



Finite Element Mesh of the Edwards Bridge, constructed 1756 in Pontypridd, adopted for the analysis of the stone masonry arch using an homogenisation technique.

researchers there are more active in this area than their European counterparts. A number of papers relating codes of practice in various countries were presented. Due to differences in practices adopted in different countries, the codes differ widely in many respects. Future developments in EC codes and their impact on the design of masonry were dealt with in a paper from the UK.

Due to the inherent variability of the properties of masonry, test results – be they of physical model experiments or of *in-situ* tests – vary widely and there is considerable scatter in the data. Statistics and reliability analysis play an important role in the interpretation of these results. It was appropriate that three papers on this theme were

presented and discussed the importance of reliability analysis in various situations. An interesting contribution dealt with small scale modelling of large scale masonry structures on 'centrifuge' tests. Here, small models of full scale structures are subjected to full gravity loads by subjecting them to centrifugal forces. This technique appears to be promising and is likely to make important contributions to our understanding of the behaviour of masonry structures in the future.

The participants at the symposium learnt that the European Masonry Data Bank was fully operational, and they were urged to contribute to it with their test results as soon as possible. The papers presented at the Symposium are already listed in the

Data Bank. It can be consulted at: <http://www.fagg.uni-lj/emdb/>.

The proceedings of the symposium are being published by Chapman & Hall Ltd., under the imprint of E & FN Spon, and will be available by April 1998.

Taking advantage of the presence of a number of experts on computer modelling of masonry, the third meeting of TC MMM, Computer Modelling of Mechanical Behaviour of Masonry Structures, was also held on the evening of 4 September 1997. It was attended by 20 members, including a representative of RILEM.

The symposium ended with an excellent banquet at Restaurant Villa Vecchia which was enjoyed by all participants.

## 11th International Brick/Block Masonry Conference

Shanghai, China, 14-16 October 1997

Reported by Prof. Luigia Binda

The 11th International Brick/Block Masonry Conference was held in the magic atmosphere of Shanghai. This Conference continued the tradition of providing a forum every three years for the exchange of information and experiences in the fields of structural engineering, architectural engineering, production, execution and inspection of construction work, design, testing, standardization, research and the environment of masonry. The Conference was organized by the

China Association for Engineering Construction Standardization and Tongji University, and chaired by Professor Yiliang Qian, Tongji University.

The conference was arranged in 23 sessions, in which were presented 147 papers by researchers from 20 countries. The subjects ranged from the behaviour of masonry units and mortars to the properties of reinforced and unreinforced masonry, from masonry design and construction economics to durability,

numerical modeling, restoration and soil settlement effects.

The organizers kindly offered Prof. Luigia Binda the opportunity, during a 20 minute speech at the closing ceremony on Thursday, 16 October, to present RILEM and its role within the scientific and industrial community. She also described in detail the four RILEM Technical Committees dealing at present with masonry and masonry materials, warmly inviting the Chinese researchers to join them.

### ERRATUM

In the Recommendations of TC 127-MS published in Materials and Structures 31 (205, January-February 1998), the following change should be made in section A.1-2.3.3, "Presentation of data in a table" (page 7, column 1, line 12). The text should read "Since  $S_j = \exp(-H_j)$  and, thus  $H_j = -\ln S_j$ ", instead of " $= \ln S_j$ ".