

*Interest Tables* in 1833. Copies of Birkin's *Examining Questions in Arithmetic adapted to . . . Walkingame's Tutor's Assistant . . .* are known for 1830<sup>6</sup> and 1848. From 1838 Birkin issued editions of *The Rational English Expositor and Guide to Pronunciation . . .*, which reached at least fourteen editions,<sup>7</sup> but it is not clear whether its sequel, an *Orthographical and Etymological Expositor*, ever appeared.<sup>8</sup> Birkin also edited Stephen Jones' . . . *Pronouncing and Explanatory Dictionary . . .*, also called "Sheridan Improved" after an earlier editor.<sup>9</sup> At least two imprints, the thirteenth in 1840 and the next in 1855, are known of Birkin's edition of John Bigland's *A System of Geography and History . . .*<sup>10</sup> Further details of editions of these and any other works, location of copies and any information about his success as a schoolmaster would be welcomed by the writer at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School.

## A QUERN STONE FOUND AT STRETTON.

By S. L. GARLIC.

**I**N 1954 I secured from its finder, a British Railways engine-driver, the top stone of a beehive quern which had been noticed at the bottom of a railway cutting just north of Stretton railway station. (Map. Ref. 384615.) It would be unwise to assume that the stone had been there for any length of time, a more probable reason being that it had seen use as a form of garden ornament and subsequently turned out. Children may have rolled it down the embankment.

The stone is of millstone grit and bears signs of rough usage, several pieces being broken off at the bottom edge.

<sup>6</sup> Actually the preface is dated from Derby April 8, 1830.

<sup>7</sup> The preface from Derby is dated October 18, 1838. Copies of the 10th and 14th editions, both without date, are known.

<sup>8</sup> Announced as forthcoming in the preface to *The Rational English Expositor . . .*

<sup>9</sup> No copy is known to the writer.

<sup>10</sup> Birkin's editions were entitled *A System of Geography for the use of Schools . . .* His preface from Derby was dated February 1840.

Much worn down, it stands 7 ins. high. The base, slightly concave and showing signs of rotary movement, is approximately 10 ins. in diameter. It decreases to about 7 ins. at the top. A funnel-shaped hopper for the reception of grain is roughly 5 ins. wide at the top and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. deep: this is continued by a 1-in. diameter hole through to the base. There is also a transverse hole, penetrating the hopper, oval in shape, which accommodated the handle by which the stone was rotated.

The quern appears to correspond to the "Hunsbury" type, a satisfactory dating for which is not yet possible. The introduction and diffusion of the rotary quern has been ascribed to Iron Age B influence. (See *Trans. Leic. Arch. Soc.* XXVI, 1950.)

### WM. DUESBURY'S INTEREST IN DERBYSHIRE LEAD MINES.

By FRANKLIN A. BARRETT.

**A**MONG the Duesbury papers in Derby Reference Library are contemporary copies of two important documents of title showing that in 1776 William Duesbury 1st, proprietor of the Derby China Factory on Nottingham Road, acquired an interest in a lead mine at Brassington. The documents read as follows:

Then Thomas Slack for the use of Mr. William Duesbury of Derby freed a Founder Meare of ground for old and gave one Dish of ore and called it by the name of Sucstone. Ranging near North and South, being in a piece or parcel of Land belonging to Mrs. Newton of Ashbourne — William Charleton being Tenant to the said Land, Staked the Founder out at same time, being in Brassington Liberty, Edw<sup>d</sup> Ashton Bar-master.

Then required by Mr. James Dawson for the use of Mr. William Duesbury To View and Booke his possessions at his Founder Called by the Name of Sucstone being in the Liberty of Brassington and Wapentake of Wirksworth as Under ——— And According to the request of the aforesaid Mr. James Dawson I and one of my Grand Jury or Twenty fore Man Thomas Slack went and made our first View at