

The Rex Wailes Collection

Rex Wailes Collection: Mill sketches by Anton van Anrooy Rex Wailes Collection: Mill sketches by Anton van Anrooy

by Nathanael Hodge, The Mills Archive Trust

The Rex Wailes collection at the Mills Archive includes several sketches by the artist Anton van Anrooy. Mr Van Anrooy was a Dutch painter and illustrator; born in Zaltbommel, The Netherlands, he studied at the Hague School of Art, later moving to the UK and becoming a British citizen. He worked in oil, watercolour and pastel and specialised in portraits, landscapes and interiors. He died in 1949 and his work is held in several UK museums and art galleries. One sketch by van Anrooy of the millwright John Bryant was reproduced in the September issue of *Milling and Grain*; two others are reproduced here. They depict Ruffle's Mill, UK, and De Gooyer, Amsterdam.

More efficient & smooth

Ruffle's Mill in Haverhill, Suffolk, England, was constructed in 1855 by Richard Ruffle on the site of an earlier mill. The windmill tower had a diameter of seven metres at the base and a height of 20 metres. It worked in conjunction with a nearby steam powered mill. But it was most famous for its unique annular sail.

This was in the shape of a ring and contained 120 shutters. It was more efficient and ran more smoothly than conventional windmill sails, enabling the mill to work in lighter wind, driving three pairs of stones when other mills could only work two.

Only three other windmills in the UK imitated this sail design, and none now survive. Ruffle's mill ceased work in the late 1920s. It was repaired, but later pulled down in 1942 to provide metal for the war, despite public protest.

De Gooyer, also called the Funenmolen, is a mill which still stands today in Amsterdam, although it no longer grinds grain. At 26.5 metres high it is the tallest wooden mill in the Netherlands, and has an eight sided wooden body on a square stone base.

The name De Gooyer had belonged to an earlier post mill owned by two brothers from Gooiland, which had been moved to several locations before being replaced by the current structure.

At that time, it stood on the Oosterbeer bastion of the city walls, but the construction of barracks c 1810 reduced the



amount of wind available at that location, and it was relocated to its current position, on the stone base of a former watermill. The mill has been periodically repaired and restored over the years. It ceased to be worked by wind power circa 1920, but continued operating by gas engine for a few years. In 1928 it was bought by the city of Amsterdam and restored, continuing to work through the Second World War.