

Call for Abstracts

Special Session(s) on Fountains and Water Supply

CHS Annual Conference in collaboration with Cambridge Faculty of Architecture
Queens' College, Cambridge, Friday 26-Sunday 28 September 2025

As in previous years, the 2025 Annual Construction History Society Conference will be held in Queens' and at this stage the committee invite abstracts on any aspect of construction history. On day 2, Saturday we wish to have one (or more) sessions devoted entirely to the subject Fountains and Water Supply. Possible subjects for this session include:

Ancient or Medieval water supply	Stone fountains
Islamic Fountains	Wooden fountains
The use of iron in fountains	Bronze fountains
The development of hydraulic engineering and fountain design	The development of pumped fountains
Water lifting technology for fountains	Urban Water supply
giochi d'acqua	The design of urban drainage and sewerage systems
The tradesman and designers involved in the making of fountains	Water purification and filtering
The discussion of fountains in books	

Papers will not be accepted that do not look at the history of construction but are simply descriptions of conservation projects or techniques. Nor will modern structural calculations proving historic buildings stand up.

Abstract submission

Abstracts should be 300-500 words long and should include the full names, academic affiliation or employer, a description of the subject proposed, the sources to be used, and where it fits within or how it relates to the current literature on the topic, together with address and email contact details. Submissions should be made to chs@aha.cam.ac.uk. The revised submission date for the abstracts is **30 January 2025**.

Process and Paper Submission

The abstracts will be peer-reviewed and the authors informed of the results by **15 February 2025**. The final paper must be submitted by **1 May 2025**. Final papers will be 5000 words/30,000 characters and can include up to 10 images. The editors reserve the right to reject papers that do not meet the necessary standards at this stage.

Publication

Successful papers must be submitted by **1 May 2025** and will be prepared for publication and printed in July/August. The proceedings are published as an edited book with an ISBN number published and available on the first day of the conference.

All final accepted papers must be presented at the conference by at least one of the authors

Papers will only be accepted by those who are prepared to record or deliver their papers in person. At least one of the authors must pay the full registration fee (£100).

The conference runs from **26-28 September 2025** in Queens' College, Cambridge and will be held in hybrid form with live and virtual sessions. **Please do not submit an abstract if you are unable to present or answer questions on those dates**