

WORLD'S LARGEST WATER WHEEL (Still in operation)

I was going through Google, and I accidentally found this article on Water Wheels. After reading and absorbing the scope and magnitude of this dated creation, I decided to post it in my blog for other who may not have been aware of this.

Among the largest and oldest existing waterwheels ever constructed

“.....The Noria al-Muhammadiyya is the most famous of many norias in Hama. This giant operating noria is unique in both size and age. Built in 763 AH, or 1361 CE, and still in use today, it is a stand-alone water pump. The river that provides the water it raises also serves as its sole source of energy.



The diameter of its wheel is 21 meters (69 feet). Fourteen of the arches of its aqueduct still exist. Compared to the typical known size of waterwheels of 2 to 3 meters (7 to 9 feet), the Noria al-Muhammadiyya is among the largest water wheels ever constructed. It was restored in 1977 and is currently in service.

All norias are water wheels, but not all water wheels are norias. A water wheel typically drives something else e.g. a grindstone, machinery etc. A noria raises water from a stream or river and discharges it at a higher elevation.

Noria al-Muhammadiyya Original photo by Juan Angel.....”

Imagine having this Technology 1,361 years before Christ or $1361 + 2025 = 3,386$ years ago was using Hydrology to irrigate and service urban residences.

What is also interesting is that this fact was not taught to Engineering Students in Fluid Mechanics back in 1962 when I studied Civil Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

Perhaps the Professors did not anticipate that their students would be designing water wheels instead of Dam, Pumps, etc.

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