



# Living Postcards

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This issue we step back in time and take a look at the age of steam – in particular, threshing machines. The threshing machine was a machine first invented by Scottish mechanical engineer Andrew Meikle for use in agriculture. It was invented for the separation of grain from stalks and husks. For thousands of years, grain

was separated by hand with flails, and was very laborious and time consuming. Mechanisation of this process took much of the drudgery out of farm labour.

Early threshing machines were hand-fed and horse-powered. They were small by today's standards and were about the size of an upright piano. Later machines were steam-

powered, driven by a portable engine or traction engine.

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