

Herrlichkeitsmühle Issum

History

The *Herrlichkeitsmühle* was built in 1768 by the counts of Borchgrave.

It was a so-called *Zwangsmühle*, that means that all farmers of the area were forced to have their grain ground at this mill.

The mill's name is derived from an old municipal law term.

In 1873 today's owners - family Zigenhorn - acquired the mill and ran it until about 1955.

They got a closure bonus by the government to build up a new existence, under the condition of removing the complete mill-stones from the mill.

In 1997 a small group of enthusiastic people from Issum, highly interested in keeping historical monuments alive founded the mill's development association. They rented the mill for 50 years, with an option to extend the time. The development association's main aims were to restore the mill and then running it and open it to the public.

After the restoration in 2004/2005 the mill was put into operation on September 24, 2005. It is fully functional now. In 2007 the development association was honored with the *Rheinischer Denkmalpreis*, an award from the Rhineland's regional authority for a very special dedication in time, efforts and money for historical monuments.

Expenses

Restoration costs of the mill amounted to 400,000 Euro. The money came from public funds of the Northrhine-Westfalia-Foundation, the urban development department, the commune Issum, and the development association.

Type of mill

The *Herrlichkeitsmühle* is an eight-sided stone stage - or mound - mill, a so-called *Durchfahr-Holländer*. For loading and unloading the carts were driven through the mill. In the entry area traces of wheel-hubs can still be seen.

On the east side of the mill has been a platform built in that was used for unloading and uploading sacks.

This type of mill is also called tower mill, only the roof or cap can be turned around the axis - in opposition to "Bock"- and "Koker"-mills. Here the whole body of the mill rotates, but these mills are considerably smaller.

The idea of a tower mill in general traces back to an invention of Leonardo da Vinci.

Wood

The mill consists of 90 percent oak wood which grew about 500 years ago at the *Örmterberg*, an end moraine from the last glacial period which is about 6 km away from the mill.

The tree which was used for the main line shaft is about 6 m tall, nearly 20 Feet must be about 200 to 220 years old to supply timber of the required size. Together with the drying time of the wood and the age of the mill itself we get an age of 500 years for the wood.

The individual components were crafted on site with only a few tools. There were no problems with wood worms because oak wood contains tannin, a natural insect repellent. Only the parts beneath the bark, about 1 cm in the area of the splint wood, is softer.

The outer clapboards are made of oak wood, too, because it is long-living and sustains up to 150 years. The most recent clapboards from 1930, however, had been made of coniferous wood and therefore had to be replaced in 2005.

Wooden gear

The mechanical wooden gear has a total gear rotation from top to the millstone from 1:7 One Rotation at the big Kammrad will drive the Millstone by seven times. The main shaft bearing is original today in an special Belgian Stone.

Windmill vanes

The total diameter of the windmill vanes is 24 metres. They were replaced in 1976. One sail has a surface of 15 square metres. At wind force 4, that is 7 - 8 metres per second, a vane revolves 15 to 17 times per minute. The circumferential speed at the tips of the vanes amounts to 80 km/h.

The *Herrlichkeitsmühle* is an old type of mill without any assistive technology. The cloth sails have to be attached to the vanes by hand, for which you need to climb upon the vanes. The rigging takes about 45 minutes. The wind power amounts to about 25 HP (horsepower).

Mill layout

Please take care at the stairs, the ceiling is low here.

The mill consists of four floors with different functions:

Mehlboden (Flour Floor)
here the flour gets sacked

Steinboden (Stone Floor)
here are the mill stones

Kornboden (Granary)
store room for corn-sacks

Kappenboden (turnable Top-Piece)
here are the drive mechanism
and technical devices

Guided tours through the mill

We guide our visitors - children and adults - up the many floors, altogether 64 steps, to the dizzying heights under the mill's cap and know quite a lot to tell about the mill's history and mode of operation.

Our guided tours are for free, but we would be grateful for a small donation for our mill.

Selling of wheat flour and spelt flour

We offer freshly ground wheat and spelt flour.
With a bit of luck you can watch the grinding itself!

Selling of "Original Issum Millbread"

On Saturdays we offer freshly baked spelt whole-grain bread from the Issum bakery "Bürgers". They bake freshly every day and so "Original Issum Millbread" is available there also on weekdays.

Exhibitions

In our mill's rooms local artists can display their works of art to introduce them to the public. Our mill is open to everybody!

You can also visit us on our Internet-Page

<http://www.herrlichkeitsmuehle.de>

