

# The Concrete Society . . .

## newest of the international prime movers among the concrete industries

Just ten years ago this journal published an article describing most of the major technical societies and trade associations which serve the concrete construction industry (CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, May 1960, pages 122-127). Since that time there have been enough additions and name changes, plus one major demise, to justify publishing a second article in the near future.

In the interim, however, a new international organization, The Concrete Society, has appeared on the scene, and the purpose of this brief discussion is to try to define for readers of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION just where it fits in the broad picture.

Although headquartered in the United Kingdom, and therefore undoubtedly most effective and influential in that part of the world, The Concrete Society offers participation to individuals in the United States and other nations through associate memberships. Formed in 1966 as a non-profit organization, The Society embraces personnel and skills which appear to cover the whole range of professions in the concrete industry. Like the American Concrete Institute, which it resembles in many respects, The Society promotes research and development, the exchange of technical information, and provides a forum for interchange of ideas. Within this single body there are more than seven thousand members, including architects, engineers, researchers, suppliers and specialists, representing all areas of concern within the industry.

Writing in the first formal report of The Society, President P. F. Stott

stated: "That there was a need for a single organization embracing the interests of all those concerned with concrete, there can now be no doubt whatsoever. The rapid growth in membership since The Society's formal inauguration . . . has been solid proof of that."

The Concrete Society absorbed four U.K. organizations into one group representative of the entire industry. The predecessors were the Reinforced Concrete Association, the Prestressed Concrete Development Group, the Pavings Development Group and the Formwork Development Group. This consolidation has attracted membership from areas not previously represented in the original groups.

### Council membership

The organizational structure of The Concrete Society provides for representatives from the principal fields of interest within the society. These Council members serve staggered, three year terms and are elected by ordinary members at annual general meetings.

The concerns of the membership are represented in three divisional committees in the areas of construction and formwork, design and development, and materials technology. Specialties within these broad areas are the business of ad hoc working parties and subcommittees organized by the divisional committees. Areas that transcend these divisional boundaries are represented by an education committee, a research committee, an overseas committee, and a publications committee which also serves as the advisory board for the official journal of The Society.

### Interchange of ideas

The range of membership in The Society encourages education and training, research and technical investigation and participation in principal areas of mutual concern. As in most large industries, the exchange of ideas and information is extremely vital but seldom realized in practice. One of the most important functions of The Society is to expedite and encourage this interchange. It provides an opportunity for specialists in different areas to come together in a way that would not be possible in organizations limited to one facet of the industry.

The Society participates in advisory capacities to committees responsible for British Standards and Codes of Practice, committees of the Cement and Concrete Association, and the City and Guilds of London Institute. It cooperates with the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Institutions of Civil and Structural Engineers, the British Road Federation, and internationally with the Federation Internationale de la Precontrainte, and the Comite Europeen du Beton.

Many of The Society's activities are organized around geographical regions within the British Isles: nine different branches serve Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and economic regions in England. Local interests are served by these regional organizations. In addition a working relationship is maintained with the Cement and Concrete Association on both the divisional and general society levels which provide The Society with a great deal of help with its activities while at the same time obtaining a constant feed back on matters that are currently of most

concern in the world of concrete.

Each year The Society holds its annual convention at a major center in one of the regions, to which all members, both in Great Britain and overseas, are encouraged to come.

The stimulating activities of The Society include conferences, symposia, meetings and lectures, often in collaboration with other organizations. The first international congress on lightweight concrete was arranged by The Society in London in 1968, and was attended by more than 600 delegates from all over the world.


Formal activities have included presentations and meetings on techniques and formwork for continuous vertical construction, continental paving practice, autoclaved aerated concrete, prestressing techniques, concrete pumping, practical formwork methods, and a host of

others. The Society is also augmenting the adaption of the metric system into construction practice.

One of the greatest attractions for Concrete Society members is the fact that they receive, free of charge, The Society's monthly journal, CONCRETE; they can also apply for a very wide range of technical publications produced by The Society and by the Cement and Concrete Association. The value of these publications alone greatly exceeds the annual subscription.

The Society mounts exhibitions at selected trade and building exhibits throughout the world. Such international activities further stimulate the exchange of information. Overseas visits by members and participation in international bodies enhance this exchange. Recent visits have been made to France, Finland and the Far East, including special

visits of Japan's Expo 70, Canada and South Africa.

With such a wide variety of activities, informational services and membership, the advantages offered to professionals within the industry are manifold. Associate membership is available to all persons based outside the United Kingdom with a personal or professional interest in concrete. There are no academic requirements. Companies, associations or other organizations outside the British Isles may apply for group memberships. Information can be obtained by writing to A. B. Harman, Secretary, The Concrete Society, Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, England. 

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