

**HISTORY OF CORN
MILLING. VOL.
II. WATERMILLS
AND WINDMILLS**

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History of Corn Milling. Vol. II. Watermills and Windmills by Richard Bennett & John Elton

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RICHARD BENNETT & JOHN ELTON

**HISTORY OF CORN
MILLING. VOL.
II. WATERMILLS
AND WINDMILLS**

IN PREPARATION,

**UNIFORM WITH THE PRESENT VOLUME,
BY THE SAME AUTHORS.**

**VOL. III.—FEUDAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF
MILLS.**—Compulsory Milling Soke: Its
Origin and Incidence: Laws Relating to
Ownership: Customs Affecting Millers:
Status of Millers: Toll: Offences and
Punishments: Pesage or Weighing Tax.

VOL. IV.—SOME FAMOUS FEUDAL MILLS.—
King's Mills—Ardee, Dublin Castle, Dee
Mills, Chester, Liverpool. Alienation of
Kings' Mills. Monastic Mills—Shrewsbury.
Rectorate Mills—Wigan. Civic Mills—
London. Rights of Feudal Mills Exting-
uished by Ratepayers—Leeds, Bradford,
Wakefield.

ALSO

**THE LAWS, CUSTOMS AND ASSIZES
OF BREAD BAKING.**

*THE WHOLE RICHLY ILLUSTRATED AND REPLETE
WITH RECORDS FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES.*



"THE MILLS OF BABYLON."—From Fifteenth Century MS.

HISTORY OF CORN MILLING

VOL. II

WATERMILLS AND WINDMILLS

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

RICHARD BENNETT AND JOHN ELTON



Edge Hill, Warwick.

LONDON

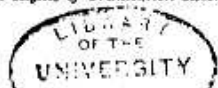
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LIVERPOOL

EDWARD HOWELL, CHURCH ST.

1899

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PREFACE.

IN Volume I. the varied forms of archaic handstones are seen to culminate in the Roman quern, from which were developed revolving mills driven by slave or cattle labour. In the present Volume the history is taken up from that point, and the development of the several forms of power corn mill traced from the classic ages to the advent of steam.

Such a record is not merely one of the manufacture of flour. The art of milling has been most slow of growth: evolving itself from absolute crudity to modern perfection but gradually, and as it were very leisurely, as the centuries passed away. But in tracing this apparently listless and lethargic evolution, we are brought face to face with affairs which not only largely account for it, but which in no slight degree are found to react upon the social life and industrial welfare of the people of all nations. Peculiar laws and restrictions have for hundreds of years denied the corn miller freedom to trade (and even personal freedom), encouragement to progress, and permission to compete for quality and cheapness of work. And the same restrictions have filtered and doled the flour of the people through feudal legislative channels, and retarded for many ages the production of that cheap bread with which the welfare of the masses is so intimately concerned. These matters seem as well worthy of study as the political and military troubles or glories of nations: and it is in this view that the authors have approached a subject which has hitherto been almost entirely overlooked.

Referring to the mills, all power corn mills are shown to be directly derived from the Greek watermill, the simple little machine with horizontal wheel, and devoid of gearing, which, under the designation "Norse Mill," survives in some places to the present day. The invention of the Roman watermill, of larger capacity and greater power, with a vertical wheel driving stones through the intervention of cog gearing,

constituted a new departure ; and afforded till modern times the model for the construction of the chief watermills* of the world. The space of about a century intervened between the invention of the Greek mill, and the improvement upon its form effected by the Romans ; and four centuries later, Rome devised the ship or floating mill, which also still remains in use in some parts of Europe and Asia. Thus water-milling alone prevailed till the twelfth century A.D.—or over a thousand years after the invention of the Greek watermill : when the windmill was added to the milling resources of the world. This new motor was rapidly adopted : the primitive tripod mill was elaborated in medieval times into the turret mill, and from this latter was eventually evolved the power mill of modern times.

We have endeavoured to trace the development of these various types of power motors, both wind and water, as concisely as possible, and as clearly as existing records seem to permit : indicating many mythical statements and doubtful theories of early writers, and quoting the earliest known allusion tending to approximate the period of the introduction of each variety. The ancient laws bearing upon corn milling, those of the Romans, Ostrogoths, and other early European nations are fully treated : while the later feudal customs and enactments which spring from them are left for consideration in another Volume, together with a practical illustration of the disastrous effects of those enactments as exhibited by the histories of various famous feudal mills.

We express our sincere thanks to many friends and correspondents who have furnished information respecting existing mills : to J. Robertson Christie, Esq., LL.B., Advocate, Examiner in Roman Law, Edinburgh University, who undertook specially for this work a complete translation of the laws of Rome relative to the College of Pistors, which are now for the first time published in the English language : and also to the various photographers and publishers who have furnished us with many of the illustrations necessary to the exposition of our subject.

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