

International Memory of the World Register

Membership Application Certificates (Candidates Circulars)

(United Kingdom)

2012-33

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The Institution of Civil Engineers is the world's oldest professional engineering body. Its global membership has transformed the world since 1818. The membership application certificates provide a unique biographical record of engineers which chronicles their role in shaping civilization, providing a socio economic insight into their backgrounds.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Institution of Civil Engineers

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner and custodian

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Carol Morgan, ICE Archivist

Mike Chrimes, Director of Engineering, Policy and Innovation

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
<i>Carol Morgan</i>	<i>Archive, Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA, UK</i>

Telephone

+44 (0)207 665 2043

Facsimile

Email

carol.morgan@ice.org.uk

2.5 Declaration of authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the International Memory of the World Register.

Signature

Full name (Please PRINT)

MICHAEL MARK CHRIMES

Institution(s), if appropriate

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Date

22 March 2012

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Membership application certificates of the Institution of Civil Engineers 1818-1930.

The collection comprises 93 vols containing signed application forms of all ICE members submitted between 1818 and 1930. These provide biographical information, education and career details for 18889 engineers who worked all over the world in the period 1800-1960. This is a unique source from the archives of the world's first professional engineering institution, embracing all disciplines of engineering and engineers from most countries in the world.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The collection comprises 93 vols containing signed application forms of all ICE members submitted between 1818 and 1930. These provide biographical information, education and career details for 18889 engineers who worked all over the world in the period 1800-1960. This is a unique source from the archives of the world's first professional engineering institution, embracing all disciplines of engineering and engineers from most countries in the world.

Please find attached entries from archive database (examples of catalogue)

We are working with Ancestry.com to make the application forms available online. This would allow researchers to search for certificates by surname.

Library webpage <http://www.ice.org.uk/Information-resources/Library>

Archive webpage <http://www.ice.org.uk/topics/historicalengineering/Archives>

3.4 History/provenance

The collection has been built up by the Institution since its foundation in 1818 as a means of validating the professional qualifications of its membership and all the certificates have been bound up in guard books from an early date and kept in secure storage on Institution premises.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Institution of Civil Engineers	One Great George Street, London, UK, SW1P 3AA	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+ 44 (0) 207 665 2043		archive@ice.org.uk
		library@ice.org.uk

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
Archivist	As above

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
As above		As above

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The Governing Body is the ICE Secretary, under direction of the Council. The Archive, being part of the library operates under by-law 118 (2000).

Also see attached Policy and Procedures document. Appendix A lists material to be permanently preserved. Membership certificates are No. 26 on the list (referred to as forms A and C).

4.4 Accessibility

The collections are open to the general public by appointment and the archivist deals with enquiries from all over the world with a guaranteed response within 7 days.

ICE has accepted an offer from Ancestry UK which will involve scanning the Membership certificates from 1820-1930 and making them available through Ancestry.com

Access Policy for the archive

The ICE is required by its Royal Charter to promote civil engineering. Access is granted to any enquirer when the Archive is likely to be able to provide information. Where information is unlikely to be found we provide enquirers with a more likely source

We operate an appointments system as this enables us to ensure someone is available to advise and assist the enquirer. We do our best to accommodate enquirers who turn up without an appointment.

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

There is limited public access to the records after 1930 as many of the engineers are still alive. We allow access if we have confirmation of the member's death. As far as possible for conservation reasons we prefer to offer facsimile access through microfilm or printed copies.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The collection of Membership Certificates and copyright is owned by the Institution.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

The collection has been built up by the Institution since its foundation in 1818 as a means of validating the professional qualifications of its membership and all the certificates have been bound

up in guard books from an early date and kept in secure storage on Institution premises. The certificates are numbered and the numerical sequence is complete.

5.2 World significance

The collection is irreplaceable. There is no state registration of civil engineers in the UK and professional qualification has been through ICE rather than educational institutions, thus there is no other comprehensive and permanent record of British civil engineers in this period.

Because of the prestige of the Institution in this period, many leading non-British engineers joined. There was a major diaspora of British civil engineers from the 1840s and the experience recorded in these records reflects the global development of civil engineering and associated infrastructure.

British engineers including ICE members were involved in the common development of Europe in early-mid nineteenth century, South Asia 1790-1850, Latin America 1800-1950, Africa 1880-1970, Japan 1868-1920, USA 1710-1830, Canada 1820-1890, Hong Kong 1830-2-11 and Australia 1790-1910. From the 1880s many overseas members were born overseas rather than emigrating, as they had earlier. ICE was the main professional body for engineers in South Asia in the period.

The records are associated with the Institution's library and civil engineering archives to which many of the members contributed. This Library and archive is the most comprehensive of its type in the UK

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

The documents reflect the changes in the civil engineering profession in the period and the distinctive difference between professional qualification in the UK and much of the rest of the world. ICE was the first civil engineering professional body in world so it follows these are also first records relating to working towards registration of civil engineers

2 Place.

The certificates record personal contributions to what has become known as the Industrial Revolution and the infrastructure of the modern world. Many key civil engineering advancements globally are recorded and they are housed in a building which has itself been the home of profession for nearly 100 years.

3 People

The application certificates record the training and experience of our members prior to membership. As such, the collection reflects the development of professionalism and innovation and records the creative talents of what has become the modern engineering profession. Many leading engineers are included within the forms e.g. I K Brunel, Robert Stephenson, John Frederick Bateman (leading Victorian water engineer) ...

4 Subject and theme

Civil engineering infrastructure is regarded by many historians as a key indicator of the progress of modern civilisation. The certificates cast light on how education and training have changed and the social makeup of the professional classes in the UK and former British Empire in particular.

5 Form and style

These are the archetypal certificates recording professional qualification for engineers in the period and reflect differing expectations.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

The certificates have a personal significance for descendents

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

These are unique documents, with no other copies held elsewhere.

6.2 Integrity

The collection is complete. There are perhaps three forms missing but these missing individuals can be identified using the Register which was compiled at the time.
