

DE KAT

Paint mill
on the Kalverringdijk, Zaanse Schans,
Zaandam, The Netherlands

Anno 1782

Welcome to De Kat

You visit this mill at your own risk.

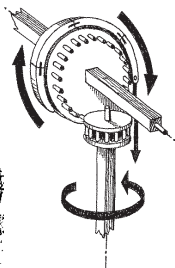
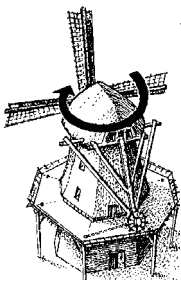
*It will be particularly helpful to us if you do not
smoke, climb over barriers or pull out any reeds.*

Thank you for your cooperation!



DE ZAANSCH E MOLEN



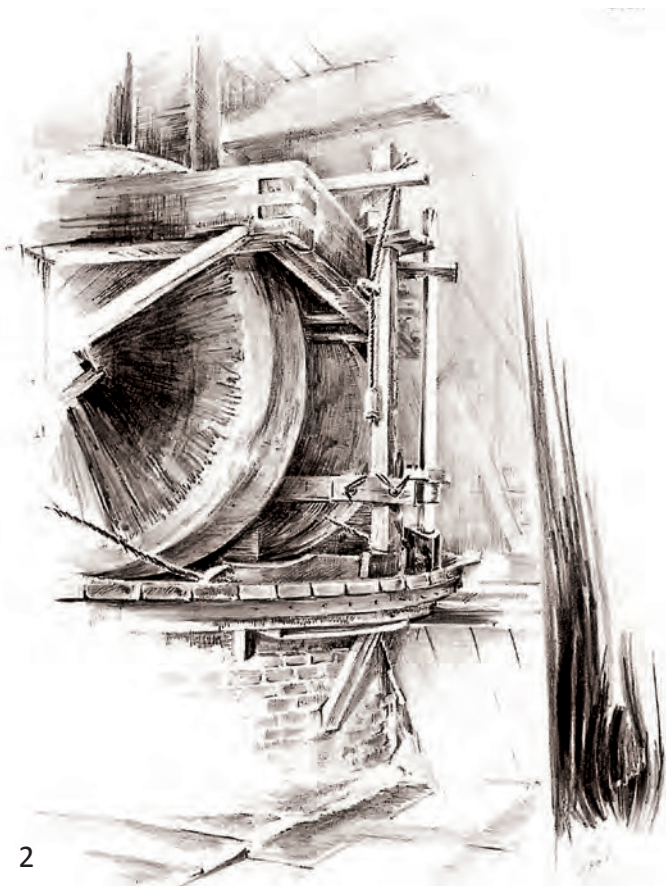


This mill is a cap winder: only the cap turns in the wind by means of a winch, the so-called capstan wheel, that is operated on the platform.

The rotating horizontal movement of the sails switches to a vertical rotating movement with the upper wheel and upper crown wheel for driving the tools at the bottom of the mill. The brake, which is a wooden brake for stopping the mill, is positioned on the upper wheel.

Paint mills gave life colour

Drawings: Hinne Terpstra





1

De Zaan

The story begins outside, just round the corner from here. Along there flows the Zaan river, along which its residents built their first windmills around 1600, having grown rich by trading and catching fish.

Initially, wind was used to keep feet dry and then an entire industry grew up around it. Barley, rice, paper, wood, edible oils, mustard, tobacco, hemp and much more was processed in Zaan's 1000 windmills.

From 1850 onwards, steam engines took over the work of the mills. Only 13 mills were left as monuments to business and technology.

Wind

Wind is a rather volatile source of energy for running our mills (or sometimes stopping them), none of which happens, however, without the miller, who directs the sail cross with the 15-tonne cap. He also controls the speed of the mill with sails and boards.



3

Colour

The colour, or rather the dye, is a product of this mill!
From 1600 onwards, tropical dyewoods were imported on a large scale for dyeing clothing fabrics.

The heavy pieces of dyewood were chopped in a large tub with chisels (chipper; drawing no. 1).

The bark chips were then crushed into a powder by rolling edge runners weighing 5000 to 7000 kg (drawing no. 2) and subsequently sifted in a rotating drum (the bag). They were packed into sacks or barrels (drawing no. 3) and delivered to the customer.

Just prior to 1700, the mills also started handling earth pigments, chalk and ground powders. The wet stones excavated from quarries first had to be dried in warehouses (drawing no. 4).

Paint developed as painters rubbed the coloured powders into linseed oil, for example.





De Kat paint mill

(The Cat)

In 1959, millwright G. Husslage constructed the upper section and drive mechanism of De Duinjager paint mill on the lower shed base of the De Kat oil mill.

Two old mill remnants dating back to around 1780 started a new life as the De Kat paint mill.

Production and sales of antique paints and dyes resumed around ten years ago.



This mill is probably the last remaining paint windmill in the world.

What started out with 55 paint mills has been brought together here under famous names such as Pieter Schoen, Storm, Van Bentum and Kluyster, Heyme Vis, Kuyper, Pieter Latenstein Pz., Avis and others.

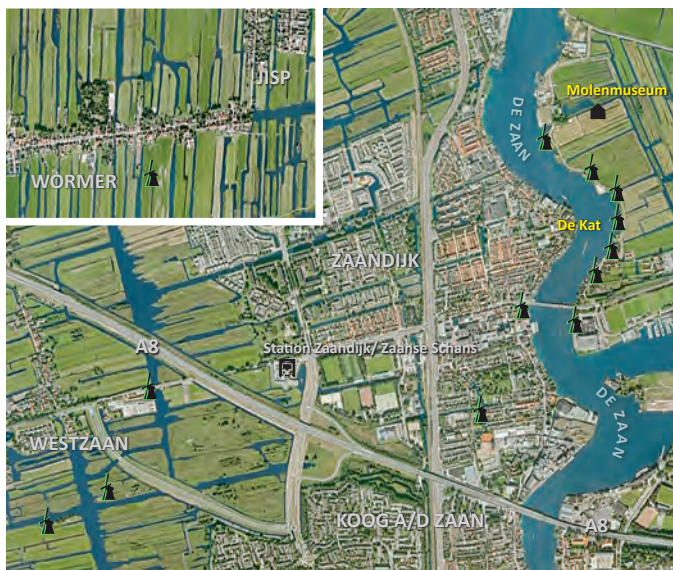
They coloured our past.



DE ZAANSCH E MOLEN



Around 1920 there were only about 20 windmills left of the 1000 that had made the Zaan district the oldest industrial area of the world. On 17 March, 1925, windmill society De Zaanse Molen was founded to preserve the mills for future generations. This society now owns thirteen industrial windmills; it keeps them in excellent condition and operates them regularly. Moreover, in 1928 the society founded a unique and fascinating Windmill Museum, where you can find out everything about the operation and history of industrial windmills and where changing exhibitions are held. You can also visit our website: www.zaanschemolen.nl



For all information about our mills and mill museum, opening hours, group visits and entrance fees:

www.zaanschemolen.nl

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