

that the existence of windmills in Cyprus before the period of Ottoman rule is highly probable.

As far as the geographical distribution of windmills on the island is concerned, the location of those identified shows that windmills existed in those regions where scarcity of water and lack of appropriate geomorphology did not allow the construction of watermills, while, on the other hand, conditions were favourable for the exploitation of wind power. Such regions are mainly the coastlines of Larnaka and Ammochostos district, which includes the Karpas peninsula, where most windmills were indeed found, as well as the plain of Mesaoria, the granary of Cyprus, where there was neither water nor adequate wind power and people either used mule-driven mills or transported their corn for grinding to the water mills of Kythrea. Flour mills worked by animal power were very popular in Ammochostos district: there were 330 in 1900 and 80 still in 1910 (Cyprus Blue Book 1900-01:398 and 1909-10:312). Mule-driven mills are documented for the medieval period in Ammochostos and even in Nicosia. Wherever it was possible, however, windmills co-existed with watermills e.g. in Ammochostos district in 1888-89 eight windmills coexisted with 21 watermills (Cyprus Blue Book 1888-89: 554).

Taking into consideration the data obtained from the Meteorological Service, we come to the conclusion that conditions in Cyprus were not especially favourable for the exploitation of windpower. Cyprus does not experience strong and continuous winds like those prevailing in certain seasons in much of the Aegean. This, together with other factors, explains why the Cypriots did not trust windpower to the extent that other islanders did. They preferred to grind their abundant grain in watermills, using windmills as complementary power sources wherever conditions allowed their functioning, mainly in Ammochostos district, and in regions where water was not adequate for the operation of watermills.

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