



COLLOQUIUM

HOW TRENTON IRON AND STEEL INNOVATIONS RESHAPED AMERICA

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 - 4:15PM

MBG AUDITORIUM

REFRESHMENTS AT 4:00PM

Iron and steel innovations in Trenton helped transform modern life with new methods of transportation, construction, and communications. Peter Cooper established his Trenton Iron Company on the Delaware River in 1847, and rolled America's first I-beams in the early 1850s. Cooper then established the New Jersey Steel & Iron Company to fabricate structural steel for larger and larger buildings and bridges. At Cooper's suggestion, John A. Roebling built his wire rope factory in Trenton in 1849, and the John A. Roebling's Sons Company developed wire rope for landmark suspension bridges and for new technologies like elevators, cable cars, airplanes, pre-stressed concrete, and suspended roofs. Today, thanks to public and private preservation efforts, several notable Cooper and Roebling buildings continue to represent the spirit of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship in Trenton.

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