

Pasold Research on National Trust Spinning Wheels

Valerie Bryant has recently completed her recording of spinning wheels in National Trust properties, supported by a grant from the Pasold Fund. Between January and May 2006 she travelled 3500 miles across England from Tyneside to Kent, accompanied by David who did the photographic recording.

A dossier of some 60 wheels has now been presented to the National Trust, along with records for each house where wheels were found. This has resulted in a number of corrections. For example a wheel at Snowhill Manor attributed by the Trust to the Leeds maker John Planta is most probably by Joseph Doughty of York. Stamps have also been found on other wheels by makers previously unknown, and two wheels in different houses have been found which are probably by the same maker.

At the end of June Valerie and David were invited to host a spinning wheel heritage stand at Woolfest 2006, held in Cockermouth in the Lake District. This produced some intriguing finds. A man brought in a wheel rim which Valerie was able to match with another recorded elsewhere.

More recently Valerie has been investigating spinning wheels with royal connections, and a wheel by Nimmo of Edinburgh has been found at Frogmore. Files are stuffed full waiting to be sorted, and now that she has retired from Quarry Bank Mill (NT) she is busy working through these. Currently there are approximately 650 records on the database.



Valerie and David Bryant on their stand at Woolfest 2006.