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Zu unserer Folienbeilage

Friederike Klippel

Holiday Snapshots

The title of the transparency is self-explanatory. The photos show scenes from a boat holiday on English canals and rivers. This kind of holiday is becoming increasingly popular in England, and it attracts more and more visitors from outside Britain. There are a number of boatyards where one can hire cabin cruisers or narrowboats to take on the canals. After a short time of instruction in working the boat the visitors are left to their own devices. For one or two weeks they can then explore the canals at a relaxing pace.

On the canals you are allowed to moor your boat wherever there is a tow path. On the rivers, where long stretches of the river banks are privately owned one has to find a boatyard or the jetty of a town or a riverside pub to be able to stop for the night. The travelling speed is leisurely, 4 mph on the canals, a little faster on the rivers. Depending on their length, the boats provide beds, kitchen, toilet and shower facilities for up to twelve people. They are all of the same narrow width, so that they may fit into the old canal locks, which are only about 7 feet (= 2.13 metres) wide. Working the locks, which you have to do yourself on the canals, makes for a lot of the fun of canal cruising. And some canals have a great many locks, occasionally following one another like steps in a staircase.

Teaching hints

When you talk about the photos on the transparency you may use the explanations given to each picture. You can either start with the overall impression of the transparency and let your pupils speculate about the things they see in the pictures before you proceed to the more detailed descriptions, or you cover up every photo but one and start by talking about that one in detail.

There are a number of possible follow-up activities:

1. Matching pictures and text

In a later lesson short descriptive texts about the photos have to be matched to the pictures they refer to. Pupils can work in groups and write a few sentences about one of the pictures, which another group then has to match.

2. Additional texts

Learners who are interested in the technical aspects of canal cruising may like to design a transparency or poster and give a short talk about the way a lock works with the help of the following material (see page 88).

Alternatively, pupils can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such a canal holiday, as far as they can be deduced from this material.

3. Holiday reports

Pupils can prepare similar reports on their holidays combining slides, photos or drawings with a short talk.

The photos

Signpost (No. 1)

If you think of the canals and rivers as waterways then it seems natural to have signposts there as you have on roads. This signpost stands at the junction of the Worcester and Birmingham canal with the river Severn at Worcester. You can read that the distance to Birmingham along the canal is 30 miles. But there are 58 locks you have to operate. So it will take you two or three days to get to Birmingham.

Flight of locks (No. 2)

When the canal was built to "climb" up a hill, the canal builders had to construct a great number of locks one after the other. These are flights of locks or staircase locks. There is just enough room between two locks so that two boats can pass each other.

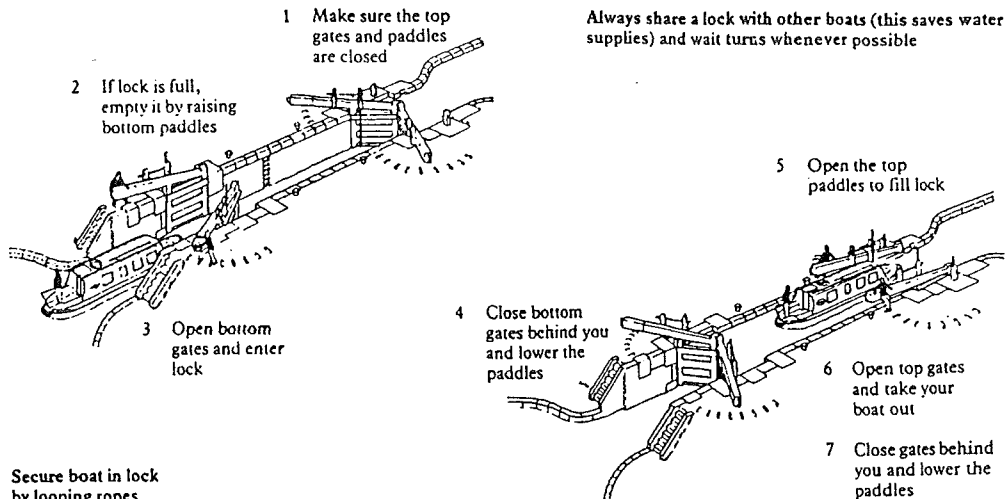
Working the lock (No. 3)

A lock is like a box placed between different levels of canal. When you travel uphill, you enter the lock, when it is empty. This is what the narrowboat in the photo has just done. You then close the bottom gate; this is just being shut in the picture. Then you open the sluices of the top gate to let water flow into the lock chamber. The water level rises and lifts up the boat to the level of the canal at the top end of the lock. When you are travelling downhill this procedure is reversed.

Aqueduct (No. 4)

Sometimes a valley is too steep or too narrow to be able to have locks for the canal. In that case the canal builders had to construct a bridge for the canal. These bridges are called aqueducts. You can see the railway lines crossing underneath the aqueduct on the right. Going across an aqueduct by boat can mean that trains and cars pass underneath you. The

LOCK WORKING DIAGRAMS - UPHILL / DOWNHILL

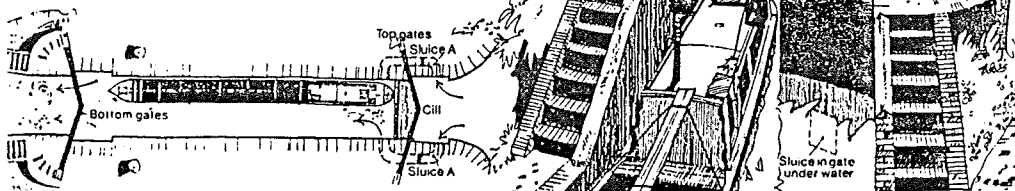


Secure boat in lock by looping ropes round the bollards provided.

Do not tie.

From: The Blue Riband Club: Cruising Guide 1987

11 LOCKS A lock is a simple device, although often it does not appear so at first sight. It is a box placed between different levels of canal which allows craft to pass from one level to the other. When passing from the higher to the lower level water is let into the lock through the sluices at A. When it is full the top gates can be opened and the boat taken in. The gates and sluices are closed and the sluices at the opposite end are opened. The lock empties and the boat floats down to the lower level. The bottom gates are opened and the boat can leave. When passing from the lower to the higher level the process is reversed.



From: Robert J. Wilson: Waterways Quest, Weedon 1977, p.11

first aqueduct in Britain was built in the middle of the 18th century; it was in operation from 1761 to 1893. Edstone Aqueduct, which you see in the photo, is about 250 metres long and takes you across a railway line, a road and a stream.

Mooring (No. 5)

In the evening a lot of people moor their boats near a canalside pub. You can spot the tow path on the right. When the canals were used for transporting goods from one place to another two hundred years

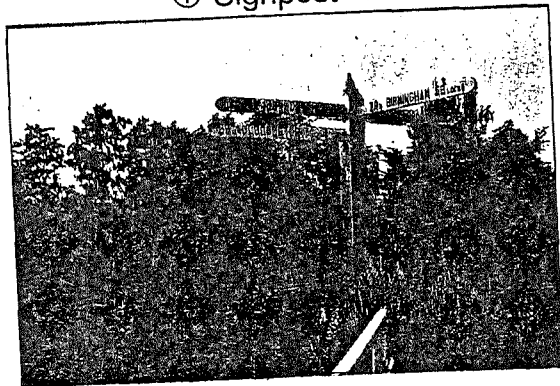
ago, the boats were often pulled or towed by horses. That is why one needed a path alongside the canal.

The pub (No. 6)

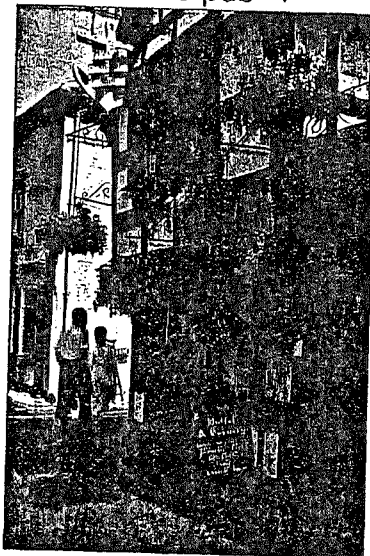
Although there is a kitchen on a narrow boat you may not always want to be your own cook. It is a nice change to moor at an English country pub for a pub lunch and a drink. Today's Special at "Ye Olde Anchor Inn" in Upton-upon-Severn is cauliflower cheese, a dish consisting of boiled cauliflower with melted cheese on top.

Holiday Snapshots

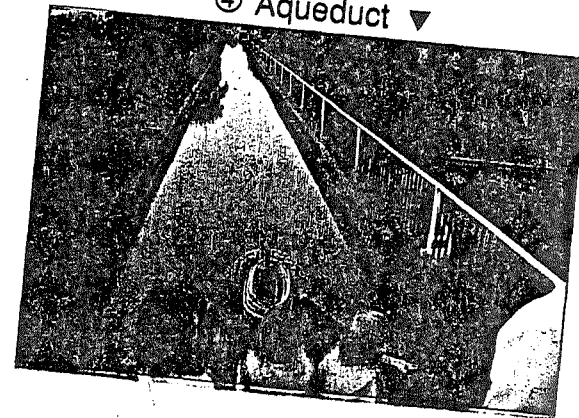
① Signpost ▼



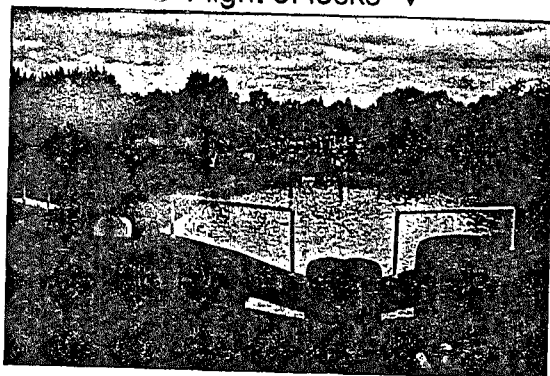
② The pub ▼



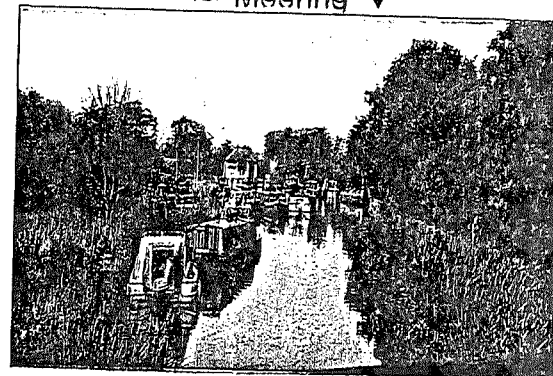
④ Aqueduct ▼



② Flight of locks ▼



⑤ Mooring ▼



③ Working the lock ▼

