

WINDMILL

'NOOIT GEDACHT'

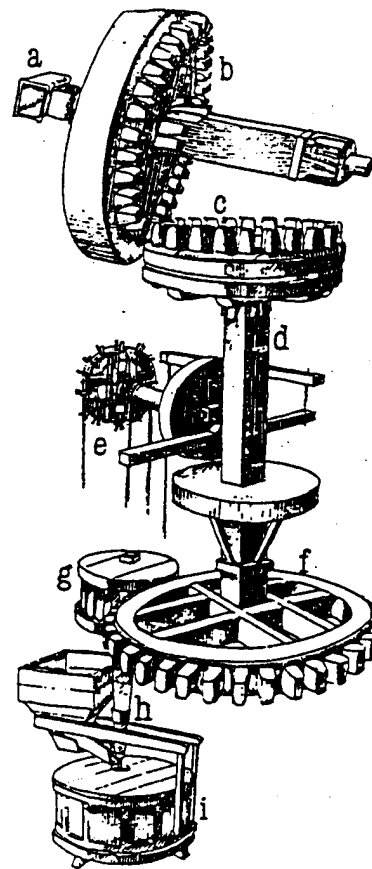
MERSELO

This Stone "belt" mill was built in 1867, under orders of Simon Lambertus van den Brekel. The trunk was built by lighthouse builders, who knew the art of building watertight structures very well. It is clearly visible that the stones were laid facing outwards as well as slanting.

In 1881, the mill was bought by Frans Michels and until the year 1988 the Michels family remained the owners of this mill. In 1988 the 'Nooit Gedacht' foundation bought the mill and it was subjected to a very thorough restoration.

In september of 1995, the restoration was completed and the previous owner Albert Michels could again operate his mill. After his dead, his son Lambert and his daughter Helma took over the mill and started operating the mill on a voluntary basis.

The system



- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a poll end | b brake - wheel |
| c wallower | d main wheel |
| e sack bollard | f spurwheel |
| g stone nut | h stone spindle |
| i stones | |

Since the mill's erection in 1867, it did not only serve for milling corn for the farmers in Merselo, but also from afar, many farmers came to Merselo to have their corn ground.

The trade of milling was a very hard profession as one was totally dependant on the wind. Sometimes, the mill could not be operated for days on end, because there was no wind. Later on, that problem was solved by placing a turbine engine that would help them out on windless days.

In the beginning of the 1960's, bailing of corn became out dated and corn was stored in big silos that were being built then. Miller Michels wanted to build silos next to the mill, but he did not get the permission from the council in Venray. Therefore, they decided to build silos inside of the mill. This was done by 'gutting' the total inside of the mill. Fortunately, the trunk with the wings managed to stay erect, but the entire operation began to deteriorate.

In the end of the 1970's the first efforts were made to restore the mill. But in the end it became impossible for the owner to pay for the restoration. In 1988 they solved the problem, by transferring the mill for the symbolic amount of fl. 1.00 to the 'Nooit Gedacht' foundation. In September 1993 work was started on the total renovation. Only the trunk and the upper wheel are original, the rest of the mill has been totally renewed.

The 'Nooit Gedacht' looked beautiful and proud when it was festively opened on 'Open Monuments Day' in 1995.



Mill's data:

Royal Monument: nr. 37222
Built: 1867, restored 1995
Type: round stoned belt-mill
Flight: 26.40 m
Rods: Derckx nr. 812 & 813
Form of the wings: 'Van Bussel' with brake flaps
Axel of the Mill: Cast Iron
Brake: Flemisch brake with brake drum

You are very welcome to visit and tour the mill. This is not only a splendid monument but a perfect location for general photography. You may contact:

Helma Michels:
Phone 0031 478 546513
Lambert Michels:
Phone 0031 478 546724

We are open:

Each second and fourth Saturday of the month: 13.30-16.30. You are also invited to make an appointment.

WINDMILL

'NOOIT GEDACHT'



GROOTDORP 93
5815 AN MERSELO

www.molenmerselo.nl
E-mail: secretaris@molenmerselo.nl