Liskeard. By good chance, the area's moribund tin industry was revived by rich finds of copper ore on Caradon Hill. This traffic was supplemented by the growth of granite quarrying and, to carry it, a horse drawn railway (the L&C) was built from the Caradon Mines and Cheesewring Quarry to the head of the canal in the mid 1840s. Then, between 1858 and 1861, the canal company built its own steam railway, to replace the canal, down to Looe. The L&C line was also upgraded to steam and the two companies reached an agreement for working the two lines jointly.

The book follows the trials and tribulations of this process, through ownership by the GWR, to the

present day (yes, the line from Liskeard to Looe is still open). It has 168 pages and 222 illustrations, with appendixes covering: a time-line, traffic statistics, the output of copper and tin in the Caradon district, locomotives and rolling stock, early bylaws & regulations, and a gazetteer of the mines around Caradon hill, plus a general index.

Mike Gill

ROSS ISLAND AND THE MINING HERITAGE OF KILLARNEY by William O'Brian May 2000 30 pp 33 figs, SB published by the National University of Ireland, Galway. £4.00 (This copy is also from Mike Moore).

Killarney! - the horse drawn carriages and the placid lakes are an unlikely mining scenario and a hundred years of tourism has all but eradicated any signs of a 4000 year old industry. Copper mining dates back to the Bronze age and the finds on Ross Island show all stages of this ancient industry. Fire-setting, the use of stone mauls, smelting sites and an adjacent work camp have all been uncovered by archaeological excavations during recent years. The site has been radiocarbon dated to 2400-1800 BC and provides a fascinating insight into the oldest copper mining operation in Ireland or Britain.

The early 1700's saw a revival of mining, encouraged by local landowners, these activities attracted people like Rudolf Raspe, better known as the author of *The Fabulous Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. Raspe is credited with the discovery of cobalt at Muckross, a mineral discarded as worthless but which was later found to be useful for giving the bright blue colour to glassware.

The 1800's saw the arrival of Colonel Robert Hall, whose regiment included Cornish miners. Further mining expertise was provided with miners from Wales and Wicklow assisted by labour recruited locally. At one point around 500 people were employed and 5000 tons of copper ore was sold to the smelters at Swansea, making an important contribution to the local economy.

The mines tended to be shallow, up to 16 metres deep with tunnels leading off. Water was a problem due to the close proximity of the lakes. Today the area is in a National Park and is open to visitors. There are designated paths and information plaques, but the main shaft, "The Blue Hole", is

flooded to the surface. The woodlands, once decimated as fuel for smelting, have regenerated and have become a delightful habitat for plants and animals. This book is a timely guide to the area and is highly recommended.

Tony Oldham

SANTE-MARIE-AUX-MINES ou Les mines du réve / Une monographie des mines d'agent

by Pierre Fluck 2000 205 pp, many photos including 75 in colour. Published by Les Éditions du Patrimoine Minier. HB DW 150 FF about £15.00

If the success of the author's previous book on these mines is anything to go by, I hope the publishers have extended their print run, because it will surely soon be out of print. A super guide to the lead mines of Alsace Lorraine, on the French German border which also produced some silver. These are not mines for the faint hearted, in fact, I suspect more people will be willing to read about them, than are willing to descend them, because the extent and difficulty of the terrain makes them only suitable for the true mine explorer. A shame really, because judging from the photographs of the minerals, great chasms and tools etc which are to be found, a trip would be a worthwhile experience.

Mines have existed here since antiquity and the book is well illustrated with reproductions of ancient engravings and details of archaeological remains excavated. An amazing place.

Tony Oldham

MINING IN CORNWALL: Vol. 4, Hayle to Kerrier & Carrick – by L.J. Bullen. 128 pp, paperback, £10.99, ISBN: 0 7524 2133 6, Tempus Publishing.

Joff Bullen's latest book in Tempus's 'Images of England' series covers the area between St Ives and Truro. It is a fine collection of nearly 200 photographs, many of them not published before, covering (mostly) 20th century mining scenes. With Cornwall's mines moribund, it is a useful reminder of just how many small ventures and trials there were before the 1970s. Of the handful of big 'modern' mines, Pendarves, Jane and Welington get good coverage.

Mike Gill

Swaledale: its Mines and Smelt Mills, by Mike Gill, 2001. Landmark Collector's Library, Landmark Publishing, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, pp 174, ISBN 1-84306-018-3, hardback, £19.95.

Reading Mike Gill's fascinating book was for me an exercise in nostalgia. It is more than half a century since I began to research a collection of documents, dating back for three centuries, in the abandoned estate office of the principal lead-mining royalty in Swaledale. I sought the advice of Dr Arthur Raistrick, the leading authority on lead mining and smelting. Arthur was also an active WEA tutor, especially after taking early retirement in 1956, and I was the tutor-organiser for the dales. When my thesis on 'The Lead Mining Industry of Swaledale' was finally completed, he invited me to join him in writing *A History of Lead Mining in the Pennines* (1965), a title inexplicably omitted from the bibliography in Mike Gill's book. As Mike explains, I contributed a shortened version of my thesis to R. Fieldhouse and B. Jennings, *A History of Richmond and Swaledale* (1978), its impact lessened by the omission of plans of the main mine workings, an issue on which I should have been more assertive at the time.

Mike's book begins with a lucid account of the basic processes of mining, ore dressing and smelting, and continues with a detailed analysis of the mines and smelting mills of sixteen areas within the dale. The text is supported by 121 illustrations, consisting of old and recent black-and-white photographs (forming an important archive of industrial archaeology), together with maps and plans. The publishers have done an excellent job with the old photographs, consistent with the high-quality production standards of the book as a whole. The research undertaken by the author and his associates on the smelting mills is particularly impressive, and it both corrects errors and resolves uncertainties. I was glad to see due credit given to the late Robert Clough for his pioneering work on the architecture of the smelting mills. It is fair to say that he was hindered by his limited technical knowledge - when he made his first reconstruction drawings he did not understand the two smelting processes - but he made every effort to correct his work before the book was published in 1962.

The development of the mines is well described, incorporating a considerable amount of new research, especially on the fields outside the main

vein complex of Lownathwaite / Old Gang / Arkengarthdale. Every academic method has its downside, however, and by using a field-by-field approach the broad issues of strategy and organisation, although discussed, come through less clearly. The author has a perfect defence for his decision to emphasise the industrial-archaeology rather than the economic – and – social history dimension. The book is entitled 'Mines and Smelt Mills', not 'The Lead Mining Industry of ...'. I would like to have seen a concluding chapter summarising briefly the evolution of leasing systems and company organisation, and surveying the interplay between technological developments and topographical imperatives. An annotated plan of the Blakethwaite / Lownathwaite / West Stonesdale mines would have been useful for the understanding of one question never likely to be fully answered, the productivity of the Blakethwaite Vein in the Main Limestone west of the forehead abandoned in 1850 (see pages 36-7 and 62-4).

Mike Gill's book takes the subject of Swaledale's mines and smelt mills well beyond the points reached by Arthur Raistrick and myself. There are a few minor issues, outside my previous knowledge, which I would have liked to follow up, but I could not... the book has no references. It is said that references distract 'the general reader', but authors of substantial scholarly works such as this should, to protect their own reputations and to promote the interests of the questioning reader, include appropriate references.

Some of the entries under 'Archival Sources' are appropriate and useful, e.g. 'Gateshead Library - Cotesworth MSS for the Hurst Mines'; but the North Yorkshire County Record Office is described as 'by far the major source for all the areas covered', without any details of the archives. If the book is reprinted, the opportunity should be taken to list the collections concerned, and perhaps provide some further information about the Draycott Hall MSS. There is plenty of room on the page.

*Bernard Jennings, Emeritus Professor,
Institute for Learning, University of Hull.*

(Editors note: In order to save space, some asides have been cut from Bernard Jennings' review. Anyone wishing to read the full text will find a copy archived on the Mining History List (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/mining-history.html>) for August 14th.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE - Industry People Transport. Vol 27 No 2 Summer 2001 40 pp photos, colour cover. 1 years subscription £11.50 from Yorkshire History, Proctor House, Kirkgate, Settle, N Yorks BD24 9DZ

The Dartmoor Tin Industry, some aspects of its field remains, by Tom Greeves. Tom describes the extensive field remains of an industry which probably has its origins in prehistoric times but is well documented from the 12th century until its final demise in 1930. It is barely possible to walk on Dartmoor without seeing some evidence of the activities of tanners, as the bottom of virtually every valley has been turned over by them in their search for tin-bearing sand and gravel, and many of the hillsides are cut by their opencast excavations and shafts and by leat courses which brought water to the tinworks and mines. Most of the surface remains that we see today date from the period from AD 1400 to 1700, as the peak of the industry was in the early 16th century. However, there are about fifty locations where evidence of 19th century mining can be seen and one or two places where people were working in mines within living memory.

A Coalmine at Clintsfield in Tatham by Phil Hudson. In the lower Lune valley in Yorkshire, there are four colliery sites at Clintsfield, Farelton, Tatham and Smearhaw (Smear Hall), which are known to have steam driven lifting or pumping gear. Phil describes in some detail the only surviving colliery buildings at Clintsfield Colliery. Mining in this area appears to date from the 1770's with shafts up to 70 yards deep.

A new life for Oddball and her Friends by Dr Ivor Brown describes a well preserved Bucyrus-Erie 1150-B Walking Dragline near Leeds. This 53 year old American built machine of 1200 tons has been repainted in its original NCB colours and has been made safe for visitors.

Other articles include Strome Ferry [Scotland], Canal Navigation, A Coal and Wine Tax Post, Pakenham Water Mill, Early Transport Proposals for Roundhay Park, Leeds and all the latest news from IA and similar societies from all over the UK. Something to interest everybody.

Tony Oldham

COLLIERIES OF SOUTH WALES [Part?] 1

by John Cornwell 2001 255 pp 275 photos published by the Landmark Publishing Ltd, Ashbourne Hall, Cokayne Ave, Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1EJ at £22.50

My recollections of John Cornwell go back over 40 years, when I first met him down a cave wearing just a pullover and swimming trunks. His reason for wearing this unusual garb was that it saved having to repair his caving clothes after every trip. Since then John has gone on to photographing mines and over the years he has produced a number of books illustrating Welsh coal mines, of which there are now very few left.

John has perfected a rather unusual method of underground photography using existing Coal Board lighting as electronic flash guns and similar devices are banned in coal mines. For close up he uses a mining cap lamp on a time exposure. By "painting" the area with the light from the cap lamp he has produced some remarkable photographs. For larger scenes he uses the approved Locomotive lamp which has two batteries. With this technique he photographs shafts 1000 feet deep and long lengths of underground roadway with remarkable clarity. John does not say what sort of camera he uses, but judging by the quality and superb definition of his photographs, I would guess at something like a whole plate [10 x 8 ins] camera.

To demonstrate the importance of a book like this it should be borne in mind that in 1975 there were 47 working collieries, today, there is only one deep pit [Tower] and a few private drift mines. This book presents a historical record of 35 pits which are no longer in existence, from Cynheidre in the west to Tirpentwys in the east. For each colliery there is a brief historical account, date of sinking, and details of ownership (all collieries before nationalisation 1947 were in private ownership), . Depth of shaft, owners, number of men, production figures are all given together with large scale OS maps and as mentioned previously, some superb photographs of both men and horses at work underground. How did he get them to stand still for so long?

There is an exquisite symmetry and balance within the subjects chosen for photography. The magnificent sweep of underground roadways, the neatness and precision of the pitprops, the silhouettes of winding gear, the artistry and attention to detail on the gargantuan machinery. And overlooking the surface scenes, more often than not a row of miners' cottages, again built with that same symmetry and precision. How sad that the expertise and commitment of the miners should only exist today through the printed page.

Tony Oldham

More on subsidence at Edinburgh

Steps to secure emergency cash aid from a special hardship fund to meet the cost of serious subsidence problems have been taken by Edinburgh City Council. This follows a report on the recent collapse of housing on the south side of the city. The first 33 homes to be affected at Ferniehill in the Gilmerton area have been demolished after sinking into old limestone workings. The full extent of the mine workings still has to be assessed. Three blocks of flats in Moredun Park are being pulled down and another 141 homes in the Hyvots area have also been evacuated. (From, The Herald, 1/6/2001).

A recent report recommended that no new building should be allowed in the area of south Edinburgh where homes were first demolished because of subsidence. After drilling 44 boreholes, engineers have determined that the problems at

Ferniehill have been caused by the large volume of material originally extracted from the 200 year old mine workings. A wider public enquiry has been tasked with finding out why permission was given to build on affected sites in previous decades. (From, The Scotsman, 31/7/2001).

Homeowners on a new estate in Gilmerton, built by Barratts East Scotland, which is threatened by subsidence, may be able to swap their homes for others owned by the developer. At least 23 flats and semi-detached houses on the Barratts estate have been found to be at risk from the same type of subsidence that has seen hundreds of other homes in the area condemned. (From, The Scotsman, 1/8/2001).

Articles supplied by Alastair Lings

Geevor Tin Mine Heritage Centre, Pendeen, Cornwall

Cornwall County Council have awarded the management contract for Geevor to Pendeen Community Heritage for a three year period. PCH is a group of local people with connections to Geevor who are committed to the development of the site, the largest heritage mining site in Britain, as a world class mining museum. A major aim is to assist with economic regeneration in the Pendeen area by the creation of sustainable employment. The contract begins on October 1st, 2001. PCH is chaired by NMRS member Bill Lakin, who can be contacted at Bojewyan House, Pendeen, Cornwall TR19 7TR (tel 01736 787312).

Bill Lakin

New Books

Coal, by John Anderson (reprinted 1999). A history of the coal mining industry in Scotland with special reference to the Cambuslang district of Lanarkshire (64 pp). Available from the Scottish Mining Museum at Newtongrange (0131 6637519).

Quarry Hunslets of North Wales, by Cliff Thomas. Due for publication on August 27th, at the Llanberis Lake Railway, celebrating its 30th anniversary. Case bound, 256pp, with almost 200 photographs. A history of each locomotive is detailed. ISBN 0 85361 575 6 ex Oakwood Press, £22.95.

The Slate Railways of Wales, by Alun John Richards. This book covers the chronology of slate related railways and tramways throughout Wales. There is a chapter on the routes and remains if you feel like tracing them. ISBN 0 86381 689 4 ex Carreg Gwalch, paperback, priced £5.95.

Industrial Gwynedd Volume 5. No set publication date as yet but expected to include articles on: the Penrhyn slate quarry; the first steam engine in the Welsh slate industry; quarrymen's housing & the planer at the Pen-yr-Orsedd slate quarry. Ex Plateway Press.

(supplied by Alastair Lings & John Knight)

Kelly Mine Correction

The suggestion, on page 7 of the May Newsletter, that Kelly Mine was "probably the last mine in Britain to use candles" is wrong. Burgham lead and barytes mine, in Shropshire, was still using candles in 1962 and Rock Fireclay Mine used them in December 1964 ... and I am sure that there are more recent examples. Hand drilling was also used at both mines until those dates too.

Ivor Brown

Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining

Pendle District Council has awarded the Museum Trust a grant of £16,500 which, with grants from English Heritage and other bodies, brings them to the estimated £105,000 needed for building repairs. A further £79,000 is now being sought to allow for replacing the internal floor when that work is done.

Greenside Lead Mine Exhibition

Following the success of last year's exhibition, a display of hundreds of photographs, newspaper articles, archive material, maps and plans relating to the Greenside mine is being held at Glenridding public hall, Ullswater, from August 4th to 19th, 2001. Open daily from 10.30 am to 8 pm, admission is £1.00 (adults & youth over 16). The exhibition has been compiled and organised by NMRS members John Hodgkins & Warren Allison.

(Editors note — unfortunately received too late for May Newsletter)

Mining History & Related Articles in Other Journals

Memoir — Sir Kingsley Dunham, an address given by the Revd. Theo Harman at the funeral service for Sir Kingsley Dunham in Durham Cathedral, 11th April, 2001. In: *International Mining & Minerals*, no. 43, July 2001, pages 16 & 17.

Historic Forest of Dean mining company records preserved.

The County Record Office of Gloucester has recently received an important collection of records of the Forest of Dean mining company, Henry Crawshay & Co Ltd of Cinderford. The records date from the formation of the company in 1889 until 1947 when the mines were nationalised along with the rest of the British coal industry. The records contain information about the performance of the company's collieries which included Lightmoor, Eastern and Northern United Shakemantle. Accidents in the mines are also recorded.

The first two minute books cover the period when the company still owned iron mines, and contain a lot of information about the decision to wind down this side of the business. Minutes for the 1930's reveal difficulties with water in Lightmoor Colliery, losses at Northern United and with labour relations. There are also occasional

glimpses of the power and influence which the Crawshay family had in the Forest. The company made annual donations to charities and Gloucester Royal Infirmary, but in 1905 William Crawshay was opposed to the building of a secondary school in Cinderford. "Crawshay's was an important part of the Forest's economy for over 50 years" says archivist Kate Maisey. "We are delighted to add this archive to our holdings".

The archive has been passed to the Record Office by local historian David Bick, who is well known for his research on the county's industrial past. It is believed the records were previously in the hands of a former director of the company, Frank G. Washbourn. Other records from the company were dispersed in the late 1980's, and the Record Office (01452 425294) would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows their whereabouts.

Press release supplied by David Bick

Moving? If you change your address, please help us by notifying:

The Secretary
c/o 38 Main Street,
Sutton in Craven,
Keighley,
West Yorkshire BD20 7HD

Finally...

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Material received and not used this time should appear in the next newsletter. Please keep sending articles and other material suitable for publication - it is greatly appreciated. Items relating to mining in the northern Pennines are particularly welcome. Contributions can be in text (*.txt) format by email or diskette, but please don't hesitate to send submissions on paper if necessary. If sending printed text, 12 point Arial scans nicely. Photos, plans and sketches can also be scanned, but please advise us of the copyright ownership. Diskettes will be returned with the following newsletter unless instructed otherwise. Contributions for November newsletter by mid-November please, to:

John & Alison Hunter, 3 Leebrook Drive, Owlthorpe, Sheffield S20 6QG
Tel: 0114 251 4883. Email: johnhunter.2000@btinternet.com

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