

**HISTORY OF CORN
MILLING, VOL. 1,
HANDSTONES,
SLAVE & CATTLE MILLS**

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History of corn milling, Vol. 1, Handstones, slave & cattle mills by Richard Bennett & John Elton

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RICHARD BENNETT & JOHN ELTON

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MILLING, VOL. 1,
HANDSTONES,
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K. nro dyo 7 pat' suo. T. Archiepo Eborac' 7 Oibz xpi fidelibz p'teribz 7 iustis. Cecilia de Rumelia
salu ja dno. Scd' q' me dedisse 7 concessisse Deo 7 Beato matri 7 sc' Chudico
emefa) 7 canon' q' libe' do servientibz volentiu de sighelesbeg cu oi cog'za esse sp'ille 7 ope
volentibz q' t' oibz lib'ra' q'z 7 lib'is g'neridimibz q' ego habuy p' predicto
volentibz q' Alus Beccene nro i' lib'ary p'nt' 7 p'p'oz' h'elemof'ig'z. Ita scit' q' Alus
volentibz Ab Alig' Hongun' s' n' volentibz 7 g'neris' ad n'om'cor' in eadem villa q' f'ite
Hec i' m' d'no n'ola habeat'. Sig' d'at' de p'dicta villa regnera n'egre Ad p'dicc'z
volentibz Ego t' heredesq'z op'ellen' eu' ill' seq' va g' si sepe s' i' n'egre n'egre db alio
volentibz s' d'cc' 7 Blad' e'ic' canon'coru' 7 eq' 7 s'ouffact'z q'ic' n'eg' 7 heredu'
m'oy' h'is restibz Raneyro dapif' Ibore s'it' b'uit. Hug' Cap't. Walter' p'cor' Wilko
wad'nd' Regnald' p' re :ol -

CHARTER OF CECILIA DE RUMELIA, SUPPRESSING THE USE OF QUERNS, A. D. 1150.

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HISTORY OF CORN MILLING

VOL. I

HANDSTONES, SLAVE & CATTLE MILLS

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

RICHARD BENNETT AND JOHN ELTON



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TO THE PRESIDENT,
WM. SMITH, ESQ., LANCASTER,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
BRITISH AND IRISH MILLERS
TO WHOSE
DIRECTING AND CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCE
DURING RECENT YEARS
BRITISH MILLING IS INDEBTED
FOR MUCH OF ITS HITHERTO
UNPARALLELED PROGRESS AND SUCCESS
THIS WORK
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHORS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 350

LECTURE 1

1.1

1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5

PREFACE.

A FEW words may be appropriate regarding the influences which have prompted, and the principles which have guided, the production of this work.

We had long been impressed by the scantiness of the bibliography of corn milling; and had felt it strange that in this literary age—while, on the one hand, there should be extant various valuable milling works of a technical character, and an excellent milling press—yet that, on the other hand, there should be available no published history, however crude, of the origin and progress of this ancient and important industry.

This strange circumstance is due to no lack of interest. Corn milling possesses a distinctive historical interest over every other manufacturing art known. Without doubt it is the oldest continuously conducted industry of the world. The earliest efforts of primeval man, in the peaceful arts, were directed to pounding, from such grain, nuts and berries as he possessed, a rude kind of meal; while, centuries later, if the irrigation water-driven wheel were one of the first power machines devised by human ingenuity, the water corn mill was its immediate successor. Whether by hand or by power, therefore, corn milling may claim to rank among the first fruits of man's inventive ingenuity.

Nor yet is the lack of published history due to any dearth of records. In mediæval ages circumstances arose which centred upon corn milling, for many a century, an interest that, among all industries, is unique. The ownership and working of corn mills at the birth of feudalism were constituted prerogatives of the rulers of the people. None but they or their nominees could "presume to set up corn mills;" and the law of "milling soke"—the common law of the land by immemorial custom, and older than any English statute—bound the people to support mills thus set up by their lords. From the reign of the Conqueror to the opening of the Victorian era, these owners of exclusive rights, from kings to abbots and squires, have continuously drawn large revenues from corn mills; have tenaciously held to their privileged monopoly of ownership; and, when occasion has arisen, have upheld it by might as well as by legalised right. Records of the craft are thus to be found scattered through charters of kings and barons, customs rolls of mediæval manors, chartularies of monastic houses, muniments of ancient cities, national archives of sovereigns and Parliaments, pleadings and awards in the law courts; and, even, minutes of municipal authorities, who in recent times have raised rates to purchase and extinguish legal milling obligations created by ancient feudalities. Whatever may be urged for or against the exercise of such a privilege (and a good deal is possible either way), the milling archæologist has reason to be grateful for the records of the craft which it has bequeathed; and which at the present day enable us to trace the vicissitudes of milling more perfectly than those of any other of the industries of the world which have neither been repressed by legislation nor hampered by monopoly.

Still, closely, as in the past, the trade has ever been associated with affairs of national concern, and intimately as it must continue to be combined with imperial prosperity in the future, British historians seem consistently to have overlooked its rich store of records, and ignored its national interest and importance: