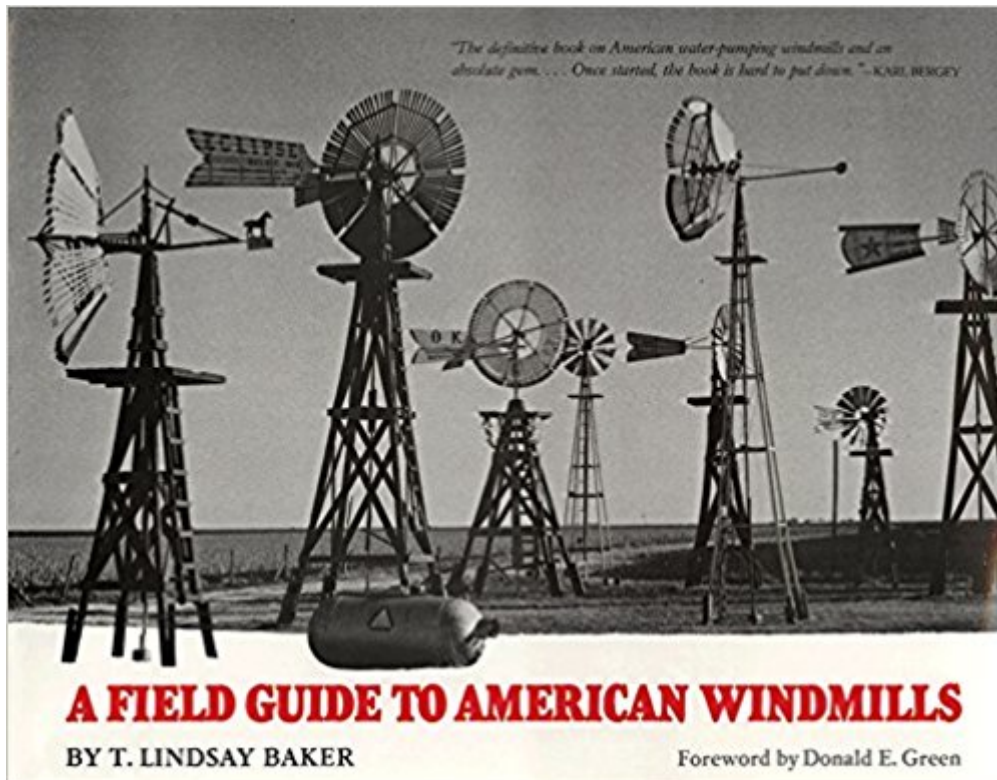




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A Field Guide To American Windmills



Synopsis

Before the development of the first self-governing windmill, settlement of the upland areas of the American West was almost impossible. Windmills were needed to pump underground water to the surface. As soon as their design and manufacture had been perfected, the mills became the most prominent feature of the American landscape, not only in the western two-thirds of the nation but also in the East and particularly in the Middle East. Besides supplying the needs of farmers and ranchers, windmills performed such tasks as pumping water to the roofs of New York tenements, cleaning out mine shafts and ships' bilges, and providing water for the boilers of locomotives. This guide to America's windmills is both a complete general history of turbine-wheel mills and an identification guide to the 112 most common models, which still dot the landscape today. With this guide a traveler or enthusiast crossing the plains and prairies of North America can identify virtually every farm-style windmill that he or she can see with a good pair of binoculars. The guide also serves as a handbook for the restoration of antique mills. In his lively narrative T. Lindsay Baker clearly explains the technical evolution of the mills and shares a wealth of windmill folklore. Among the 376 illustrations are unpublished historical photographs, long-lost engravings, field photographs by the author, and detailed India-ink drawings of the 112 most popular designs. Appendices identify all the known windmill manufacturers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and all the known windmill models from the 1850s to the present day. The comprehensive bibliography is the first published list of source materials on the history of wind-power utilization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

T. Lindsay Baker, who holds the W. K. Gordon Chair in Industrial History at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, is Director of the W. K. Gordon Center for Industrial History, Thurber, Texas, and editor of the Windmillers' Gazette. He is the author of A Field Guide to American Windmills and North American Windmill Manufacturers' Trade Literature: A Descriptive Guide.

First thing I need to tell you is that I am biased. Since my family (grandfather and great grandfather) owned a windmill company that was written up in this book, I had more than a passing interest in this book. I enjoyed and learned a lot about the various companies and the various styles of windmills. I wish my family still had the company today in this age of wind farms and renewable energy. I enjoy it when I see one of my grandfathers windmills still working on a farm today.

This is probably the most comprehensive book of American windmills published. I very much enjoy having this book and it has helped rekindle my long lost childhood interest in windmills. I only wish the book had more factory brochure/poster images included for each brand and model mill as this would have helped the reader get a better sense of how they looked when they were new.

The book is very well done with lots of pictures and information. A true tribute to our unsung Giants of the Past. Most stand in fields or yards, unnoticed, broken down and/or grown over...showing both signs of age and of neglect. Yet, with a little TLC they could once again be productive... capable of producing a mesmerizing effect on the soul or energy if needed. They actually serve a multitude of purposes if only people would take the time to care for them, they would give plenty back in return. They are our only remaining Giants of the Past and they deserve our respect and acknowledgement. This book does just that and, hopefully, it will make its readers take notice of these great Giants and their needs and many uses. They were meant to serve us and would once again if only we'd let them.

The bible of America windmills. Excellent reference and resource.

Very informative

It is a very good book. Loaded with tons of information.

very satisfied

This book is very informative. Should prove to be useful for years to come to help identify the different windmills found around the country. If I had one "complaint" it would be that too many of the pictures show windmills in poor condition. I would rather see them all looking pristine.

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