

Book Reviews

(1) MILLS ON THE TEIGN by Martin Bodman

Martin Bodman has been researching mill sites in the South West for over twenty years. His previous publications include 'Devon Leather' (2008), 'Inclined Planes of the South West' (2012) and 'Mills on the Yeo' (2013)

Martin's latest book is a companion volume to 'Mills on the Yeo'. It contains a gazetteer of 125 water-powered sites, including mills and mines on the Teign and the Bovey rivers and their tributaries, in and around Dartmoor.

With references to over 150 millers, bakers, mill owners, iron founders, and millwrights, with a further 48 sites listed from the rest of the Teign catchment, including locations in Ilsington, Newton Abbott and Kingsteignton.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in water power in this region, and the book demonstrates how to study mills of a whole area and make the results accessible in an attractive form.

Make sure you order soon if you want a copy, as this is a limited edition of 300 copies and is sure to sell fast.

The book can be purchased from Tor Mark Press, United Downs Industrial Estate, St Day, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5HY

price £16.00 including postage and packing.

ISBN-10: 0954875834 ISBN-13: 978-0954875831

Review by Andy Fish

(2) WATERMILLS AND STONEGROUND FLOUR MILLING by Nigel S Harris

This book presents an extraordinary explosion of wonderful color photos illustrating subjects as diverse as waterwheel & millstone representations on 13th century pewter coinage, boat mills, millstones, historic watermills, miller's wagons, mill gearing and all sorts of related molinological marvels. The color illustrations and photos are complemented by a high number of superb black & white technical views.

These include architectural and engineering details, diagrams, sections, perspectives and axonometric drawings all rendered to make the most mysterious mill subjects better understood.

The drawings were prepared by John Brandrick. All of the drawings in this extraordinary volume are completely new and previously unpublished as are most of the photographs.

The book is a true treasure and a major accomplishment - a visual and verbal walk through the many parts of old water-powered gristmills - to see how many were commonly (and some uncommonly) designed and operated.

Harris's new book is an extremely rich and finely structured resource that covers such topics as traditional waterwheels, gearing, penstocks, water flow, meal, bran & flour production - and more. This volume receives an A+ rating in all respects - and is one that will benefit all 21st century mill buffs. It is a "Must Read" new molinological reference.

We must also give thanks and credit to John Bedington (former miller of Charlecote Watermill for 34 years) who proof read the book draft and made many constructive comments.

To obtain a single volume or multiple copies of this book, please consult or contact (1) Amazon.co.uk or (2) ebay.co.uk or (3) The Mills Archive Trust in the United Kingdom.

Review by John Goff USA

(3) FULLING MILLS OF SUSSEX by Alex Vincent

Alex Vincent is making a nice habit of producing and publishing small scale mill books, for regional mill enthusiasts. After success with books on tide mills, he has turned his efforts to fulling mills to great effect.

The Fulling Mills of Sussex is in A5 format, largely in full colour and describes with their history, 30 fulling mills in the county, none of which any longer operate fulling stocks and many sites in 2014 show little above ground level. A map of the county shows the distribution of these named mills. Sussex Fulling Mills are rare with a further possible 25 listed as possible sites in the county. It ends with brief conclusions and a comprehensive bibliography.

This publication addresses a void in our milling history which is very welcome and most informative. With only 500 copies printed and a sale price of £3.95, it may well sell quickly, so order your copy soon.

ISBN 978-1-989753-10-1 .

Review by David Plunkett