

Our Milling Engineers and the Milling Revolution

Milling journals of the past at The Mills Archive

by Mildred Cookson, The Mills Archive, UK



My two previous articles have mentioned the importance to the milling trade of conventions and exhibitions. A report in *The Miller*, January 7th 1884 (pp838-9) continues that theme. The report, of the Islington exhibition in London, showed that the milling engineers of the time were fully alive to the needs of

millers as the demand for every more efficient machines continued to grow. The following snapshots give a glimpse of the progress being made by specific firms at that time.

Widely regarded as unsurpassed

Buchholz and Co, founded by Gustav Adolf Buchholz, received an order from Messrs. W Baker & Son, a well-known miller in Bristol, to design a gradual reduction system for the manufacture of 5,000 sacks of flour per week. The intended new mill was to replace one that had burnt down. The building of the mill, the engine and the wheat cleaning system were carried out under the personal direction of Mr. Baker.

The system of flour making, introduced by Mr. Buchholz, was set up to suit the requirements of the trade in the South of England, and his knowledge of gradual reduction, first introduced in 1864, was widely regarded as unsurpassed.

Mr J Harrison Carter of London reported that during 1883 he had put in important additions to the gradual reduction mills at several sites in the UK and a number, which he erected, were of high capacity output. Mr Carter had also been working on mills in Ireland. Mr AB

Childs & Sons of London had started up three mills on the Jonathan Mills' system; one at Chelsea belonging to Mr E Mead, another at Kirkaldy, Scotland owned by Mr W Hogarth, and a third at Blackburn in Lancashire belonging to Mr Appleby & Sons.

The firm also had additional contracts for the same system and it was understood that they had a large demand for their bran roller mill and Wegmann's "Victoria" porcelain roller mill.

Messrs WR Dell & Son of London, in addition to finishing Mr French's mill at Bow in London, which would have a weekly output of from 1500 to 2000 sacks, had started on several other mills with the gradual reduction system. As proof that millstones had not been totally superseded by rollers in the manufacture of flour, they stated that the firm had sold between four and five hundred millstones during the year, besides a large number of wheat cleaning

LITTLE GIANT TURBINE
PERFECT WONDER.
 Gives MORE POWER than any other Turbine for quantity of water used. Full percentage obtained at half gate. No other Turbine has yet given this.
The only TURBINE having its own case, and sent ready to put in.
50 per cent. SAVED over other Turbines in placing it, and 75 to 100 per cent. on Overshot or Breast wheels.
SEND FOR CATALOGUE.
HOWES & EWELL, 16, Mark Lane, LONDON, E.C.
 Manufacturers of the "EUREKA" Wheat Cleaning Machines.

The Little Giant Turbine

FIECHTER'S
Modified Automatic Roller Milling System
SOLD IN PLACES AS WIDE AS THE OCEAN
THE 'FAN' 18" ROLLERS
THE 'WHEEL' 24" ROLLERS
THE 'SWISS' 30" ROLLERS
CENTRIFUGAL
DRESSING
MACHINES
MILLING
MACHINES
ROLLERS
MACHINES
THE 'FAN' 18" ROLLERS
THE 'SWISS' 30" ROLLERS
JOHN FIECHTER & SONS,
LONDON, ENGLAND.

Fiechter's Modified Automatic Roller Milling System

Wegmann's Lately-Improved Patent Noiseless
"VICTORIA"
PORCELAIN ROLLER MILL
Driven by TWO WHEELS ONLY, and fitted with a new
Automatic Feed Arrangement.
THE ADVANTAGES ARE:
1. Superior Quality of the product. 2. Superior in all Working Parts.
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99. Superior in all Working Parts. 100. Superior in all Working Parts.
A. B. CHILDS & SON, 70, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

AB Childs advertisement of the Wegmann Victoria

A. B. CHILDS & SON'S
COMPLETE SYSTEM OF
Gradual Reduction Milling,
JONATHAN MILLS'
Dressing & Gradual Reduction Machines.
Childs' Dress Roller Mill, and Wegmann's Porcelain Roller Mills.
A. B. CHILDS & SON, 70, FENCHURCH ST., E.C.

Jonathan Mills' Reduction Machines

"REFORM"
WHEAT CLEANING PLANTS
H. SIMON, L^{TD} MANCHESTER

Henry Simon advertisement from 1912

W.M. GARDNER,
MILLING ENGINEER & MILL FURNISHER,
MAKER OF FLOUR MILL MACHINERY, MILLSTONE,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
Buckingham, GLOUCESTER.
MILL FURNISHING WORKS
John A. P. 1892
Dear Sir, I have now much pleasure in forwarding you
my tender, a design similar to the one I should propose to
convert your mill to my roller system, my proposal is to
convert your water wheel & drive as much as possible with
the water when you have it as you have a splendid site
which as you are already completed up a get assistance
from your engine this would remain as it is as the place
provided out to you, one of your main water wheels
by my engineer is well adapted for the machines I would
make you a very pretty mill, I think I may be favored with
your order & as my responsibility will be in your district
I would hope you will make an appointment & view one
of my plants, you may rely on my doing my very best
for you, should you still adhere to your intention of having
the machines on the steam side of the mill I will do it at
the same price should you favor me with the order I
would give you a considerable discount and have most of the
machines in stock or in a very forward state. My method
and as you will remember my things will built's and
of ample capacity for the work required. I thank you
Yours truly
W. Gardner

Covering letter for tender by W Gardner to install a roller mill system

and other machines. Messrs Fiechter & Sons of Liverpool had secured four contracts for complete mills based on their roller system. In their advertising they comment that in remodelling stone mills to the roller process they could use all the old machinery if desired. Mr W Gardner of Gloucester had remodeled several mills, which were working successfully. He had brought out a new centrifugal which he claimed had important new features and a new three-high roller mill. He had also done a good trade in millstones for the UK and the colonies. In passing I should mention that a typical gem in our Archive collections is a tender from Mr Gardner to install a roller plant to be driven by the waterwheel at Hildersham Mills in Cambridgeshire.

Messrs Higginbottom & Stuart of Liverpool had been busy during the year working their system of milling by discs. They were strong advocates of gradual reduction and complete elimination of the germ from flour. Their orders also included wheat-cleaning machinery with special reference to Indian wheat.

Special points of interest

Messrs Howes & Ewell of 16 Mark Lane London had also been very active with wheat cleaning machinery; a large number of important millers in the UK had adopted their complete system. They had done a good trade in their improved flour packers, a machine that had been taken up during the year by the Royal Dockyard Mills, Gosport. Their "Little Giant" turbine was also selling well. Other machines such as the "Wolf" middling purifier and the "Silver Creek" centrifugal were all claimed by the manufacturers to possess special points of interest.

Messrs Nagel & Kaemp had done a large trade in their Schrot machines for the gradual reduction of both wheat and "dunst," the sales of these machines during the year represented a capacity of about 35,000 sacks of flour per week. Mr Fred Nell of Mark Lane London, working with Messrs Robinson of Rochdale, had completed a number of contracts for complete mills on their roller system as well as introducing many improved machines of their own manufacture.

Instrumental in starting up a large number of mills

Messrs Seck Brothers of Bockenheim and Mark Lane, as highlighted in a previous article, had been instrumental in starting up a large number of mills in the UK including Mr Fitton's new mill at Macclesfield and Mr Leatham's at York. Henry Simon of Manchester reported what he had done during the last three months of 1883

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The history of milling - no matter where it has taken place - is being archived by the Trust.

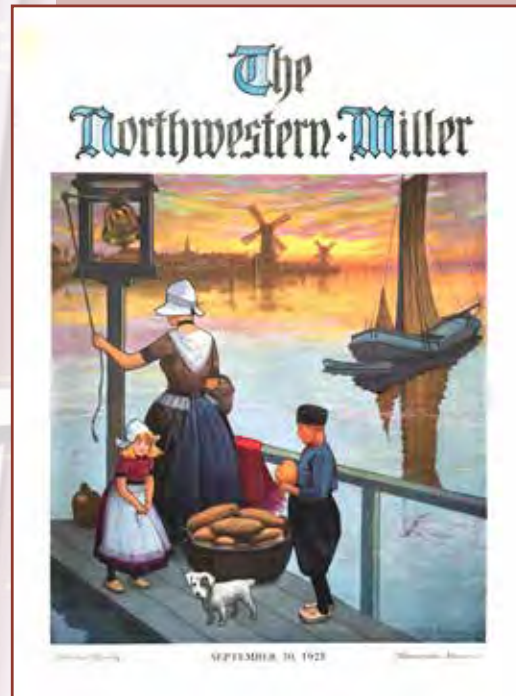
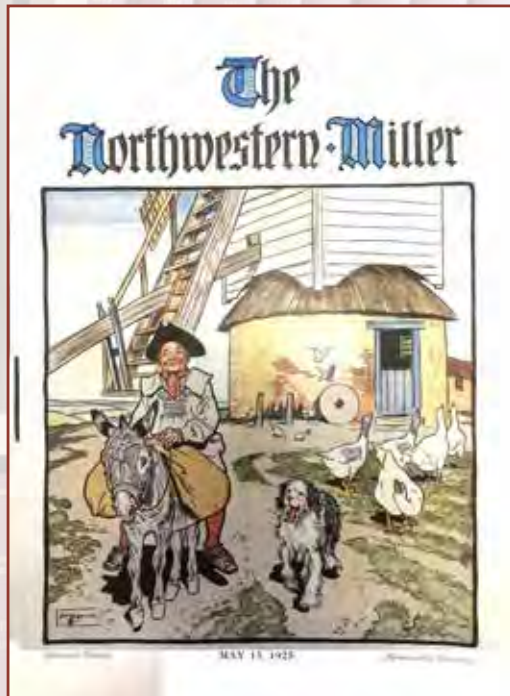
For well over 100 years milling technology has been global with many magazines serving or having served our industry from flour and food to feed and oilseed processing and now to fish feeds.

A most recent contribution to the Trust's collection is a complete century of past edition of the now out-of-print 'North-Western Miller' from the United States.

We are proud to present here, front cover illustrations from this valued and long-serving publication as a visual reminder of the importance contribution past magazines provided to our industry.



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and what he was then doing and proposing for the future. Together these projects would create new capacity of 45,250 sacks of flour a week. Mr JW Throop had started on his second roller plant for Mr AK Walker of Newry, Ireland making the capacity of his two Gray roller mills over 3,000 sacks of flour per week.

He had also successfully started on the second half of Messrs J&H Robinson's mill at Deptford, making the complete mill on the Gray system. He has also been responsible for setting up combinations of rollers and millstones. A testimonial to the Gray system came from Messrs Glenn's mill in Glasgow which, fitted with this system, had run at about 1500 sacks per week without any stoppages for three years.

Messrs Van Gelder & Apsimon of Liverpool and Sowerby Bridge, Lancashire had had great success with their wheat cleaning system, with many mills having installed it. Their "Triumph" dust collector, a new machine they had just brought onto the market was doing well along with their "XX" purifier.

Messrs Whitmore & Binyon of Mark Lane and Wickham Market had manufactured a large number of waterwheels, still indispensable to the many mills that



Gustav Adolf Buchholz



Van Gelders Patent XX Purifier

relied on a good water supply to power their machinery. Various mills had also been remodeled on their system; the sales of their centrifugals and other excellent milling machinery contributed to their increasing status in the trade.

My final illustration, a photograph from our Archive collections, illustrates the pride that workers and engineers take in their products. We have extensive files on Whitmore and Binyon and other milling engineers, but we are always looking for material to fill the gaps.

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