

The Grinding Floor

This is the hub of the miller's working area and once proudly boasted four runs (or sets) of millstones.

Passing round the stair-head, we come to a modern **flour mixer** and now stand in front of the **original grinding machine**, with which the miller worked until 1950 using wind power. Thereafter (until 1960) the machine was electrically-driven.

Grain can be raised to the next floor and flows then through a square wooden chute, let in the ceiling, into the **funnel of the grinding machine**, at the lower end of which it trickles through a vibrator shoe into the side-plate-sized **swallow** (i.e. hole) in the centre of the **upper millstone** (or **runner**). There it is ground between the stationary bed-stone and the revolving upper millstone. The laterally issuing flour then falls through a swallow to be seen in the floor, via the **flour chute**, into a **flour-sack** on the lower floor.

In order to regulate the fineness of the flour, the runner can be raised or lowered by means of a **millstone crane**, which latter is operated by a lever either directly attachable to the runner or from the sack-filling floor.

For the purpose of milling it is naturally necessary to engage the iron-clad **milling spindle** (seated in the centre of the runner) into the **spur gear** situated just below the ceiling. This spur gear with its 168 cogs hewn from elastic beech wood will – with a good wind – drive the runner at a rate of 90 revolutions per minute.

In the same corner of the grinding floor you can see a green and yellow coloured **stone mill**, which was used by farmers in the post wind-milling era.

Now, dear visitor, in order to demonstrate the grinding process more practically, you will find a **model grinding machine** opposite the stairwell, with which you can personally grind a small quantity of grain by hand.

Diagonally opposite the above-mentioned **original grinding machine**, mill craftsmen set up a further grinding machine from Hornberg in 1999, which is powered by an electromotor. Here one can see that the technical status of both the vibrator shoe and the millstone crane has considerably improved.

Next we come to the so-called **millstone crane**, standing rather like a gallows with its huge moveable tongs. With this equipment the runner could be raised and laid on its back for the purpose of sharpening.

Adjacent to the millstone crane we see an **original runner from the old grinding machine**, albeit well worn down. The deeper-lying grooves and the raised ridges can hardly be seen. During sharpening, these latter would have been dressed with various hammers.

Please now take the stairs and proceed to the next floor.