



## *British milling journals of the past*

### *Editor's note Mildred Cookson.*

The interest in my previous e-newsletters on the advent of the modern milling industry has encouraged me to look back at a series of contributions I made to *Milling and Grain* some years ago. You can read their most recent issue here at <https://millingandgrain.com/magazine/> I have brought the articles up to date and will share the varied content every month, each focussing on a different aspect of our holdings from the milling journals of the past.



*Mildred*

## The Miller

is probably the oldest milling magazine that comes to mind when researchers are seeking out mill-related articles from the past. As the advertisement shows it was published in two forms, the **Technical Issue** which came out the first Monday of every month and the **Market Issue**, published every Monday evening. The first issue came out in 1875, published at their premises in the well-known Mark Lane area of London, where most of the millwrighting furnishers were established.

**“The Miller,”**

A TRADE JOURNAL EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MILLERS.  
(PROPRIETOR, W. DUNHAM.)

The **TECHNICAL ISSUE** is Published on the Evening of the First Monday of every Month, and the **MARKET ISSUE** every Monday Evening, in time for the Evening Mails.

AT THE OFFICE, 69, MARK LANE, LONDON, E.C.

Annual Subscription to the **TECHNICAL ISSUE**, Is., Post Free.  
Subscription to both Issues, 12s. 6d. per Annum, Post Free.  
Single copies of the **Technical Issue**, 5d.  
Single copies of the **Market Issue**, 2d.

**“THE MILLER” is the Largest Milling Journal in the World.**

Full discussion on the practice and science of milling is invited for insertion in the columns of this journal, and the Editor would feel obliged by any subscriber communicating to him any event of interest to the Milling Trade occurring from time to time in his district, and by bringing to the notice of his friends the special advantages of this journal, which it is the aim of the Proprietor to render indispensable to the Trade throughout the world.

A Special Edition on thin paper, under 8 oz., is published for transmission abroad.

“I never read a copy of “The Miller” (London), that I don’t learn something that is worth five years’ subscription to it.”—  
*Inaugural Address of the Hon. George Bain, President of the American Millers’ National Association, at the Indianapolis Convention, May 25th, 1878.*

**TO ADVERTISERS.**

THE MILLER is the only journal in the United Kingdom devoted exclusively to the interests of Millers, thus forming the best medium for Manufacturers, Mill Furnishers, Corn Merchants, Auctioneers, and others, who desire to increase their business, by bringing under notice any Machinery or Specialities suited to the requirements of Millers.

Scale of Charges for Advertisements in Technical Issue.	
One Page .....	25 0 0 per insertion
Two-thirds Page .....	3 15 0     “
Half Page .....	3 15 0     “
Quarter Page .....	1 12 0     “
One-eighth Page .....	0 16 0     “

Under One-eighth Page, at per week.	
Across Page .....	25 12 0
Two-thirds across Page .....	9 8 0
Half across Page .....	8 8 0
One-third across Page .....	6 4 0

Millers advertising Vacancies or for Situations—Twenty words, Is.; twenty-five words, Is. 6d. Other Trades, 2s. 6d. for twenty words.

**NO TRADE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE INSERTED IN THE MARKET ISSUE.**

Accounts for insertions made rendered quarterly—at Lady Day, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas, and are then due, although the full extent of an order may not have expired.

OFFICE OF “THE MILLER”—69, MARK LANE, LONDON, E.C.

Each issue contained many articles on individual mills, millers, machinery, trade fairs, and many wonderful adverts as well as grain and flour trade reviews, corn trade details from around the world, and much more. The engravings of mills and machinery as well as layouts of mills were excellent. Much can be learned from the index at the start of each issue and the classified adverts section

which listed wind and watermills for sale, and adverts for mills seeking millers, stone dressers and roller men. The magazine was discontinued in 1950.

In their first 25 years there was much on traditional mills, but after 1900 the journal tended to concentrate on roller flour milling, although there were still plenty of articles and letters referring to millstone dressing and related items of stone milling. There were articles on many British and Irish roller flour mills giving the history of the owners and mill, the set-up of each floor and details of motive power along with exterior and interior engravings.

I found a lot of interest in the illustrated articles on many of the firms manufacturing milling machinery, and many specific advertisements for roller flour mill machinery. These included machines made by Henry Simon, ER and F Turner, Joseph Armfield, Thomas Robinson, Whitmore & Binyon and Brian Corcoran,

<p><b>FIECHTER'S</b> Chilled Iron Roller Mills FLUTED &amp; SMOOTH ROLLS</p>  <p>Patented in England and America. Single and Double. Patent No. 10,000 and 10,001</p>	<p><b>THE PATENT</b> "HELVETIC" MIDDINGS PURIFIER</p>  <p>MEDALS OBTAINED Paris, 1878; Berlin, 1879. Paris, 1889; Berlin, 1890.</p>	<p>Fiechter's Centrifugal Flour Dressing Machine</p>  <p>Patent No. 10,000 and 10,001</p>										
<p>Universal Wheat Break Machine</p>  <p>Patent No. 10,000</p>	<p>TRIPARTITE SLAGGERS FLEASITY</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>PRICE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single Cylinder over 250 lbs per HOUR</td> <td>£25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tripartite</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tripartite</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quadrupartite</td> <td>65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Model reference price.</p>		PRICE	Single Cylinder over 250 lbs per HOUR	£25	Tripartite	45	Tripartite	55	Quadrupartite	65	<p>Universal Universal Stone Dresser</p>  <p>Patent No. 10,000 and 10,001</p>
	PRICE											
Single Cylinder over 250 lbs per HOUR	£25											
Tripartite	45											
Tripartite	55											
Quadrupartite	65											
<p>The "L" Cocks Separators</p>  <p>Superior Construction. 212 lbs. 3012 per Cylinder. Capacity over 1,200 lbs. per hour.</p>	<p><b>JOHN FIECHTER-LANGMESSER'S</b> RENOWNED SWISS SILK GAUZES</p> <p>Supplied on the Continent since its invention such as to most perfect style.</p> <p><b>THE UNIVERSAL TURBINE</b> (Patent GOLD MEDAL at PARIS EXHIBITION, 1878)</p> <p>SOLE VENDORS— <b>JOHN FIECHTER &amp; SONS</b> CORN EXCHANGE, LIVERPOOL. Catalogues, &amp;c., sent free on application.</p>	<p>Universal Grain Separator</p>  <p>Patent No. 10,000 and 10,001</p>										

***Milling machinery advertised By John Fiechter from  
The Miller***

As the journal was really a weekly newspaper, it was printed on news print quality paper, so it is quickly turned brown and is starting in some cases to crumble. We need to get these magazines digitised before it is too late!



## *Milling*

is the other highly regarded milling magazine to have been published in Victorian Britain. It had similarities to *The Miller*, but also important differences. First published in 1891, it continues today as its proud successor

*Milling & Grain.*

### *The Typeface and Presentation of Milling Volume 10*

Milling in its early days became a household name to those connected to the production of grains and those who milled them. From the very first magazine we can read many items discussing matters that are still relevant today. Topics include the grain market round the world with prices of wheat and other cereals, machinery adverts for roller mills, elevators, silos and profiles of eminent millers.



***Hovis Mill Manchester (Simon's System)***

Milling was a classier journal and was in a slightly larger format than The Miller; it took pains with its style and type face and had a greater feeling of permanence. It was soon printed on a heavier shiny paper and concentrated almost entirely on roller flour milling. The layout started with notes from the English counties for the week along with weather reports and items on English wheat, fires, handling of grain etc.



As well as many advertisements, these old issues have many full page photographs of mills, both traditional and modern, usually emphasising the roller system in place. Examples of these full page photographs adorned many an office wall and smaller versions illustrate this article. The illustration often accompanied thorough descriptions of the mill and its machinery. Where traditional mills were described they frequently included the miller's view on competing with roller milling.



MESSEUS, S. HARRATT AND SON'S RAYLEIGH MILLS, MALDON (ESSEX).  
LITHO. THOMAS BOWEN & SONS, LONDON

***Rayleigh Mills Essex (The Robinson System)***



MR. HENRY HUDSON'S 20TH CENTURY MILL, HARLESTON (BACK VIEW).

[Turner's System]

*Mr Hudson's Mill Harleston (Turner's System)*

**It is interesting to read, in each of the older editions of Milling, a paragraph on what was happening in the USA taken from The Weekly Northwestern Miller, published in Minneapolis. This magazine will be the subject of my next article.**

## Have you got any comments on our eNewsletters?

Do you know any more information, want to tell us about your own experiences?

We'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line on [Nathanael.Hodge@millsarchive.org](mailto:Nathanael.Hodge@millsarchive.org)



and your comment could be featured in our next eNewsletter!

**Thank you to everyone who responded to our last newsletter asking for your help in ensuring that we capture the voices and experiences of everyone involved in milling, in particular the sugar mills of the Caribbean. We were delighted with the number of people who got in touch to send us information. Here are just a few of your responses. We will share some more in our next newsletter:**

### **Pauline Lynch**

*Hi, Just a very brief response. I had an uncle who went to Australia around 1920. He worked as a labourer in the sugar mills up in Queensland at a small town, Proserpine, north of Brisbane, until his retirement in the 1960s.*

*There is still evidence of the sugar cane growing in that area, particularly narrow gauge railways. I have no photographs, but thought it would add to your knowledge of where sugar cane was grown round the world.*

### **Ashok Vaidya**

*Here are a few pics taken by me as we flew over the island of Montserrat in 2011. The stone stumps of sugar mills can be seen, amongst the lava flows from the volcano that erupted destroying its main town (and interestingly the recording studio George Martin of Beatles fame had established on the island).*





### **Shirley Hawley**

*When I lived in Long Ditton (Near Surbiton in Surrey) in Kings Road, our house was named after a sugar plantation in Trinidad. The house was called CARONI. When I was young around about 10 or later (between 1965-1970) a couple knocked at our door and announced he was the previous owner of our house and I have a vague memory of him saying he named the house Caroni as he was connected to the sugar trade, not sure if he worked for them or owned part of it. I don't know his name or what he look like, all I remember that he was very pleasant and I wished I could remember more and asked about it more. I tried to go though early electoral registers to see if I can find a name but not yet. A few years ago I*

*know that Caroni Ltd closed in 2003 and was connected to Tate and Lyle. Hope you can add this and if anyone out there can tell me more, I would be interested to learn more!*

**Many thanks for getting in touch, Pauline Lynch, Ashok Vaidya and Shirley Hawley!**

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