

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.

AMONG 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^d 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

the aforesaid Mr. William Duesbury old Title Founder Shaft Called by the Name of Suckstone as aforesaid And we found 10 pear of possessiones as Takers for 10 Meares of ground Ranging near Southwardly = and we found 11 pear of possessiones as Takers for a 11 Meares of ground Ranging near Eastwardly — And we found 3 pear of possessiones as Takers for 3 Meares of ground Ranging near Northwardly in all being 24 Meares of ground in good and Lawfull possessione — I am Sir your Humble Serv^t Edward Ashton, Barrmaster.

Miss Nellie Kirkham, whose work connected with the subject of Derbyshire lead-mining is well known and whose papers on the subject are familiar to members of this Society, most kindly responded to my enquiries for information concerning Duesbury's lead mine, and, from the information so happily forthcoming, there is little doubt that William Duesbury's interest in the mine Suckstone arose from the fact that this mine was one of a very few that, in addition to mineral ores, yielded China Clay.

Farey's *General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire*, 1815, Vol. I, p. 447, states that "China Clay, of a most beautiful white colour, is procured in small quantities, in Bald Mere, Green Linnet, *Suckstone*, and Upperfield Mines . . . at Brassington."

The technical terminology of the documents relating to the Suckstone Mine is rather obscure save to one who has studied the subject, but Miss Kirkham confirms that the documents show that Duesbury was actually owner of the mine, that "old Title" means that the mine had been worked previously, he was not the "Founder" but had taken over old work and was therefore a "Taker".

Miss Kirkham is of the view that the occurrence of the words "and called it by the name of Suckstone" indicates that the old name had been forgotten and that it was thus renamed; this seems a perfectly logical explanation. A vein, the contents of which are not solid, was called by the miners "a sucked Stone", hence the name.

For further information concerning the Suckstone Mine I am indebted to Mr. John Mort, Barrmaster of the Wirksworth Barmote Courts who provided information concerning its location and also that the mine was last in the possession of Thomas Briddon, miner of Brassington, in 1874.

At about the time when I was engaged in correspondence concerning the Suckstone Mine, a most interesting Derby china punch-bowl was brought to my notice. This porcelain bowl, dating from about 1765-1775 was, of course, made at William Duesbury's factory at Nottingham Road, and bore the interesting inscription "Success to the Mine Innocent". Acting on the assumption that this also might well refer to a lead mine, I sought the aid of Mr. Mort who kindly turned up the mining records and was able to tell me that there is a mine called "Innocent" in Carsington Pasture which has been out of ownership since 1826. Whether the fact of the inscription on the Derby bowl indicates a further connection of Duesbury with lead-mining, or whether the bowl was made for some other mine owner, cannot, unfortunately, be ascertained, since the existing mining records date only from 1803. This interesting piece of Derby porcelain is in the collection of Mrs. Foden, of Breaston.