

Dead Floor

This floor is so named because, originally, no milling activities took place here and the space was used primarily as a **store-room**. On the right-hand side you will notice in the floor only the swallow (i.e. the feed hole) for the grain to be milled. The grain fell through this swallow to the funnel of the old grinding machine below.

In the middle of this floor, the massive **king post**, which transfers power from the sails to the various floors, automatically catches your eye.

These days the store-room is used primarily to exhibit – in showcases - cereals of our area in the form of ears and corn. The collection has been augmented with samples from other continents, e.g. buckwheat and flax, both of which were also processed in mills. All exhibits carry explanatory texts.

In addition to the above we come now to a large round table, upon which a number of reconstructed and varying implements are displayed. These items have been used to grind cereals for thousands of years and include a **pestle and mortar**, probably in use in the Near East since 7500 B.C. The oldest **hand-operated mill** dates from approximately 500 B.C. Round about 200 B.C. **groats-mills** came into use and, in fact, were still being used for milling groats and spices in our latitudes until the 19th century.

Finally on this floor we have set up a **spiked and peeling machine** (also from Hornberg), which with a drum above and a revolving brush below simultaneously cleaned the rough grain in preparation for milling.

A few steps will now take you to the Hoist Floor