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Prince & Smith Raper Drawbox 'Drucilla'



Prince & Smith and later Prince Smith & Stells, were a major textile machinery manufacturer based in Keighley in Yorkshire from 1795 - 1979. Sadly now defunct, this company made some impressive robust machinery such as the Autolevelling Raper Drawbox to give Drucilla her full title.

The Drawbox takes our prepared tops and drafts them, reducing the tops to a lighter weight. The fibre has a light twist inserted to hold the fine stream of fibre together known as a **ROVING**.

The Roving is then fed onto a large wood or plastic bobbin at a controlled amount using a lifter system to wind it onto the bobbin in an even manner.

The Drawbox also has a levelling device, similar to Cuthbert, to level off the Roving to ensure even spinning.

Drucilla was removed from the last Worsted Spinners in Halifax called Joseph Horsfalls & Sons before the scrap metal collectors arrived with sledge hammers!



Drucilla in situ at Joseph Horsfalls