TIMS E-NEWS

The International Molinological Society

Fall/ Winter 2025 Issue 39

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President's Message

Dear TIMS Members and Mill Friends,

By the time I write this, many of us will have finished our holidays and returned to our working lives. For me personally, a lot will change in that regard. As of September 1st, I'll be retired and will then have more time to enjoy all the pleasures of life.

Our Society has several activities planned for the autumn. For example, on September 27th, we'll have our next presentation via Zoom. Andy Selfe will take us to South Africa, to further explain the historical and technical development of watermills in his country. A month later, on October 25th, we'll celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the first TIMS meeting, which was held in Portugal in 1965. During this zoom meeting, we'll raise a glass to 60 years of TIMS. Eddy De Saedeleer will also elaborate on the Mid-Term Excursion that will take place in Flanders, Belgium, next year. I had the pleasure of spending three days with Eddy on a mill tour in August. I can assure you that this Mid-Term will be very special, with almost all the mills in operation, and not just corn mills; Flanders is also known for its oil mills. Eddy will undoubtedly share with us the richness of his country's mills on the 25th.

I'd like to remind you here once again, that the next TIMS symposium will take place in Poland in 2027. I urge members to start thinking about presentations that can be given. Starting the preparation of formal and informal presentations early is essential for the success of the symposium. It is the combination of high-quality presentations, engaging excursions, and the cementing of new and old molinological friendships that make our symposiums so memorable and enjoyable.
The E-News editorial team has once again managed to deliver a full issue. First up is the announcement of various activities in the United Kingdom, both at the Mills Archive, located in Reading, and at SPAB's Mills Section.

Furthermore, there are two contributions from our young mill friend from Estonia, Rasmus Tähepõld. With these contributions, we aim to demonstrate that a love of mills and molinology isn't restricted by age. There are also three longer contributions from South Africa, two from Andy Selfe, and one about the restoration of the Reichenau Mission Mill. Then there are several short reports from various countries, including the United Kingdom, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, and Greece. We would particularly like to highlight Heinz Schuler's project in Switzerland.
Together with mill friends, he founded the Swiss Mill Archive.

Eddy De Saedeleer and miller Erik Caeckaert at Lembeke Post Mill, preparing next year's TIMS Mid-Term tour.

Collections from mill enthusiasts will be housed there. Some of these collections are already available for viewing digitally. It's definitely worth taking a look. Also in this issue, there's a substantial list of YouTube videos (20 in total) and two TV movies, and the traditional Book Corner with no fewer than 14 titles!

There is also the second part on our Mill Database. I'd like to once again encourage you to submit photos and additional information to the Mill Database. This will help mill enthusiasts, not only to visit mills but also to conduct research.

Finally, I'd like to thank the E-News Team, Leo, Holly, and Katerina for their continued work. I hope everyone will enjoy reading.

Ton Meesters, TIMS President

Ton Meesters setting the cloth at Bavel Tower Mill near Breda, The Netherlands.

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WORLD NEWS

UK

THE MILLS ARCHIVE
Caring for Your Collection Webinars
by Nathan Trill

For over two decades, the Mills Archive Trust, a UK-accredited archive and educational charity, has preserved the history of traditional and modern milling. We want to share these archival skills, whether you are an individual collector or part of an organisation.

On November 8th and 22nd, we are hosting our Caring for Your Collection webinars. In two sessions earlier this year, we guided attendees to preserve their collections from decay. Equally importantly, we explained how to make them accessible through cataloguing physical records and creating digital copies. New to archiving or with some experience, these sessions will provide the tools you need to safeguard and share your history.

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Your archival records may be manuscripts and photographs; they could be recently created records (e.g. contracts or minutes) or held in a digital medium.

Held on the 8th and 22nd of November, between 2:00 and 4:00 pm GMT, the price of the complete training is £50. Each workshop is £35 separately. If you cannot attend either of these dates, let us know and we will make recordings available to you.

Caring for Your Collection Part 1: Overview, Arrangement, Description
Saturday, 8 November, 2:00–4:00 pm GMT

This workshop gives an overview of how and why to organise records and archives. It covers key questions: What material should be kept? How should records be described, listed and catalogued to ensure their information is not lost? We then look in more detail at the decisions that need to be made when preserving records for the future.

Caring for Your Collection Part 2: Preservation and Access
Saturday, 22 November, 2:00–4:00 pm GMT

This workshop examines the issues of preserving and providing access to records. Papers and documents need to be preserved from threats including damp and mould, pests, pollution, poor handling and disasters. Digital records must be protected from equally devastating threats.

Both sessions will be delivered by our professional archivist with talks from our archival volunteers about the skills they have acquired. We will provide you with a digital reference guide to accompany the talks. To purchase the webinars, follow the links below:

https://new.millsarchive.org/product/caring-for-collections-workshop-part-1-and-2/

Previous attendees of our webinars wrote:

"My colleague volunteers have been re-enthused as we aim to make the archive more available."

"I joined to learn how to look after a small collection of family papers. I now feel confident that I could volunteer to help with our local history group archive."

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"*It's really a great place to go if you want to know how to start dealing with archives.*"

We want to help more of you along your archiving journey and protect your invaluable records.

Links to the Zoom meeting will be sent to you closer to the time. Please forward this invitation to people who may be interested. You can email me at nathan.trill@millsarchive.org for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at the next Caring for Your Collection webinars.

SPAB MILLS SECTION
Events October – November 2025
by Silvia McMenamin, Mills Officer

Mills Conference

Saturday 4 October 2025, 10am – 4.15pm

£50 SPAB Members (packed lunch included in event fees)
£55 Non-Members (packed lunch included in event fees)

Please note that booking for this event will end on Sunday 28 September.

Venue: Watlington House, Watlington Hall, 44 Watlington Street, Reading RG1 4RJ

The in-person conference organised by the SPAB Mills Section will focus on the maintenance, repair and monitoring of mills and how to create, preserve and display documents.

Mildred Cookson and Nathanael Hodge from the Mills Archive Trust, will share their knowledge on caring for documents and images. Dr Toby Huitson and Duncan McCallum will explore the Mills at Risk theme and the intricacies of listing historic buildings. Justin Coombs will demonstrate his innovative Smartmolen Project. Millwright Cameron Southcott will talk about mill repair and maintenance and Dr. Michael Nevell will present the Industrial Heritage Support Project.

For more information and to book a place, see here
https://www.spab.org.uk/whats-on/events/mills-conference

Practical Flour Milling Course

Friday 28 November, 9.30am - 4.30pm

£120 Standard
£90 Early bird offer - book by 21 October

Venue: Fosters Mill, 9 Mill Hill Swaffham Prior,CB25 0JZ, CAMBRIDGE

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Join us to get practical experience of traditional flour milling in a small, friendly group.

Mills Conference (image by James Innderdale).

You'll spend the day running the windmill under the careful supervision of traditional miller Jon Cook, getting hands-on with milling and dressing different grades and types of flour.

Through hands-on experience, you'll learn how to safely operate a windmill – everything from starting and stopping the mill, to safely moving grain around the building. You'll also learn about the hygiene and trading standards you need to be aware of when milling and selling flour.

Practical Flour Milling Course (image by Mildred Cookson).

This sell-out course is back by popular demand! Places are limited and we advise early booking to secure your spot.

For more information and to book a place, see here
https://www.spab.org.uk/whats-on/courses/practical-flour-milling-course

Or contact Silvia directly :
Phone number: 020 7456 0909
(Working days: Monday – Wednesday)

UK

Rethinking Hydro Power: Why Heat May Be the Better Choice

For centuries, water mills and hydro turbines have been harnessed to generate useful energy. In recent decades, the focus has shifted almost entirely to electricity generation. Yet electricity is not always the most efficient or economical outcome from small hydro systems—especially where local demand is limited or grid connections are costly.

An alternative approach is to use water power directly for **heat generation**. By coupling a turbine to a device such as a **Rotaheater**, rotational energy can be converted straight into hot water and used for space heating. This avoids the multiple conversion steps involved in generating, transmitting, and then using electricity for heating.

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Why prioritise heat?

-**Cost savings**: Heating typically represents the largest share of energy use in homes, farms, and community buildings. Replacing purchased fuels with renewable heat cuts bills significantly.

-**Efficiency**: Direct mechanical-to-heat conversion can deliver more usable energy than electricity generation followed by electric heating.

-**Simplicity**: Heat generation requires less infrastructure than managing electrical generation and export.

-**Sustainability**: Using hydro for heat reduces reliance on fossil fuels and lowers carbon emissions.

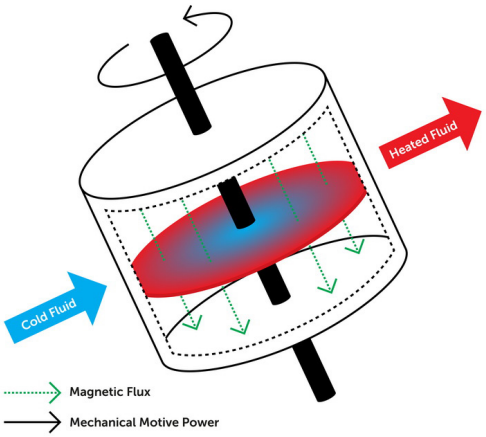
For small-scale hydro owners, shifting the focus from electricity to heat can unlock greater value. Instead of surplus power going unused, every drop of water can provide warmth where it is most needed.

Case study: How we reconfigured a 17th-century waterwheel

A 14-foot waterwheel in Derbyshire was producing 7 kW of electricity—well beyond domestic needs. The surplus was being exported to the National Grid, but at limited financial return.

In a single day, the waterwheel's drive was reconfigured to incorporate a **Rotaheater Pico**. Now, half of the wheel's output is used to heat a series of radiators, replacing heating oil. The switch to renewable heat eliminated oil costs and delivered greater financial savings than exporting surplus electricity.

Since commissioning in August 2017, the system has maintained a steady flow of clean heat at **55°C**, delivering over **720 L per hour** with efficiency above **97%.** For a property of this size, the average savings are in the region of **£2,000–£3,000 per year.**



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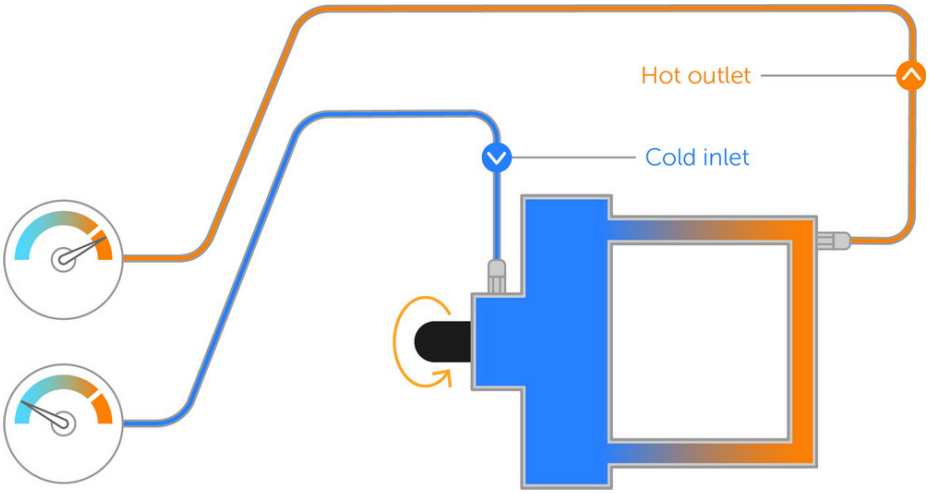

Integrating a Rotaheater with a hydro turbine enables direct production of heat—an efficient alternative to electricity generation.

For more information, visit:
Small Hydro, Big Heat, Lower Costs
info@rotaheat.co.uk

THE NETHERLANDS

Trip to The Netherlands
by Rasmus Tähepõld

In April 2025 I fulfilled a lifelong dream after receiving an invitation to the town of Schiedam in South Holland. I was recommended to a Jenevermuseum [gin museum] program by Ton Meesters, for which I am very thankful to him. The program consisted of getting to see and know the historical city of Schiedam and all of its hidden aspects, all thanks to our wonderful "local celebrity" guide, Marco Bleeker. During the four days I spent there I got to see the authentic side of The Netherlands, learn about the famous jenever and even taste it, and most importantly - experience the tallest windmills in the world with my very own eyes! In Schiedam there are seven windmills: De Kameel, De Palmboom, De Noord, De Vrijheid, De Drie Koornbloemen, De Walvisch and De Nolet - all of them amongst the tallest windmills in the world, the tallest one being De Noord (33,3 meters) which operates as a restaurant. I got to explore all of them from top to bottom except De Nolet which serves as a modern wind turbine disguised as a traditional windmill. It generates electricity for the Nolet Distillery.

Rasmus Tähepõld detaching the sails of De Kameel windmill.

One of the people that I met there that influenced me the most was a lawyer and the miller of De Kameel - Ernst Richel. We met at De Noord windmill restaurant during my first evening. We had so much molinological knowledge to share because we come from such different countries regarding the mill heritage. While having a molinological conversation with Ernst, an

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idea sparked in my mind: "When would there be a better opportunity to work in a real working Dutch windmill than now?" No sooner said than done; Ernst and I agreed that I could practice on the morning of my last day. Until then, we still had many captivating activities ahead.

Karl Grevatt, miller at a watermill from the UK and Rasmus Tähepõld in Kinderdijk.

The following day after my arrival was the National Mill Day. All of the Schiedam windmills were open to visitors and I got to speak to some more millers and learn all sorts of things from them. For example, the windmills weren't built this tall only to catch wind, which is an important factor, but also to store the product. In Schiedam they usually reserved the first three floors of the mill for storage because it was impractical to load the product on boats all the time, so they needed more room to distribute the product all at once at the end of the day.

The insides of the mills were quite similar to the ones in Estonia, only bigger in size, so that wasn't anything new to me. Some key differences on the outsides of the mills were metal shafts, of which there are only a few examples in Estonia, the rest are wooden. Also the wings being partly made from metal is something you never see in Estonia. That concludes my molinological findings in Schiedam.

Ernst Richel, the miller of De Kameel, Karl Grevatt and Rasmus Tähepõld on the reefing stage of De Kameel windmill.

The next day we headed to Kinderdijk by a water taxi. The Kinderdijk windmills were also a sight to see. Due to limited time we only got to explore inside two of them. One was converted into a home and the other functioned as a museum. The museum one is a "polder mill" or drainage mill, something I've always wanted to see. It was a perfect display of great design and craftsmanship. For those who don't know what a polder mill is, it's basically a windmill that pumps water to drain or keep water out of a certain polder, in the case of Kinderdijk windmills, the Alblasserwaard polder.

Then arrived my last day, the morning that I had awaited the most, working in an operational Dutch windmill. When I arrived, Ernst and I had a little chat, drank some coffee and then it was time for the work to begin. First off we needed to attach the sails to the wings. It was a rather terrifying experience to climb the wings of a 25 meter tall windmill but eventually I became used to it. Luckily Ernst attached the very first part of the sail himself, so I only needed to climb to the middle part of the wing. When all four of the sails were attached it was time to pull the brake and let the wings turn. That was rather easy, only the right timing and tempo was needed. Then I did some millstone cleaning with a vacuum cleaner so the leftover grains don't attract rats. After that,

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in Dordrecht so I went with him to see the Kyck over den Dyck windmill. After his appointment we headed back to Schiedam to stop the mill and remove the sails. I did some more climbing, this time with less fear. After that it was time for me to hit the airport, but since I missed my train, Ernst kindly drove me there. On the way we saw dozens of admirable windmills by the side of the road.

This trip to The Netherlands influenced me greatly in many ways. I discovered that in The Netherlands there is an official millers school which I am certainly going to attend in the future, and for that I started learning Dutch. I also learned that Estonia could do better regarding its mill culture. We already have some fabulous people with knowledge, that are restoring around 1-2 windmills a year, but what we need is young people to care as well. This idea was planted in my head by Ernst and this idea I'm going to live by. The somber reality is that right now, the future of Estonian windmills is in my hands and if I want to save them, I have to act now and do so by acquiring a real education so I can do it officially. I started preparing for enrolling in a university in the field of heritage protection and I also organised another practice day in the only working, Dutch type windmill in Estonia. With these small but influential steps I hope to keep the windmills of Estonia alive. Tailwinds to you all!

ESTONIA

Some of the Most Unique Estonian Windmills
by Rasmus Tähepõld

Estonia's windmill heritage is still quite rich today, taking into account all the occupations this country has had. Some have been restored into full working order, some just externally and some have disappeared from the landscape. In this article I'm covering some of the most unique windmills still left in Estonia. The reasons for their uniqueness vary, some are unique for their restoration choices, others for their use today and so on. I am starting off this list with Kostivere manor windmill in the Loo village, Harju county. This 19th century windmill was in a state of disrepair and destined to collapse, until the beginning of 2010s, when a woman drove through the Loo village and saw the windmill that had half of the body missing. She had seen a windmill that was half glass and half stone in her dreams and decided that this windmill was the perfect candidate for her idea. So she hired architects and restored the windmill according to her dream. The windmill opened in 2014 and now operates as an art gallery and workshop.

Kostivere Manor Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld , 2014)

Next up is a windmill that instead of grinding flour, has got a new athletic purpose. The windmill of Karula manor in Viljandi county was converted into a mountaineering practice tower in 1964 by Viljandi Hiking Club members and is used for training to this day.

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Karula Manor Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2021)

The new modern wind turbines are a matter of taste. Some like them, others think they're ugly. But they don't have to always be tall, slim and made of metal. There are a couple of wind turbines hidden inside traditional windmills in Estonia. The two examples I chose are Salme windmill on the island of Saaremaa and Hobulaiu windmill on the islet of Hobulaid. The Salme windmill was built in the beginning of the 2010s and produced electricity for its household. I had the honour of seeing it work in 2015. Since the original owner has passed away it's not actively working but is still in good order.

The other example, Hobulaiu windmill, is an old mill body transformed into the powerhouse for the whole islet. Its walls are covered with solar panels and there's a small wind turbine on top of the roof.

Hobulaiu Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2022)

Salme Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2015)

It is not rare that in Estonia many of the old windmills are turned into summer accommodation facilities, but it's much more rare to see them turned into private homes. There are two examples of windmills that function as an all year round home. The first is the windmill of Hagudi. It has served as a personal residence since the 1990s and has had some change of owners. Right now it's in nice shape and is up for sale. The second is the windmill of Ülde. A wooden tower mill turned into a home by the head of the village who lives there.

Hagudi Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2022)

Ülde Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2021)

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There is a pair of post mills on the island of Saaremaa that have had some rather grotesque but original reconstructions. They have become somewhat of an icon and postcard material. Their aesthetic value is in the eye of the beholder but in my opinion, it's a cool concept and a much better alternative than letting the former windmills just rot away. The two post mills have been reconstructed to resemble the characters "Piret" and "Tõll" from Estonian folklore.

Ninase Post Mills (Photos: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2014)

I've chosen these two windmills from Rapla county, as examples to show the variety of new purposes given to Estonian windmills. The first one is Puraviku windmill in the village of Valtu. Its new purpose doesn't stray too far away from traditions - it has operated as a black-smith workshop since the year 2003. I know the owner very well and even given black-smithing a try myself a couple of times in his windmill. The next one in the same county is the Järlepa windmill - destined to be torn down in 2017 due to its bad state, the head of the Estonian Mill Society, Mae Juske, stepped in at the last moment, a few days before the demolition machines would arrive at the mill, and put an end to it with the help of some lawyers and officials. Now, the windmill has been saved from the state of disrepair and operates as a nightclub for D&B music lovers.

Valtu Puraviku Windmill (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2014)

Järlepa Windmill (before being converted into a nightclub) (Photo: Rasmus Tähepõld, 2021)

Of course every windmill is unique in its own way, but this brings together my list for some of the most unique and different new uses given to some Estonian windmills.

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POLAND

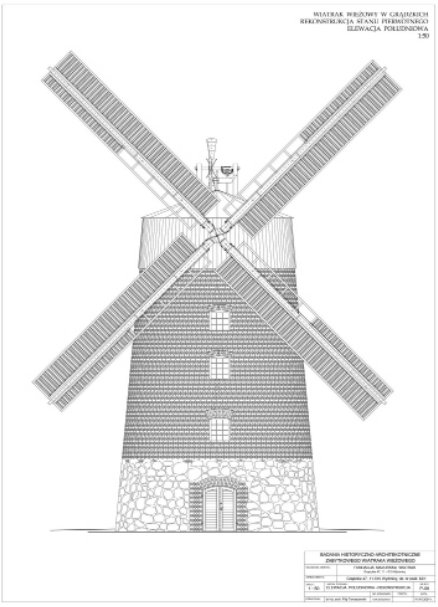
The Restoration of Grądzkie Tower Mill, Part 21
by Kees van Beek

In 2024, as part of the creative grant from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Dr. Filip Tomaszewski of the Polód W Polytechnic conducted historical and architectural studies of the Gradzkie tower mill. Based on an inventory of preserved elements, archival photographs and analogies with other windmills, a reconstruction of the original windmill in Grądzkie was developed. Originally, the windmill had shuttered sails that were adapted to the wind by means of a fantail mounted on the back of the cap. The diameter of the sails was approximately 22 meters. The research results will help the Gradzkie Mill Foundation Group take further steps towards the restoration of this monument.

The renovation of the windmill will consist of three phases:

Phase I :
Preparation for the renovation project - including such tasks as:
assessment of the technical condition, architectural and conservation inventory, documentation, visualisation, preparation of architectural, construction and technical projects (construction, electrical, sanitary), consulting the necessary expert opinions, obtaining all the necessary consents, investor's estimates.

Phase II:
Execution of the renovation on the basis of the previously done preparation. The renovation activities will certainly consist of:



- A thorough renovation of the building (boss, facade, windows, plaster, floors, electrics).

- Reconstruction of the highest floor, originally wooden, in which glass windows will be installed, thanks to which from the last floor you will gain a view out on all sides.

- Reconstruction of collapsed floors and stairs to thus create several round level rooms.

- Creation at the north-west side of a small addition, in which the technical room and toilets will be located.

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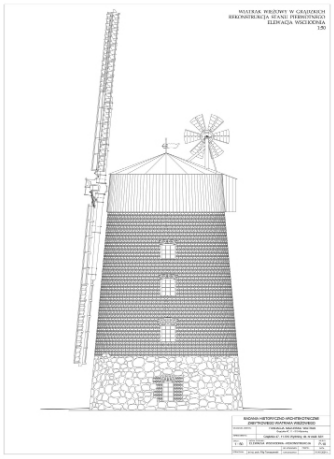
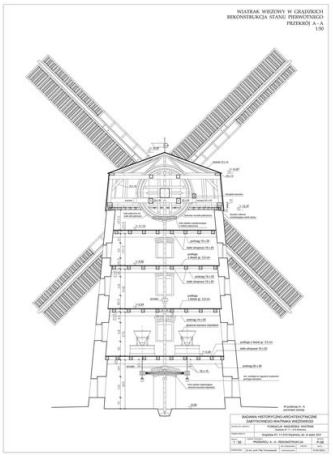
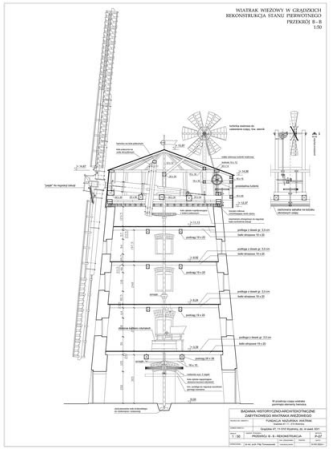




Phase III:
Installing the necessary machinery for making flour.
Development of the grounds around the mill, by putting tables, benches, a place for bicycles, bonfire.



When completed it will not become a true mill, but a kind of cultural centre, but the mill building and history will be saved.

Enclosed are some drawings showing how the mill used to be.

[1]) *Part 1 was published in E-News No 38.*

SWEDEN

Håslövs Mölla Restored
by Leo van der Drift

Håslövs mölla is a post mill near Vellinge in Skåne, the southernmost region of Sweden. It is assumed that the mill was built in 1758, the year that is carved into the crown tree. It was in operation until 1940, when some 3,000 sacks of grain were still ground.

Håslövs mölla in October 2020 (photo by Per Gliese).

On the Internet we found an account from 2019 on the restoration of this mill that you might find of interest. Although in Swedish, the report is well illustrated with many close-up photographs, giving a good impression of the work.

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The restoration was carried out over a period of three years, from 2018 to 2020.
The report can be downloaded here.

GREECE

The Watermills of Crete

No 351 of the *Crete Environmental Info* has a short, but informative and well-illustrated, article on the watermills of the island, written by Diana P. Baily and Maria Eleftheria :

351-11E

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Mills Archive Online
by Leo van der Drift

In the Spring of 2025, the Swiss Mills Archive Association launched their website. Their aim is to establish, operate and make accessible a central mills archive in Switzerland. This is realised by creating a documentation centre in which mill related documents will be preserved for posterity. In order to achieve this, a special body, the Swiss Mills Archive Association, was set up already several years ago.

The driving force behind this project is long-standing TIMS member Heinz Schuler. He presented the initiative to the TIMS delegates at the 16th Symposium in Portugal, in September 2024.
Website of the Association:
Mühlenarchiv

With the launch of their website, a major step is taken. Mill friends from all over the world can now access the collection. There are currently about 1,500 documents available, but this number will grow rapidly in the near future.

Among the documents already available are 500 engravings from the major collection of Marcel Garin.

There is also a section of "mystery" postcards and photos that need identification.

You can check it all out at this address (and choose your language in the top right corner) :

Topothek Mühlenarchiv Schweiz: Unsere Geschichte, unser Online-Archiv

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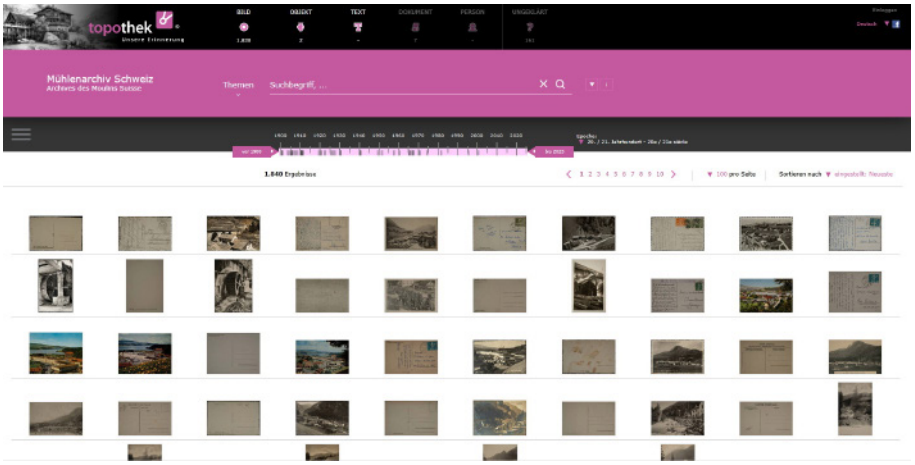

SOUTH AFRICA

Reichenau Mission Mill
by Peter Frow

Note from the editor: Reichenau Mission was established in 1886 by Trappist monks in what is now the province of KwaZulu-Natal, west of the city of Durban. It is one of the best kept missions in the country, consisting of a convent, church, school and several outbuildings, including a watermill.

Peter writes:
Attached are the accounts of the restoration of the Reichenau Mill which was commissioned in 1896 but sustained severe damage in the floods of 1987.

Reichenau Mill is of unique design, in that it is not powered by the conventional water wheel but by a 25 HP turbine situated at the base of an 11 metre high waterfall. Drive to the mill, which is situated at the top of the waterfall, is by means of a steel rope running on 1 meter diameter pulleys. At the time of commissioning in 1896, it was arguably the most advanced mill in Southern Africa, possibly in the Southern hemisphere. Yet, had it been built even 10 years later the turbine would have been driving a generator and the mill would have been driven by an electric motor or possibly a number of electric motors.

The mill uses all the original machinery from the 19th century, including the original French Burr stones. The restored mill continues to mill regularly on a semi-commercial basis.

The restoration reports :
2007
2008
2009 Jan-Jun
2009 Jun-Dec

TIMS International Mill Database entry:
Reichenau Mission Watermill | milldatabase.org
For more information on Reichenau Mission and its mill please visit
Reichenau Mill and Guest House | KZN South Africa

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Molenrivier Visit 8th March 2025

by Andy Selfe

van South Hops. Daarmee loop die Taute-era na meer as 140 jaar op Molenrivier ten einde.

Molenrivier se meulens maal nie meer nie

Toe J.F. Taute hom in die 1840's op Molenrivier gevestig het, was daar reeds 'n horisontale meul, beter bekend as 'n Noors-meul, op die plaas. Terblanche, die vorige eienaar, het hierdie klein meul wat 'n maksimum van 200 pond (90 kilogram) meel per dag kon maal, vir eie gebruik opgerig. Taute het besluit om 'n groter meul waar boere uit die omgewing ook hulle koring kon laat maal, naby sy opstal op te rig. Omdat hierdie meul feitlik op hulle werf was en ossewaens hoogvol koringsakke gelaai daagliks byna in die voordeur kom draai het, is 'n derde meul hoër op langs die rivier gebou. Dit is in hierdie meulhuis waar Edith Taute, haar jongste drie kinders en hul goewernante, mej. Gayne, tydens die Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902) by die meulenaar en sy gesin geskuil het terwyl kommandant Piet van der Merwe en sy Boererebelle besig was om verwoesting te saai in Molenrivier se woonhuis. 'n Halwe eeu later was hierdie meulhuis die woning van die Peda-gesin. Hier het Rudolph Peda, 'n Oostenryker van geboorte en die laaste meulenaar in Bo-Langkloof, tot in die 1950's koring gemaal vir boere in die omtrek. Toe besluit die staat om brood te subsidieer en skielik was dit glad nie meer lonend om jou eie koring te laat maal nie. Die meul het in onbruik verval, die wiel het mettertyd verbrokkel en vandag word die gebou wat reeds bouvallig is, boonop deur wattelbome wat al nader kruip, bedreig. Intussen is die ou meul by die opstal nie verder gebruik nie, maar die gebou het behoue gebly – tot in 1990. 'n Beheerde veldbrand het hand-uit geruk en in die rigting van die meulhuis beweeg waar die rietdak vlam gevat het. Die vuur is geblus, die ou opstal is gered, maar van die eeu oue meul het niks oorgebly nie.

Molenrivier se skoolkinders, 1932

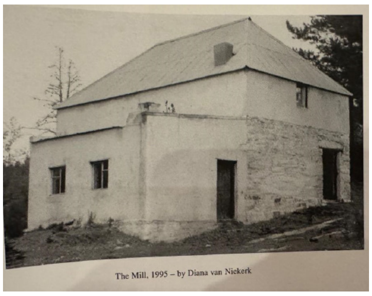
Vroeg in die 1930's is daar tydelik in Molenrivier se kerk skoolgehou. Hier staan die kinders buite die kerkgebou. Die seun in die rolstoel is George Taute. Reg voor hom sit sy broer Clive en langs hom op die armleuning sit hul suster Grace. Die lang seun wat agter tweede van links staan, is Haldane Taute. Die Taute-broers het al drie aan hemofilie gely en is óf jonk dood óf was bedleënd vir die res van hul lewens.

67

In his book *Watermills, Windmills and Horse-Mills of South Africa*, James Walton [1]} mentions 'the third Mill at Molenrivier' three times, and there is one photo. He mentions a Pelton wheel, and there is a photo of a well-staked pipe. I have known Kosie van der Merwe for more than 20 years and he's often told me that this was the family farm of the Taute's, his mother's maiden name. He has also mentioned the German miller called Pieda (it seems now Peda).

Whether James Walton knew anything about the first and second Mill is not clear in the book, but Martha Joubert who runs a guest house (aptly named Ou Meul) on the farm next door showed us this page (above) of a book on the Langkloof, Southern Cape where this farm is located (400 + km from here!). It mentions a previous owner Terblanche having a 'Norse' (or 'Greek') Mill which was only capable of milling 90kg per day (Mill # 1?), then the next owner, a Taute, building one which could mill for 'farmers in the area' too (Mill # 2?). However, this was on his farmyard, more or less on his front door, so he built a third mill up-river (# 3).

Kosie and I organised an expedition to visit on 8th March 2025. We were keen to find out the state of # 3, of which I had been sent photos just days before by Kosie's cousin, Di van Niekerk:



The Mill, 1995 – by Diana van Niekerk

We had been warned that there wasn't much left, but not that it had people staying in it and the house next door, previously occupied by Miller Peda, in squalid conditions. Nor that both floors had been removed, the beams of the upper floor cut off neatly at the walls. This is the same view now from the outside:

This is the inside now:

We had been warned! On the right, a sawn-off beam of the upper floor can be seen. This photo was taken at the upper doorway, into which the grain would have been delivered.

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Not much different from a previous photo:

Undeterred, we set about collecting as much evidence of its previous working as we could from what's left now. The internal photo above gives many clues: The traditional square hole in the end wall for the axle tree of a water wheel. No traditional deep pit on the inside for a pit wheel. The two holes in the west wall in the corner had us stumped for a while. Concrete pedestals for a line-shaft along the west wall, which would have been below the floor. The lack of a pit for a pit wheel means that there may have been a belt-drive between pulleys on the axle tree and line shaft respectively.

Outside, we looked at the launder /leat on which the photographer may have been standing in the picture immediately above, on the far right. Here is the current view:

Then to the water wheel:

The circular mark on the wall measured a little over 5 metres and the width between the walls is 1.2 metres. The wall on the right is slightly unusual and normally unnecessary, unless there was a roof over the wheel. The water escaped through an opening below right in the picture above, the lintel of it can be seen at the bottom in the picture below.

Walton mentions a Pelton wheel. Looking around here, things started making sense. A series of pedestals for a rigid pipe of about 8" (200mm) bore were either standing, or had fallen over, in a wide curve around the end of the mill house. Only then the two extra holes, roughly made in the corner of the building, started to make sense. If the Pelton wheel was mounted here below the outflow of the water wheel, by then not in use, it could have been belted to the line-shaft inside, through these holes. The picture below shows the row of supports, the outflow from the water wheel.

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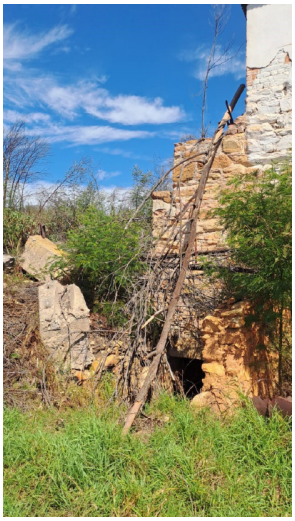
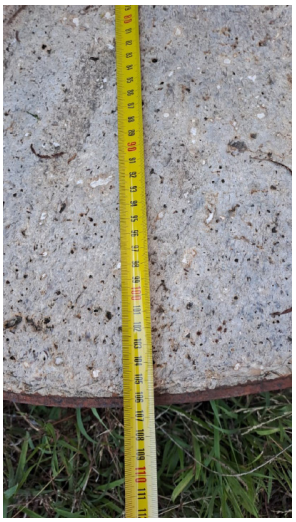
The holes in the wall are just out of frame on the right. The Pelton wheel could have been mounted where I took the photo from. Kosie said that he remembers talk of the water availability becoming scarce and that perhaps the Pelton wheel, said to have come from a gold mine in Knysna, may have been more efficient.



Some more details about the inside: there are stories of customers, while waiting up to days for their wheat to be ground, carving their names or initials in the wall upstairs. Evidence of such graffiti is there, just under the eaves:

The remains of a chimney hangs from the wall, the hearth is still there below. In the roof, which is still in excellent condition is the head of an elevator and a long chute, coming down to the left:

The fact the outlet of the elevator is on the left confirms that the shafts ran anti-clockwise as looked on from this side, the same as the water wheel.



We measured millstones lying around. A large one at the base of the outside steps measures 1060mm.

This is a runner, with sockets for gimbals.

The diameter matches one at the 'Ou Meul' guest house next door. The three lead sockets in that may have fixed a sophisticated neck bearing for the stone spindle in place. It may also have been a runner at some time, as evidenced by another unused notch. They are monolithic, made of a porous stone I am unfamiliar with.

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On the other side of this is a signature in the cement, confirming the name of the miller!

Other millstones lying around measure 900mm, giving a clue to there having been more than one pair of stones, not unlikely given the size of the water wheel!

In the wheel pit we found the burnt-off remains of two spokes from the wheel, showing sophisticated joinery.

We searched the surrounds for anything else in connection with the mill without success. Here are some other views.

So although we were disappointed, we had learned a lot. The area is too overgrown at the moment for us to have explored the water supply.

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Here is the house close by, which Kosie remembers being occupied by Miller Peda and his many children:

Not far away, beyond the caravan (above), stands another house which we couldn't get close to.

We left to explore the rest of the farm. At the main farmyard about one kilometer to the north, is the church in which Kosie's parents were married. It is in very good condition. The cast iron window frames date it to the Victorian era.

His grandparents are buried in the graveyard beyond.

At a gate which I had to open for Kosie to drive through, I spotted a building with no apparent doors or windows so I went across to look.

I climbed up behind wondering if it wasn't a water tank, but from the top I was delighted to find the mark in the plaster of a large water wheel!

We had found Mill #2! Nowhere else have I seen a photograph in South Africa of a totally enclosed water wheel! This could even have had a roof over it to protect it from the sun. Access is through a gate on the western side over the axle bearing.

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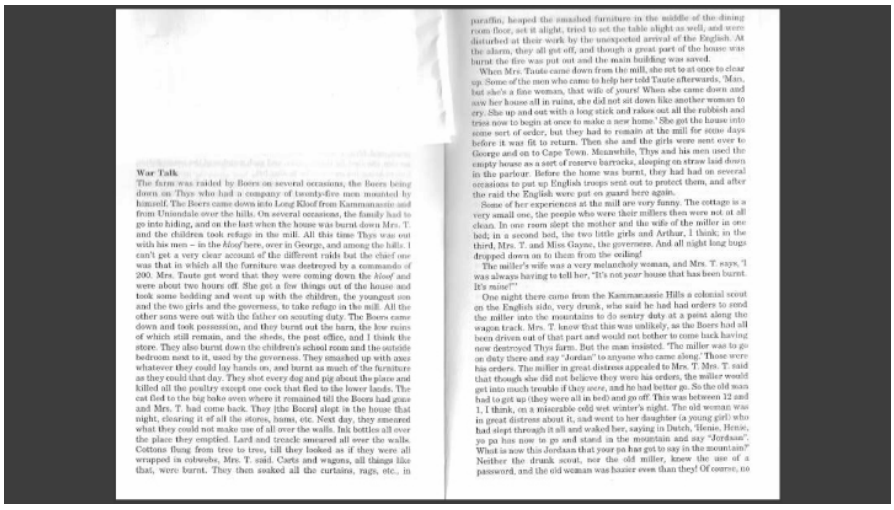
From the top I looked back to follow the water supply. The leat is just visible coming past the gate of another graveyard which we had inspected earlier, on the way to the church.

We looked on both sides of this to work out where the mill itself was and concluded it was on the east side; the back wall against the bank is still there and part of the front, the rest is overgrown by aloes.

What of Mill #1? Because the Tautes sided with the British during the Anglo Boer War from 1899 to 1902, they were raided by Boer commandos. This is also mentioned in the Langkloof story at the beginning. Here it is again, from, I think, *The Beadle* by Pauline Smith, written while staying on the farm.



War Talk

The farm was raided by Boers on several occasions, the Boers being down on Thys who had a company of twenty-five men mounted by himself. The Boers came down into Long Kloof from Kammanassie and from Uniondale over the hills. On several occasions, the family had to go into hiding, and on the last when the house was burnt down Mrs. T. and the children took refuge in the mill. All this time Thys was out with his men – in the *Kloof* here, over in George, and among the hills. I can't get a very clear account of the different raids but the chief one was that in which all the furniture was destroyed by a commando of 200. Mrs. Taute got word that they were coming down the *kloof* and were about two hours off. She got a few things out of the house and took some bedding and went up with the children, the youngest son and the two girls and the governess, to take refuge in the mill. All the other sons were out with the father on scouting duty. The Boers came down and took possession, and they burnt out the barn, the low ruins of which still remain, and the sheds, the post office, and I think the store. They also burnt down the children's school room and the outside bedroom next to it, used by the governess. They smashed up with axes whatever they could lay hands on, and burnt as much of the furniture as they could that day. They shot every dog and pig about the place and killed all the poultry except one cock that fled to the lower lands. The cat fled to the big bake oven where it remained till the Boers had gone and Mrs. T. had come back. They [the Boers] slept in the house that night, clearing it of all the stores, hams, etc. Next day, they smeared what they could not make use of all over the walls. Ink bottles all over the place they emptied. Lard and treacle smeared all over the walls. Cottons flung from tree to tree, till they looked as if they were all wrapped in cobwebs, Mrs. T. said. Carts and wagons, all things like that, were burnt. They then sashed all the curtains, rugs, etc., in paraffin, heaped the smashed furniture in the middle of the dining room floor, set it alight, tried to set the table alight as well, and were disturbed at their work by the unexpected arrival of the English. At the alarm, they all got off, and though a great part of the house was burnt the fire was put out and the main building was saved.

When Mrs. Taute came down from the mill, she set to at once to clear up. Some of the men who came to help her told Taute afterwards, 'Mas, but she's a fine woman, that wife of yours! When she came down and saw her house all in ruins, she did not sit down like another woman to cry. She up and out with a long stick and rakes out all the rubbish and trass now to begin at once to make a new home.' She got the house into some sort of order, but they had to remain at the mill for some days before it was fit to return. Then she and the girls were sent over to George and on to Cape Town. Meanwhile, Thys and his men used the empty house as a sort of reserve barracks, sleeping on straw laid down in the parlour. Before the home was burnt, they had had on several occasions to put up English troops sent out to protect them, and after the raid the English were put on guard here again.

Some of her experiences at the mill are very funny. The cottage is a very small one, the people who were their millers then were not at all clean. In one room slept the mother and the wife of the miller in one bed; in a second bed, the two little girls and Arthur, I think; in the third, Mrs. T. and Miss Gayne, the governess. And all night long bugs dropped down on to them from the ceiling!

The miller's wife was a very melancholy woman, and Mrs. T. says, 'I was always having to tell her, "It's not your house that has been burnt. It's mine!"'

One night there came from the Kammanassie Hills a colonial scout on the English side, very drunk, who said he had had orders to send the miller into the mountains to do sentry duty at a pass along the wagon track. Mrs. T. knew that this was unlikely, as the Boers had all been driven out of that part and would not bother to come back having now destroyed Thys farm. But the man insisted. 'The miller was to go on duty there and say "Jordaan" to anyone who came along.' Those were his orders. The miller in great distress appealed to Mrs. T. Mrs. T. said that though she did not believe they were his orders, the miller would get into much trouble if they *were*, and he had better go. So the old man had to git up (they were all in bed) and go off. This was between 12 and 1, I think, on a miserable cold wet winter's night. The old woman was in great distress about it, and went to her daughter (a young girl) who had slept through it all and waked her, saying in Dutch, 'Henie, Henie, yo pa has now to go and stand in the mountain and say "Jordaan". What is now this Jordaan that your pa has got to say in the mountain?' Neither the drunk scout, nor the old miller, knew the use of a password, and the old woman was busier even than they! Of course, no

The story which Kosie has heard is that during that war, the dynamite, which would have been stored in the 'krythuis', was hidden in the Mill (#1?) and not removed later. Then a bush-fire swept through and it was blown up.

Naturally we were elated having stumbled upon Mill #2, so after taking leave of Gert, Martha's husband on the neighbouring farm, we turned for home. There are still many unanswered questions, for example was the

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water wheel (and much else) transferred from Mill #2 to #3, explaining why nothing related is lying around there? A comparison of the diameters of the circles worn in the walls of both would help.

Kosie and I had spent the previous night at his house in Witsand and before leaving, we had a chance to visit the millstone quarry in the banks of the Breede River, also mentioned in Walton's book. You need to know what you're looking for, and walking on the rock leading up to it is difficult!

Note:
1)Walton, James, *Water-mills, Windmills and Horse-Mills of South Africa*, Van Schaik, Pretoria, 1974.

La Motte Watermill Running Well at Last!
by Andy Selfe

It was in January 2010 that I was first approached by Pietie Le Roux, then La Motte Senior Farms Manager, to look at problems on their watermill. Looking back on my reports, although it looked good outside and inside then, the moment the wheel turned, all kinds of noises came from the moving parts. The waterwheel is fed by a re-circulating pump submersed in a sump under and beyond the wheel. The water is pumped up into a stone-built raised leat, the last part being a wooden launder, which reached too far beyond the central point of the wheel. Most of the water was simply splashing down into the sump beyond the wheel. The gears weren't meshing correctly, the runner wobbled as it turned over the bed-stone. There was no proper bearing for the outboard end of the axle tree. Clearly there was a lot to do to get it running!

Fig. 1. The pretty mill-house on La Motte, taken in 2010.

Fig. 2. The water splashing down beyond the centre of the wheel.

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It's difficult to believe that it has taken 15 years to make it run properly, which it did at last on Saturday 5th April 2025. The background of this 'Vitruvian' (built into the fabric of the building) mill, according to James Walton, written in 1974, *'The attractive little mill–house at La Motte, Fransch Hoek is reputed to date from 1721, but only part of the hursting and three millstones have survived. Recently Dr and Mrs Anton Rupert transferred the water-wheel and mill-machinery from Matjes Rivier, near Ceres to La Motte and built it into the old mill-house'.*

Fig 3 . The milling machinery which was transferred from Matjes Rivier and built into La Motte's old mill house.

We tackled the jobs in fits and starts. Pietie had an outer bearing made from Vesconite, but there was no thrust bearing on the outside, so the axle tree was rubbing against the outer wall with the outward force of the meshing gears. We cut a hole in the launder, just past top dead centre of the wheel, for the water to work more effectively. We had to move the footstep bearing of the stone spindle to improve the meshing of the gears, all of which were badly worn, many were loose anyway. Even the metal rungs on the lantern pinion were seriously worn! I made a neck-bearing in the bed stone for the stone spindle, to replace the worm-eaten piece of wood.

By that stage we could operate the mill without damaging it, and the problem which we battled to solve for many years, showed itself: the grain wouldn't swallow away from the eye of the runner. I made up a cone to encourage the grain to the outer diameter of the eye. The grain just built up, and very little emerged from between the stones. From early on, I was studying from old books on stone milling, the oldest was written by Professor Kick; my copy is from 1887. He emphasises the importance of a 'swallow', a shallow cone cut away in the face of the runner stone at the centre. I dressed the stones according to Kick's instructions and ground the swallow deeper, with no improvement.

Fig 4. Pietie Le Roux feeling the grain in a full hopper. All that grain and it just wouldn't swallow away between the stones!

In the Journal of The International Molinological Society of June 2011, a report appeared which I had submitted.

Producing Flour at La Motte Mill, South Africa

Fig.5 The report in International Molinology, June 2011.

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It described the problems we encountered, but my records show that we were still struggling with the problem for years afterwards. In the middle of 2022 we decided to replace the cogs and rungs of the pit wheel and lantern pinion. Gerhard Reynecke made a full set of cogs out of old reclaimed Stinkwood, I made the rungs out of hardwood, to replace the worn metal ones. This made a marked improvement in the meshing, especially after I wedged up the spokes of the water wheel and pit wheel. Kallie, the workshop manager and helper from the beginning, said before these improvements were made they could hear the mill working from the workshop, more than 100 metres away!

Fig.6. New cogs and rungs.

Another noise was coming from the 'sweeper' which is strapped to the runner stone and drives the emerging meal around between the bedstone and the tun, to reach the meal spout. There is very little space around the stones and the sweeper was scraping the inside of the tun. I made another which also scraped, and bent back, meaning it wasn't working. There wasn't much meal coming out anyway!

In April 2023 we had a visit from our Dutch milling advisors, Sven, Gerard and Leo, mainly to check up on our progress at Mostert's Mill. I was keen to ask their advice about our problems at La Motte. Sven's advice is always if you are experiencing problems, to open up the stones and look at what's going on between them.

Fig.7. Het Ploeg (The team)! Leo, Gerard and Sven opening the stones as they always advise!

Their first advice was that the furrows in the bed stone were too deep. Grain was lying in them and was not being picked up by the runner above. The swallow could also be deeper. The only way to make the furrows shallower was to grind the whole top face between them. I have a rotating guide which can be fixed to the eye of a millstone with a spindle that can be set perpendicular to the face; it has a rail and a carrier for an angle grinder. To install it meant first removing the stone spindle and neck bearing.

When the furrows were sufficiently shallow, I could set the same rig up on the runner. The rail can be set at an angle to the horizontal so I could make the shallow cone of the swallow with it.

Fig 8. My rotating grinding rig, the carriage with the grinder can be moved inward on the rail.

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Fig 9. The swallow, ground in the bedstone with the same tool. The turnbuckle sets the angle.

Fig. 10. I had to do some dismantling to get the Osttiroler through the little door!

Interest in the mill was re-awakened, along with the upgrading of the eating experience at La Motte, being guided by Master Baker Markus Farbinger. An Osttiroler electrically driven stone mill and sifter combination arrived. I managed to persuade them that it should be set up inside the mill house, so visitors can experience the old 'Vitruvian' method of milling and the modern way of doing the same operation. We installed it in October 2023 and had the opportunity to test it, after the electrical connections were made, during the next visit of our Dutch advisors.

Fig.11 . The same Dutch Advisory Team showing us how to get the best out of the Osttiroler.

Despite all the changes we'd made on the Vitruvian mill, the swallowing problem persisted. Sven is always ready to give advice, immediately answering WhatsApp queries and video clips. I asked about rotational speed. With the pump running fully open, I timed the revolutions of the millstone. It was running much too slowly in his opinion! But how to prove to myself and the farm management that more speed, meaning more water on the wheel, would cure the problem? The answer was to bring my portable fire pump from home and add its flow to that of the electric pump.

Fig.12. My portable fire pump adding extra water to the flow.

At last! With the added speed, the grain started swallowing away! I measured the capacity of a bucket on the water wheel and calculated the volume of water required to turn it at the speed we needed. We discussed pump volumes; clearly the original pump had never delivered enough for the mill to work properly! A new pump was fitted, we tested it, something wasn't correct, another was fitted in its place and eventually there was a chance to test it, on 5th April 2025.

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Fig. 13. Latest modification to the sweeper, a paint brush in a flattened tube soldered to the band.

I had made yet another sweeper before visiting, this time soldering a flattened tube to the band with a paint-brush in the end; I couldn't think of anything slimmer than that! It works and it doesn't touch the tun! I was being assisted during my visit by Dillon, farm handyman, what an ideal assistant! We thought that it would be possible to set the flow electrically on the new switchboard. We couldn't get that to work, and the water flow seemed too much. We simply choked the flow with the valve outside to start with, gradually increasing the flow to full open as we got more confident and the meal started trickling down the spout. We experimented with the setting of the stones and the quality of the meal improved.

In the end the wheel was running at around 10 RPM, the stone about 70. I brought a sample of the meal home and put it through our normal sieve, with satisfactory results!

I envisage the Osttiroler being used for meal for the bakery, using organic grain grown on the farm (which we were milling), and the Vitruvian mill running alongside for visitors to compare. So different, yet so much the same!

Fig. 14. 950g of meal on the left and the bran on the right half-filled a honey jar.

8th April 2025

AUSTRIA

Austrian Mills - Victims of Climate Change
by Leo van der Drift

Photo Ansgar Rahmacher, August 2023.

After days of excessive rainfall in early July of this year, the mountain slopes around the Tyrolian village of Gschnitz became so saturated that part of the mountain came down. An avalanche of mud and stones completely buried all four watermills in the local open air museum. In fact, the whole museum was almost completely destroyed.

Dutch TIMS member Frank Terpstra, who was on holiday in the area, visited the site a few weeks later and sent us two pictures of the disaster. The scale of devastation is captured perfectly in these photographs.

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Photo Ansgar Rahmacher, August 2023.

In comparison are pictures taken in 2023, by TIMS member Ansgar Rahmacher, when he photographed these mills for the TIMS Mill Database.

If anyone knows of similar cases in which mills were totally destroyed by climate change related weather conditions, please send us a short write-up. We'll publish it in the next issue.

Photo Ansgar Rahmacher, August 2023.

Photo Frank Terpstra, July 2025

GERMANY

TIMS Now Represented in DGM Council

The new executive board with (from left to right) Ansgar Rahmacher, Bettina Böhme, President Reinhold Pillich, Marco Rinne und Ludwig Angerpointer (picture by Gerald Bost).

Our TIMS member Ansgar Rahmacher, has been elected as a Member of the German Mill Association DGM (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Mühlenkunde und Mühlenerhaltung e.V.).

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During the last annual meeting of the organisation on 5th July 2025, at Gutach, Germany, Ansgar was elected as Vice President of the executive board. Congratulations to Ansgar from the TIMS Council and the TIMS Representative of Germany, Gerald Bost.

UK

Restoration of Heage Mill Tower, an Update
by Alan Gifford

Editor's note :
Following the report in E-News No 38 (Spring 2025) on the start of the work on the tower of Heage Windmill, Alan Gifford sent us a short update.

Small test area of lime mortar.

Heage windmill in Derbyshire is, unusually, a six sail mill mounted over an ironstone tower. The tower was last partially re-mortared in 2000 but this had weathered badly and some stonework had deeply eroded. The wind/rain eroded surface of the tower can be seen in Fig. 1, where a small test section of new lime mortar can also be seen. A report in the previous issue of E-News has described how the upper half of the tower had been repaired from a scaffold structure suspended from the fan stage. The work is now completed on the lower half of the tower. The deeper eroded areas have been rebuilt with mortar, pinned in place into the remaining stone. The work was finished by the end of July 2025 and the resultant appearance is excellent, as seen in the attached photo Fig. 2, where the lower part has had old mortar 'grubbed' out and is ready for the finishing operation. Also visible is one of the maintenance team working on a shutter. There are 100's of metres that have been cut out and refilled with lime mortar!

Lime mortar part completed.

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UK

Stone Bearings for Horizontal Water Mills
by John Boucher

A couple of years ago I was at a mills conference in central Scotland, when I was invited to visit a traditional water mill in the small town of Killin. I found an attractive stone building, with a nice modern vertical wheel outside, but very short of machinery inside. On entering, I noticed a tray of pebble stones, believed to have a mystic value and known as The Healing Stones of St Fillan, displayed on a table, two of which immediately caught my attention, as they had holes in their top surfaces virtually identical to the hole in a bearing socket in my own collection saved from a derelict horizontal mill in Spain. Had I discovered the only known remains of a horizontal mill on the Scottish mainland?

I discussed my findings with Mark Watson of Historic Environment Scotland. Berthold Moog's photograph of a stone bearing in his Horizontal Mills book greatly helped the explanation, however, Mark wanted evidence to show that they were indeed from a mill and not simply the pot bearings from any old barn door or similar pivoting structure. Careful examination of the pebbles showed smooth spherical cups with the typical fine concentric striations, slightly off centre (consistent with water pressure coming from one side). In the centre was a smaller diameter circle, slightly depressed below the main spherical seat, but bounded by a neat circular line. This was rather puzzling, and I couldn't immediately explain it.

Moving forward to TIMS symposium in Portugal, we visited two museum collections which had samples of stone bearings, and the superb, working horizontal water mill at Fonte de Anca where they had quite a collection. A great help was that as well as the lower socket, they also had the stone pintles from the upright shaft that sat in them. The striking thing about these was that although the sockets all had the central circular depression noted previously, the pintles had a projecting 'pip' or spigot which fitted nicely into it. (see Fig. 1)

Stone sockets clearly showing identifying marks from rotating pintles. The two left are from Killin, one of which has two holes where the bearing has been repositioned at some time. The one on the right is from the Portuguese mill at Fonte de Anca, complete with its stone pintle.

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I have seen lots of horizontal mills with a variety of bearings, including stone, wood, steel and cast iron, and in any combination of those, but rarely is it possible to examine the mating surfaces, so I am hoping TIMS members may be able to help me here. The beauty of stone bearings is that they last forever and retain all their markings. Timber rots and iron corrodes, destroying the evidence. I do have the archaeological report on the remains of a Saxon mill found in 1971 at Tamworth, in the English Midlands, where a primitive, steel, bearing socket believed to date from the 9th century AD, was recovered. The steel bearing was sectioned and carefully examined by a metallurgist from Birmingham University, but unfortunately I have not been able to trace where it is now. However, it was carefully sketched by the archaeologist in charge, who noted concentric striations in the socket, and the accompanying photograph, though not crystal clear, does appear to show what could be the same central, small hole, as noted in the stone bearings.

I am wondering therefore, if TIMS members can advise me whether they have noted any of these markings in horizontal mill bearings, and whether they can offer any explanations for them. One suggestion offered, was that the central hole might have been caused by loose debris eroding the centre away as the shaft rotated, but my feeling is that that would not have scoured such a neat circle, and would in any case not explain the projecting pip on the pintle above. Another suggestion is that the small, central hole might have been a pilot hole bored to centre the shaft above, but that would probably be too small to accommodate a larger stone or timber pintle. A better explanation would be very welcome.

Reactions to John Boucher at johnboucher@sky.com

Woodbridge Tide Mill:
Replacing the Feet of the Hurst Frame
by Simon Ballard

Woodbridge's Tide Mill is unique. It is the only tide mill regularly milling and selling flour in the UK. It is a wooden building on an exposed waterfront, and so it requires constant attention to continue to operate and to open to the public.

Woodbridge Tide Mill seen from River Deben.

Although the Mill was extensively refurbished in 1971 and 2011, the vital Hurst Frame, which supports the principal machinery and is designed to protect the building from its vibrations, has been under threat. Rising tides mean its enormous oak feet are underwater for long periods. Prolonged submersion threatens the structure.

Woodbridge Maritime Festival.

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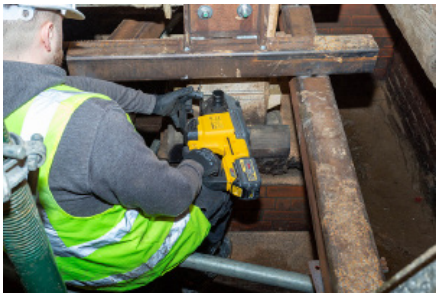
The Mill's Trustees secured grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Suffolk County Council, to allow remedial work which has been undertaken by Chapel Properties.

The Frame has been supported while the bottom of the two legs have been re-placed by specialist waterproof concrete, and a tough Ekki timber plate inserted between the concrete and Frame. So now the Hurst Frame will stand firm on water-resistant legs for years to come.

Chair of Trustees, John Carrington, said at the time –
"The magnificent machinery, all driven by the vast Mill wheel, attracts visitors from all over the world. The threat to the supporting Hurst Frame could have stopped the machinery turning. This would have ended flour production and rung the death knell for yet another old tide mill. ……. The Trustees and every-one involved with the Museum are grateful to National Lottery Heritage Fund and Suffolk County Council, for granting the funds to allow this work to take place. Such high tides are unprecedented and a sign of the changing environ-ment that we live in."

Hurst Frame support repairs begins.



Leg cutting.

Do you want to help to restore Woodbridge Tide Mill?
Please visit the Fundraiser at https://gofund.me/e3349f8d

Wooden foot removed.

Other recent activities at Woodbridge include:
- Sourcing and producing local oak teeth for the pit wheel and waterwheel
- Finding a new source of local heritage grain to grind
- Dressing the stones, short video here

Waterproof mortar poured.

Oak plate added.

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Leg 2 sawn.

Job Done!

Mortar hardens.

Repairs complete.

Posts from the Tide Mill Institute

Posted on April 30, 2025:
EU Grants $36 Million to French Tidal Energy Project
EU Grants $36 Million to French Tidal Energy Project

Posted on August 7, 2025:
12-Month Report Card for Tide Mill Institute
12-Month Report Card for Tide Mill Institute

YouTube Videos

There is quite a lot to check out this time!

Mill friend Gerard Barendse sent us the following videos from the UK:

How do mills work? | Learning from Hardley Mill in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads

A Couris Thing: the story of the English windmill (1968) - YouTube

Turn to the wind (1978) - YouTube

Herringfleet Drainage Mill

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And a few more from Germany, historic ones in b&w:

Die Dorfmühle 1 - Fällen und Abfahren einer Mühleneiche (felling and transporting an oak tree)

Die Dorfmühle 2 - Drehen einer Mühlenwelle (the making of a shaft)

Mühlsteinschärfen und Herrichten des Mahlgangs (millstone dressing and reinstalling the machinery)

Sandstone to Grindstone: Carved by Hand!

Erik Stoop from The Netherlands also sent us a series of YouTube links showing historic movies from Germany about cutting millstones out of the rock (Rhineland, near Mayen):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsqCxHfah5U
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndIpgZIckEo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAwzxbPdsqg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5EsqivG6Lg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtNLEYQnFRs
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG1Kcuis4 EQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBJqc0 JMT 40
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Da1 oxe9 Tf7 c

Ton Meesters came across a video from Nepal, a working watermill filmed only two years ago:

traditional water mill || Nepal pelma

In addition, he sent three videos on saw mills:

Sägen mit Wasserkraft (sawing by water power, Meisburg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany)

Der Sägemeister vom Gampenpass | Der Letzte seines Standes (the last sawyer, near Bozen/Bolzano, northern Italy)

Die Sanierung einer 500 Jahre alten 'Augsburger' Sägemühle in Ried im Oberinntal. (restoration of a saw mill at Ried im Oberinntal, Tyrol, Austria)

And this one, on Wickembreaux Mill, Canterbury, Kent (from British Pathé, 1948):

Brand Q 3 Digital NL | Thirst | TVSK | 16x 9

The Netherlands: Frisian and National Television collaborated in making a movie (30 minutes) on how voluntary millers are trained here:

Marco en Sjoerd willen molenaar worden | FRYSLANDOK

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Finally, Harald Marschner informed us that Austrian television visited his Millstone Museum https://www.steinbrecherhaus.at/ and the Paneum - The Wonder Chamber of Bread https://www.paneum.at/de/ for the museum programme 'Aus dem Rahmen' [Out of the Frame] and produced the report 'The History of Bread'. You will enjoy this c.45 minutes long documentary!

https://on.orf.at/video/14266822/aus-dem-rahmen-die-geschichte-des-brotes

FACEBOOK

In the Iranian town of Nashtifan, a row of nine horizontal windmills was restored.
To read more, check out this page from August 2025:

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16o8W1u31b/?mibextid=wwXIfr

TIMS MILL DATABASE

Part 2: Refining your Search
by Leo van der Drift

In the previous issue of E-News we published an introduction to the International Mill Database. As indicated then, the database is offered free to use for everybody, no user registration is needed. We explained how you can get started by performing an easy search. In this second article, we focus on how you can refine your search. There are three ways to do this.

1. Multiple Search Terms

First of all, it is possible to enter more than one search term in a field. For instance, you can combine two or more countries, provinces, mill types, functions, or any other search term. It is best to fill in the search field(s) with a single search term first, then fill in the combined one (Fig. 1).

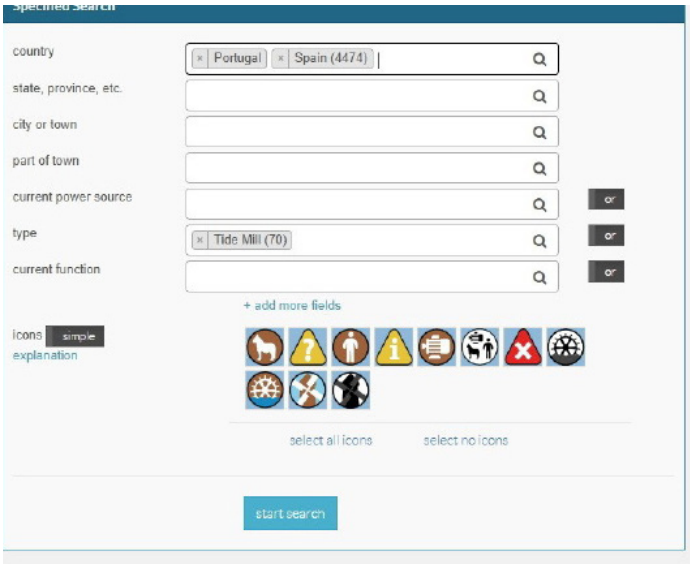

Fig. 1 – Using multiple search terms: tide mills in Portugal and Spain.

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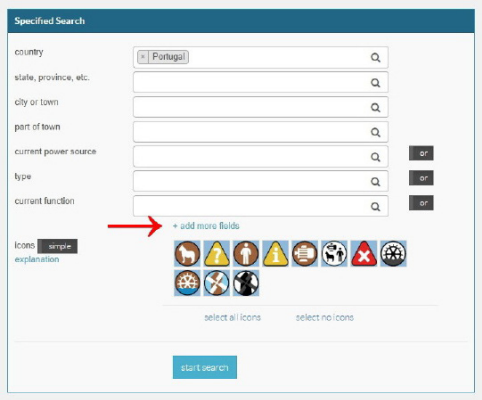
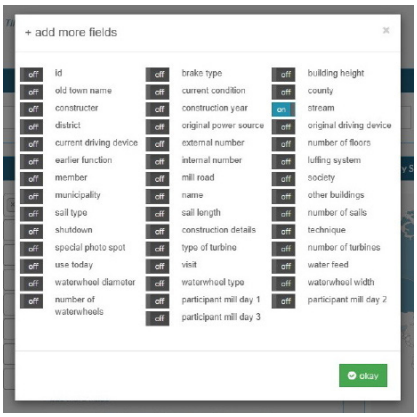
2. Adding Search Fields

Secondly, you can refine your search by adding more search fields. You will find this possibility directly below the fixed search fields. It will open a pop-up window showing 43 additional fields. Not all of these will be relevant, and some of these do not (yet) contain any data. Still, some might be of use for your research, e.g. "municipality", "stream", "sail type", "waterwheel type", etc. Any field can be added by clicking the "off" button in front of the required search field, then click the green "okay" button at the bottom of the window. The field can now be used in the same way as the fixed fields (Figs 2 and 3).





Figs. 2 and 3- Adding search fields.

3. Using the Icons

This can be done either separately or in combination with the Detailed Search.
First of all, it is important to note that initially the main set of icons is shown, and that they are all selected for your search. As the pictures suggest, these icons indicate the type of mill: windmills, watermills, motor mills and muscle powered mills.
Coloured icons are used for mills of which one or more photographs are available. The black-and-white ones refer to mills without any pictures (Fig. 4).

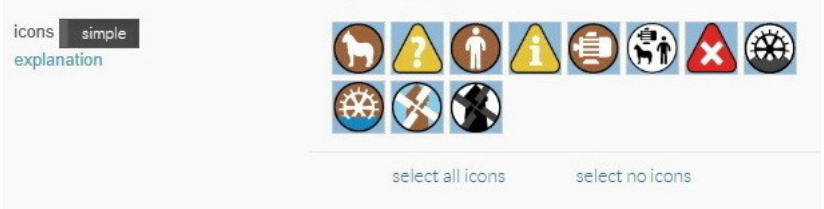


Fig. 4 – Icons: The main set.

Their exact meaning can be found by clicking on "explanation" on the left hand side. The full set of icons can be activated by clicking "simple" on the left hand side. This set combines the type of mill with the condition of the mill (functional, derelict, etc). The icon selection, whether or not in combination with filled out search fields, enables you to find quickly what you are looking for (Fig. 5).
When you plan to carry out another search, don't forget to enable the disabled icons again before continuing.

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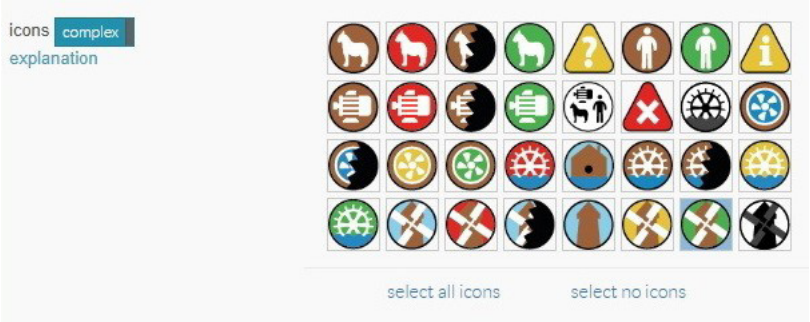

Fig. 5 – Icons: The full set.

Reaching the Detail Page

For each mill there is a Detail Page. These can be accessed in two ways. The first option is to click on one of the icons on the map. A small pop-up window will appear giving a few basic data on the chosen mill. By clicking on "details", the user will be shown the Detail Page (Fig. 6).
The second option is to scroll down to the list of mills and click on the blue mill name.

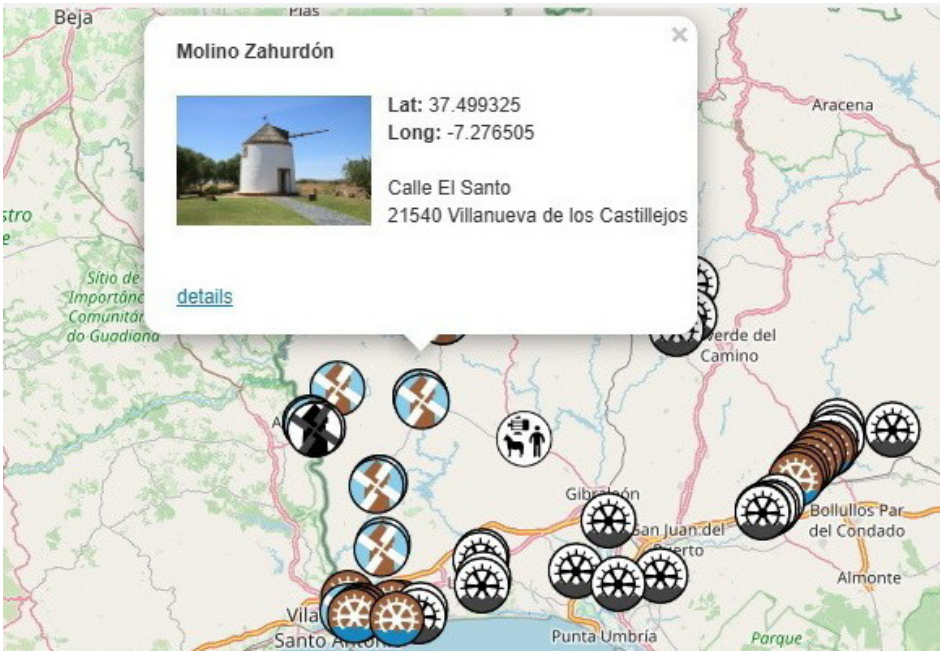

Fig. 6 – Selecting a mill on the map.

The detail page is subdivided into several parts:

- Geographical data (location, address, coordinates)
- Technical data (mill type, function, etc)
- A description
- Internet links
- Photographs

This is all for now. Next time we will address a few special features that the database has to offer.

This database is maintained on a daily basis. For any questions, corrections and additions, please contact the author at lvddrift@telfort.nl

The database can be accessed here:
https://milldatabase.org/search/international?lang=en

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Book Corner
by Leo van der Drift

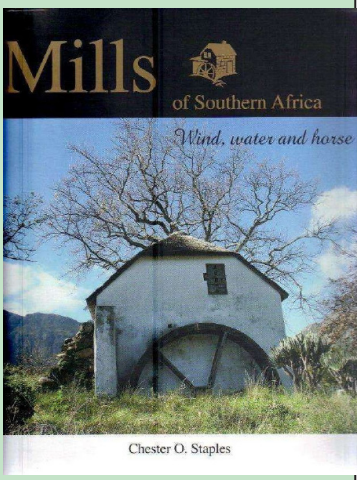
This edition of the Book Corner offers no less than fourteen titles. Most of these are relatively recently published books, except for the three last ones. Although older, they are of interest, especially the two titles from Germany dealing with the production, processing and marketing of stone and marble.
We also start with an older one, *The Mills of Southern Africa*, published in 2006, the last copies of which are offered here by the author at a reduced price.
Please note that as usual prices are indicative and postage always comes extra, unless stated otherwise.

Promotion:

***1. Mills of Southern Africa, Wind, Water and Horse*, by Chester O. Staples.**

Introduction by the author:

Preserving the Forgotten Marvels: The Mills of Southern Africa



Between 2001 and 2006, I travelled over 15,000km across Southern Africa, visiting 232 mill sites. This extensive journey, rooted in a passion for history and architecture, culminated in a thoroughly researched study at a scientific level. The result is my book, ***Mills of Southern Africa,*** published in 2006.

Mill technology was first introduced to South Africa by **Jan van Riebeeck**. In the decades that followed, hundreds of mills—powered by water, wind, and horse—were constructed across the country. Today, most of these historic structures are in various states of disrepair or have vanished entirely. A few notable exceptions, such as the Josephine Watermill and Mostert's Windmill, have been restored and stand as proud reminders of a once-vital part of our heritage.

The purpose of this book was twofold: to record for posterity what remains of these original mills, and to inspire renewed interest in their preservation and restoration. These vernacular structures are not just engineering feats—they are vital threads in the fabric of our national history.

Globally, there is a growing interest in **Molinology**—the study of mills—and it is hoped that this book will not only appeal to international enthusiasts but also ignite curiosity among South Africans. Tourism, heritage conservation, and education all stand to benefit from greater awareness of our milling history.

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What is remembered of the technological contributions of Jan van Riebeeck's time? Beyond the Castle of Good Hope, few know of the mills—then marvels of innovation—that were introduced under his watch. These wind, water, and animal-powered machines represented a leap in productivity and infrastructure, laying foundations for the economic and industrial development of Southern Africa.

Since the mid-1600s, mills have played a crucial role in our cultural and technological evolution, yet they have largely been overlooked. The stories of the people who built, operated, and lived in these mills—now fading into obscurity—are an essential part of our shared past. Many of these structures, located in breathtaking rural settings, are quietly decaying, their significance forgotten.

Aside from the technical work of the late James Walton, whose Watermills, Windmills and Horse-mills of South Africa was published in 1974, there has been little written documentation on this subject. This book was to fill that void. It offers a photographic and narrative record of all known mills, complete with GPS coordinates, maps, and technical illustrations. The writing strikes a balance between engaging storytelling and factual documentation, capturing both the human and mechanical elements of mill history.

To visually enrich the book, I had commissioned well-known South African fine artist Robin Kearney to produce oil paintings of selected mills based on my photographs. Rob, a highly talented artist, had not exhibited in many years—his last major series being of steam trains in the early 1990s, which inspired a TV documentary produced by the SABC. His mill paintings bring a unique artistic dimension to the book.

An exciting addition to the project was the endorsement by the South African Postal Services. Following my proposal, they approved a 2007 stamp series featuring mills, using a selection of 12 Kearney paintings, which were released in September. This not only elevated national awareness but also added significant cultural value to the publication.

Mills of Southern Africa is more than a book—it is a call to remember, to preserve, and to celebrate a unique aspect of the South African's national identity.

In English.
Size 28,5 x 26 cm,228 pages, hard cover, linen and embossed, with dust jacket, weight: 1,5 kg.
With photographs and illustrations in full colour and b/w.
Published by Umdaus Press, Pretoria, 2006.

Available from the author:
Chester O. Staples
Author/Historian
eMail: staplesco@gmail.com
Cell phone: +44 7403 800988
Pewsey, Wiltshire. UK

TIMS members Pricing & Ordering details:
Signed Copy at £25 plus postage

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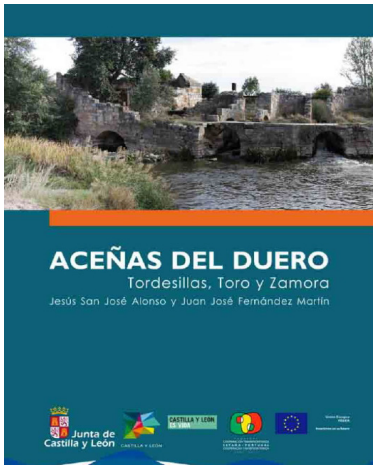
***2. Aceñas del Duero: Tordesillas, Toro, Zamora*, by Jesús Ignacio San José Alonso and Juan José Fernández Martin.**



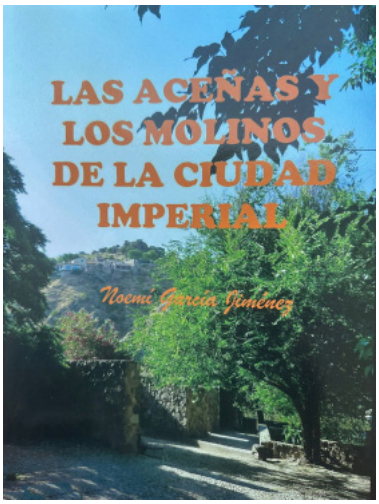
Although this study was published already 15 years ago, it nevertheless deserves to be mentioned here. It focusses on the submersible "river mills" along the river Duero, and more particularly the stretch near the towns of Tordesillas, Toro and Zamora (which is about 100 kms long). Sixteen of these mills, that often come in groups of three to five, are documented in great detail. The results of the study are presented in text, photographs and excellent drawings that explain the working of these mills in great detail.

This publication was part of a project to raise awareness of these remarkable hydraulic structures. Apart from this publication, two documentaries were made, as well as a travelling exhibition that could be visited in five towns in the area between 2010 and 2012.

In Spanish.
Size: 30 x ? cm, 253 pages, soft cover. Richly illustrated, (mainly) coloured photographs, maps, drawings and diagrams.
Junta de Castilla y Leon, Consejeria de Cultura y Turismo, Valladolid, 2010. ISBN 978-84-9718-620-9.

A free download can be found here:
Aceñas del Duero: Tordesillas, Toro, Zamora
There is also a printed copy available. Price unknown.

***3. Las Aceñas y los Molinos de la Ciudád Imperial*, by Noemí García Jiménez.**



More recently, another study on watermills in Spain was published. This is about the watermills of the city of Toledo, southwest of Madrid, on the Tagus river. For centuries, Toledo was known as the "City of Flour". This study invites the reader to learn about the typology and history of Toledo's mills, both existing and defunct, without forgetting other aspects , e.g. the operation of a mill, grinding and sifting, the plants used, the miller's trade, and what remains of it in proverbs.

In Spanish.
Paperback, size 20 x 25 cm, 247 pages, 2020, ISBN 979-86-7619-894-7.
Price c 16 EUR.
Independently published. Available from Amazon.

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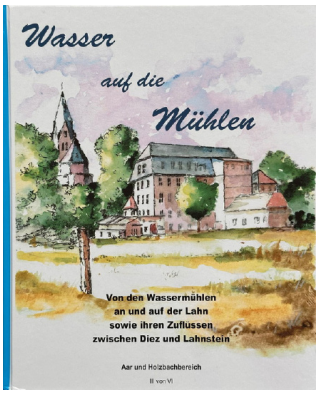
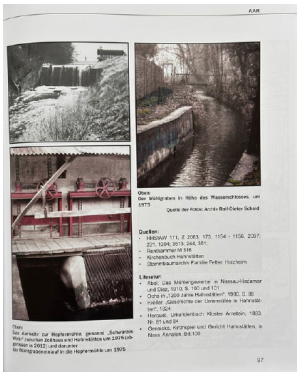
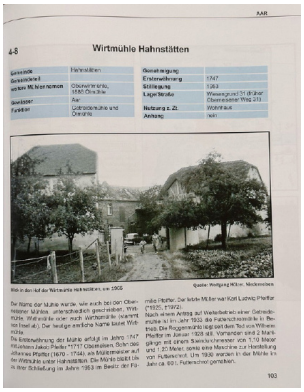
***4. Wasser auf die Mühlen*, by Gerhard Gemmer, Ellen Lenz, Josef Kläser and others.**



This is a series of six volumes on the mills of the river Lahn and its tributaries between Diez and Lahnstein, in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.
Each volume deals with a number of streams, describing each mill in detail.
So far, three volumes of this inventory have been published. The other three will be issued later this year and next year.





In German.
Size: 23 x 28,5 cm, around 150 pages per volume, hardback. Richly illustrated with historic and contemporary photographs, reproductions of paintings and drawings, and maps.

Arbeitskreis Mühlen des Rhein-Lahn Kreises, Bad Ems, 2023_2026.
Price: Volumes 1 and 2 : 19,80 EUR, Volume 3: 23,80 EUR.
Available from the publisher, email arbeitskreis.muehlen@outlook.de

***5. Celulose da Caima 130 Anos, inovação e resiliência*, by Jorge Custódio.**

The reason for this comprehensive study was the celebration in 2018 of 130 years existence of Caima S.A., Portugal's leading paper industry. Founded in 1888 in Albergaria-a-Velha, south of Porto, it started with a water powered facility on the river Caima, where the company also took its name from.

The study describes in detail the development of the industry, the innovation that took place, and the relocation of the paper production to Constância on the Tagus river near Santarém in the 1960s (which no longer uses water power). Today, at the original site at Albergaria-a-Velha, the remains of the factory can still be visited.

The study not only focusses on Caima itself, but also on the paper industry in general, putting Caima in a wider perspective. At the end of the study, it offers a wealth of information

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for further reference on the subject. There is a glossary, an extensive bibliography listing publications as well as websites on the topic, and a worldwide list of paper mill companies.

In Portuguese.
655 pages, richly illustrated in colour and b&w.
Caima, Indústria de Celulose, S.A., Constância, 2022, ISBN 978-989-33-3243-6.
Available as a downloadable pdf : http://www.caima.pt/livro/caima130 .pdf

6. Der Dreh mit der Mühle / Młyn już się kręci , **by Kaja Cykalewicz-Licak**

This bilingual children's book explains how the flour mill works, and can be used for guided tours for school classes. It is also a good support for all mills that do guided tours with Polish and Ukrainian visitors.

It has been published in cooperation with the *Mühlenvereinigung Berlin Brandenburg* e.V. and the Association for the Protection of Cultural Heritage "Młyn-papiernia" (Barlinek Paper Mill).

Language: Polish and German (you read from both sides)
Size: 24 x 21 cm, 87 pages, paperback.
Each page is illustrated with a colour graphic (they are identical for both languages).
Price: 2,80 € + postage and packaging.
Available from: Mühlenvereinigung Berlin Brandenburg e.V., Maulbeerallee 5,14469 Potsdam, Germany,
e-mail geschaeftsstelle@muehlenvereine-online.de

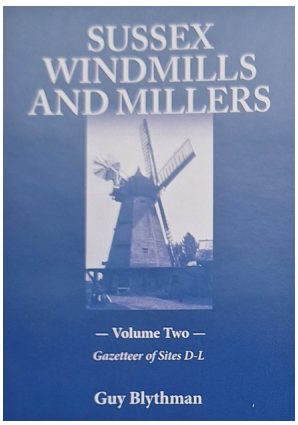
7. Sussex Windmills and Millers, Volume 2, **by Guy Blythman.**

A full review was published in *Mill News* No 182 of April 2025.

In English.

A 4 hardback, 235 pages, richly illustrated, price £ 20.

It can be ordered from the author at guy.blythman@talktalk.net



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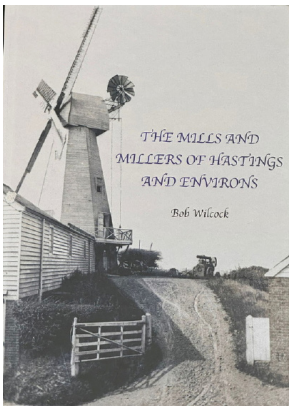
***8. The Mills and Millers of Hastings and Environs*, by Bob Wilcock.**



Subtitle: A unique history of the millers of Hastings [East Sussex, UK], their families and mills from the 16th Century to the 20th.

In English.
A4 hardback, 400 pages, fully illustrated in b&w and colour, fully referenced, with extensive index. It can be ordered from the author at 1908bobw@gmail.com

***9. Les Moulins des Pays de l'Ain*, by Jean Game (editor).**

For a thousand years, mills have lined the rivers of the Ain, in the east of France, NE of Lyon. Whether on the plains or in the mountains, they have produced flour, oil, and paper over the centuries. The industrialization of the 19th century saw the flourishing of sawmills, textile workshops, copper-works, and edge-tool shops along the rivers and streams. However, technological advances and the decline in daily bread consumption led to the disappearance of traditional milling. In 1906, Ain had 400 bread flour millers; by 2000, only 9 remained. Today, nearly 700 buildings in varying states of preservation remain. A few grain mills, waterwheels, and turbine driven power stations remain. Most have been restored for residential use.

In French.
Paperback, size 21 x 23 cm, 240 pages, 2023, ISBN 978-29-0765-674-0.
Price 30 EUR.
Collection Patrimoine des Pays de l'Ain.

***10. La Mandorne et ses Usines à Eau*, by Jacques Grimbot.**

This publication is dedicated to the ancient and wide range of activities linked to the Mandorne, a small river with a wild course in the Ain department of Eastern France, a heritage that now has almost disappeared. It describes the problems the millers faced with the harshness of their tasks, and the administrative and legal constraints, and presents several aspects of a rural life in relation to a difficult and often unforgiving geographical environment.

In French.
Paperback, size 21x 21 cm, 260 pages, 217, ISBN 978-48-5987-654-2.

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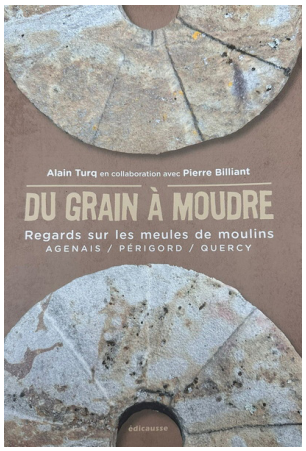
Price 35 EUR.
Available from the author at Jacques.grimbot@wanadoo.fr

***11. Du Moudre à Grain. Regards sur les Meules de Moulins Agenais, Périgord, Quercy*, by Alain Turq.**



The millstones, the heart of each mill, have, for centuries, contributed to feeding people. They therefore have long stories to tell us, those of the choice of materials, the quarries, the men who made, sold or maintained them. This book tries to answer several questions : how and why have millstones evolved over time? What rocks were used? Where are the main millstone quarries found? How did people adapt to local resources? How did economic and political actors play a role in the development and disappearance of stone milling?

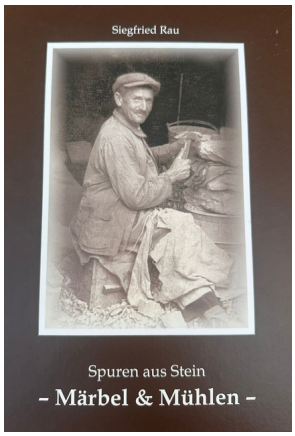
In French.
Paperback, size 30 x 21 cm, 294 pages, abundantly illustrated.
Edicausse, 2025.
Price: 25 EUR. Available from the publisher at DU GRAIN À MOUDRE. Regards sur les meules de moulins AGENAIS / PÉRIGORD / QUERCY - édicausse, éditeur en Quercy

***12. Atlas památek: Evropská muzea v přírodě [Open Air Museums in Europe]*, by Jiří Langer.**

A guidebook to open air museums in Europe, listing 516 museums in 31 countries in alphabetical order. For every country there is a map on which the individual museums are marked.

In Czech.
Hardback, size 16 x 24 cm, 895 pages.
Praha, Baset, 2005, ISBN 80-86223-40-X, price 26,50 EUR.

***13. Spuren aus Stein, Märbel und Mühlen*, by Siegfried Rau.**



Subtitle: die Steinmärbelherstellung in den ehemaligen Herzogtümern S.-Meiningen, S.-Coburg, S.-Hildburghausen und im Fürstentum Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt; Rückschau auf ein vergangenes Gewerbe.

The publication is about the history of the stone marble production in Southern Thuringia, Germany.

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In German.
Hardback, 395 pages, size 17,5 x 23,5 cm, 2013, ISBN 978-3 -00-041665-1.
Price 49 EUR.

Sold out, try an antiquarian bookshop.

***14. Steinreich. Mühlsteine, Tuff und Trass aus der östlichen Vulkaneifel und ihr Markt. Eine vergleichende Analyse vorindustrieller Produktions- und Handelsstrukturen,* by Meinrad Pohl.**

The subtitle reads : *Millstones, Tuff and Trass from the eastern Volcanic Eifel and their markets. A comparative analysis of pre-industrial production and trade structures.*

In German.
Hardback, size 17 x 24,5 cm, 424 pages,2012, ISBN 978-3-937203-61-4. Price 30 EUR.
Selbstverlag des Deutschen Bergbau-Museums.
Sold out, try an antiquarian bookshop.

Please remember to send us details of the books that you would like to see here next time!

MESSAGE FROM THE E-NEWS TEAM

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of E-News. We are dedicated to spreading this information to all mill friends, so please feel free to forward it to anyone who might also be interested. And remember, if you have any news items, short articles, books, announcements, photographs or anything else that you want to share, please send it to the editor, Leo van der Drift, lvddrift@telfort.nl . This Newsletter cannot exist without you! The next issue, No 40 is scheduled for March 2026.

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