Bristol conference on history of zinc and brass

The recent successful excavation of medieval zinc furnaces in India (featured in IAMS Newsletter, June 1984) lends special interest to a conference on the history of zinc and its principal alloy, brass, to be held on June 7-9 next year.

Appropriately, the venue will be Bristol where the English pioneer, William Champion, designed and built his zinc smelting furnace in 1738. The event is being organized by the University of Bristol in conjunction with the Historical Metallurgy Society and the British Museum.

Work done in Bristol over the past 20 years has gone a long way to establish the history of brass-making there and its origins on the continent. Efforts are being made to preserve the remains of the industry and its products.

As well as papers describing the progress of these endeavours, important work on Roman and medieval brass-making will be discussed.

There will also be a visit to the site of Champion’s Warmley Company and the Salford brass battery mill.

Further details can be had from Dr. Paul Craddock, Research Laboratory, British Museum, London.