

## W18 - Timber Structures



More than 50 participants from 18 countries gathered in the Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver B.C., Canada for the 30th Meeting of W18 from 25th to 28th August 1997.

The Coordinator Prof.Dr.-Ing. H.J. Blaß took the Chair and there was universal appreciation for the outstanding facilities and organisation provided by Professor R.D. Barrett and his colleagues at the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia.

From the scientific and technical aspects also the meeting more than lived up to the high standards set at previous meetings.



W18 Coordinator Professor Hans Blaß (centre) took the Chair for the 30th Meeting of W18 in Vancouver B.C. last August.



55 participants from 18 countries attended to hear and discuss 28 technical papers over three full days.



These included (from left to right) Assoc.Prof. Andy Buchanan, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, Prof. Ernst Gehri, ETH Hönggerberg, New Zealand and Prof. Borg Madsen, Timber Engineering Ltd., Canada.

Hans Jørgen Larsen, Director of the Danish Building Research Institute and a long time central figure in W18 and CIB had some interesting observations on standardisation matters.



Dr. Bob Leicester, CSIRO, Australia had more than one contribution including the final paper on Structural Design Codes.



Dr. Lars Bostrom, Swedish National Testing and Research Institute spoke on Measurement of Modules of Elasticity in Bending.

The successful outcome owed much to the impeccable organisation and generous hospitality provided by Professor R.D. Barrett and his colleagues in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. To the right, outside the meeting room CIB's Chris Pollington draws the attention of Canadian colleagues to a recent issue of CIB Information featuring details of other up-coming CIB events.



A series of twenty eight papers followed by discussions were presented grouped into thirteen categories as follows:

- Timber Columns
- Stresses for Solid Timber
- Timber Joints and Fasteners
- Duration of Load
- Timber Beams
- Environmental Conditions
- Laminated Members
- Trussed Rafters
- Structural Stability
- Statistics and Data Analysis
- Fracture Mechanics
- Serviceability
- Structural Design Codes

The papers will as usual appear in Proceedings and on the W18 Home Page.

The morning of the final day 28th August 1997 was given over to Technical Tours to the University of British Columbia and to the Forintek Canada Corporation.

The next meeting of W18 is scheduled for 24th - 28th August 1998 in Helsinki, Finland.



## **E. GEORGE STERN LABORATORY**

Professor E. George Stern of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a long time CIB Individual Member, was deeply moved when he unexpectedly received a post card signed by 12 of his friends who were attending the CIB W18 Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada, during August 1997. Professor Stern had to miss that meeting, since he had just returned from a workshop-conference on "Preservation of Russian Antiquities, Its Impact on Russia's Rejuvenation", which he coordinated and co-chaired.

The group of 34 participants from Australia, Estonia, Finland, The Netherlands, Russia and the USA celebrated Stern's 85th birthday in style onboard.

Just before the departure for Russia, the faculty and staff of Virginia Tech's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products had celebrated Stern's 85th anniversary with a surprise luncheon, which made him dumbfounded because he never expected anything of that kind. In his honour, a bronze plaque was installed at the entrance of "his" building. It reads: "E. George Stern Fastener and Pallet Testing Laboratory". This was a surprise which Stern had neither anticipated nor visualised, although he had been at Virginia Tech for more than 56 years.