

# Milling News



**What, you might be asking, have we devoted our cover of the November edition of Milling and Grain to?**

“We are so thrilled to finally have the Rex Wailes Collection in our safekeeping and we are passionate about making inroads into the material so that researchers can learn more from its unique records. As the national repository for the history of milling, Rex’s material forms a vital part of the story of how the world has been fed and fueled by mills. This is only the start of the journey, as it will take time and further funding to help us preserve and open up the collection to the public,” says the Trust’s development director Liz Bartram. In short this is a very important transfer of an internationally recognised archive on wind-, water- and steam-driven flour mills, compiled by Englishman Rex Wailes throughout the 20th Century, to the UK’s Mills Archive Trust in Reading from the UK’s Science Museum.

It’s a major collection that will be open to the public and attract millers and others from all around the world who are interested in our milling history. To visit the Trust in Reading and view documents, drawings and images from the era where industry transitioned from one energy source to another and from stones to roller milling this could not be a more important development. In fact, it is an historical moment in its own right.

Not far from Heathrow airport (in fact you can get to the Reading on a bus from Heathrow airport) visitors can make the journey easily.

Milling and Grain, published by Perendale Publishers Limited, is supporting the collection at the MAT and has the honour of having the room in which the collection is to be housed named after its title - The Milling and Grain Room.

Our good friend and Curator and Trustee at the Archive, Mildred Cookson, is writing on the importance of The Rex Wailes Collection in this issue. We have invited her to make additional contributions specifically about what’s in the collection over the coming months.

Our collective congratulations go to the Mills Archive Trust and its entire team for developing MAT into a fully authorised and recognised archive that not only represents the milling industry’s past but is a safe and proper place for The Rex Wailes Collection to be housed. For the full story see page 50.