

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

With reference to Dr Ford's note on a Glass Vase Engraved with Mining Scenes (*Mining History*, 14:2, pp.64-66, Winter, 1999), I would like to suggest that the "doll's house" engraved on the lid is a water-mill. It has its wheel just visible on the left-hand side. The trellis arrangement appears to be a "stagenkunst", a system of transmitting power by means of linked levers, rocking back and forth on pivots. The stagenkunst was common in Saxony in the 17th and 18th centuries. An illustration of a stagenkunst is on page 141 of Terry Reynolds' book *Stronger than a hundred men, a history of the vertical water-wheel*, Johns Hopkins Press, London. ISBN 0-8018-2554-7, 1983.

Mike Wallerstein,

Thanks to Mike Wallerstein for this information. Also known as a fahrkunst, the system was used in the North Pennines and in Wales, but the only possible example used in the Peak District is portrayed none too clearly in an old print (probably by de Louthenberg), of the area around Matlock Bath station. Flat rod systems on wheeled trolleys on rails, like the Lady Isabella system still preserved at Laxey, Isle of Man, were used at several localities around Matlock, notably Dimple Mine, Ladygate Vein and the "Paint Mill adit" beneath High Tor. Another example was at the Ribden Mines in Staffordshire. TDF
