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Lessebo handpappersbruk

– Industrial Heritage Site of the Year 2016

Today, the Swedish Industrial Heritage Association (SIM) is announcing that Lessebo handpappersbruk, in the County of Småland, Sweden, has been awarded the title of Industrial Heritage Site of the Year 2016 (Årets industriminne 2016) “for the preservation of a unique cultural heritage by a combination of careful renewal and modern enterprise”. The distinction will be awarded on-site at Lessebo on Friday 10th June.

Lessebo handpappersbruk can trace its origins to 1719. It is one of only a few handmade-paper mills in Europe that is still in commercial operation. The paper is produced by the sheet, using professional expertise that has been handed down across generations. For the past three years, operations have been both owned and run by Louise Ivarsson, an entrepreneur from Gothenburg.

For press pictures or for more information, visit www.tekniskamuseet.se/press. For more-detailed information about Lessebo and the arrangements concerning the award ceremony on 10th June, visit www.sim.se.

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Lessebo handpappersbruk

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SIM in brief

Every year since 1995, the Swedish Industrial Heritage Association (SIM) has appointed an Industrial Heritage Site of the Year. The purpose of the award is to support the work performed with Sweden's cultural heritage and to reward long-term and innovative initiatives to preserve and portray sites or environments that tell the tale of the production, technology and people of the industrial society. For more information, see www.sim.se

The full rationale of the Swedish Industrial Heritage Association (SIM)

Lessebo handpappersbruk has been awarded the title of Industrial Heritage Site of the Year 2016 for the preservation of a unique cultural heritage by means of a combination of careful renewal and modern enterprise.

Lessebo has been making paper by hand since 1693 but considers its origins to be from 1719, when the paper mill was granted permission to manufacture paper by Sweden's National Board of Trade (Kommerskollegium). Today, Lessebo is the last remaining of Sweden's approximately 150 handmade-paper mills, and one of only a few in Europe that is still in commercial operation. It is also the precursor of the nearby machine-operated paper mill, with which it has developed symbiotically for a long time, but which now operates as an independent company.

The paper is produced by the sheet, using professional expertise that has been handed down across generations. The manufacturing process uses traditional tools and hundred-year-old machines in a well-preserved stone building from 1897. Textiles constitute the main raw material and the paper bears the mill's well-known watermarks. The range includes writing paper, cards and envelopes, as well as paper for watercolours and copper-plate printing. The mill is an inseparable part of the local cultural environment, and also plays a vital role in the tourism industry in the County of Småland."

Lessebo handpappersbruk – Industrial Heritage Site of the Year 2016

Captions

Image 1. Lessebo handpappersbruk. Photo: Jan af Geijerstam 2014.

Image 2. The beehive – one of the classic Lessebo watermarks.

Photo: Lessebo handpappersbruk.

Image 3. After pressing, the sheets are gently separated from the stack. Photo: Lessebo handpappersbruk.