

WHAT YOU ASKED FOR - OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairman - Lindsay Richardson (P.E.T.S.)

Recorder - Colin Seymour (A.E.T.M.)

The chairman asked representatives to give a critical analysis of C.O.T.M.A. in general and of this conference, with a view to making C.O.T.M.A. and C.O.T.M.A. Conferences even better.

Initial discussion concerned the whereabouts of Reports of Proceedings of the previous three conferences - Brisbane, Melbourne and Auckland. Representatives from Melbourne spoke of various problems and hoped that the reports would be forwarded in the near future.

Concern was expressed about the lack of Workshops (particularly technical) at the current Conference. It was pointed out that the Conference had a Marketing theme, rather than a technical theme, the emphasis being on guest speakers for the theme rather than traditional workshops. It was also an attempt to try something different. Some participants felt that the Conferences were as important for the social occasion as any theme or workshop.

A number of participants felt that more details could have been provided about the Conference prior to attendance. It was acknowledged that this would have been desirable but a number of arrangements were still being concluded.

It was suggested that there should be at least one prepared historical paper presented at each Conference. This could be done by utilising articles in Trolley Wire and Tramway Topics magazines.

WHAT YOU ASKED FOR - OPEN DISCUSSION (Cont'd)

Participants were asked if anyone knew of the existence of detailed records of Brill pattern trucks. General discussion took place on the possible whereabouts of such records. It was pointed out that C.O.T.M.A. would need to watch for the eventual clearing of blueprints of patterns from the M.T.A. in Melbourne. It was then suggested that C.O.T.M.A. should become a clearing house for all old records, both technical and historical for the benefit of all museums. SPER members pointed out that their historical records were being stored on microfilm for easier identification and accessibility. It was suggested that a common archival record should be setup and made available to all museums.

A comment was made that the use of an overseas guest as a keynote speaker at some previous Conferences had been a highlight. Could future Conference hosts consider arranging such a speaker at their conferences.