



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

Philadelphia Chapter One

Founded November 1, 1943

President's Message.

Well it was confirmed, I have tested positive for the COvid 22 or IASSATOTCoV19, the short form of “ I am so sick and tired of this Covid 19”. I can't count the number of times I have gotten to the front door of a store or shop only to remember, at the last minute, that I have forgotten my mask. I then have to walk back to the car to retrieve it and then begin my shopping. But what can you do, this is just one more of a never ending series of chores inflicted on us by the travails of modern life. We will survive this, and we will be stronger for it. I hope. However, one of the benefits of all of this is that many of us now have the time to rethink a few things and while trying to cope with the numerous changes brought on by this pandemic we can come up with some good ideas for making other parts of our lives more productive and enriched. This proved all too true for the Chapter One Council. While all the rest of you were lounging around avoiding one another and perhaps straightening up the shop or starting to work on those ugly clock and watch projects that you have been avoiding for the past six months or longer the Council has been putting their heads together to try to deal with the lack of meetings and Regionals. After all addictions are addictions and must be served. Scrolling through the clock and watch auctions and slogging through the endless selections on ebay just doesn't cut it. Many of us are chafing at the bit to get to a good Meeting Mart and especially to get to fondle a few good watches and clocks at our favorite Regional only to be disappointed by the, now standard, notice of its cancellation. As a result the Council has begun a ZOOM scenario for its planning sessions and is hoping to extend that same format to the Chapter meetings as well. Some of the ideas we have been discussing are: we are planning a Zoom format for our Chapter Meetings, we are reviving the Newsletter, and the Best In Show Contest, as well as the “Hands On Classes”. Look for instructions and topics posted in this Newsletter and look for more innovative ideas and plans for the very near future. We want to let you know that Chapter One is alive and well and we will be working on new and innovative ways to keep you informed and excited about all things horological now and in the future. So stay well, be safe and join us for the Zoom presentations. Dave Gorrell, President

The Next Chapter One Meeting Will be Virtual

ZOOM Chapter Meeting: There will be a Chapter 1 Meeting on the **6th of December at 1:00 pm**. If you are interested in attending send an email to jeffrey.w.fox@gmail.com. We will send you a link to connect.

The Speaker will be: **Ricardo Baez** his topic will be “Watchmaking in the Age of Social Media”. Ricardo is a watchmaker for Patek Phillippe.

The Workshop will be presented by **George Morrison**. His topic will be steps in making a watch water resistant.

The Best In Show Contest Send in your entry pictures and write ups to: Dave Gorrell djgclocks@aol.com
The Mart Scrip prizes are still awarded to the winners of each category. The pictures will be featured on the Zoom format and votes should be sent to the BISC chairman, Dave Gorrell. Remember there are three categories: Clocks, Watches and Others. The Others category can be Tools, Books, and anything Horological.

Mart: Remember Zoom is a two way format. If you have an item or two that you want to sell you may display it at the end of the Zoom Meeting as long as time permits. The Council is working on an Exclusive Chapter One Online Auction. Be on the look out for it.

Help Wanted: As we are forced to move into the digital format more and more these days we find that we are in need of some one who knows their way around in that mode. If you or any one you know has these skills and has the time to assist us, please step forward and give us a hand. Just send your name and email address to any Council Member.

Mid Eastern Regional: Although the 2020 MER had to be canceled we are now making plans for the 2021 Mid Eastern Regional which will be held at the York Expo Center on November 6th and 7th. MER Chairman Lee Davis has been in contact with the Expo Center hammering out the details. There will be more information as it becomes available.

Hand On Class: The next Hands On Class will be conducted Live for those who wish to attend. All Covid 19 precautions will be in place, Masks, Social distancing and sanitation standards will be strictly enforced. For those who wish to participate on ZOOM will be encouraged to do so. As usual the class will be held on the day before the Chapter 1 Meeting.

The topic will be PIVOT POLISHING for clock repairing.

Participants should have: Lathe, several wheels that need polishing, a burnisher, magnification, either loop or Optivisor, safety glasses, and any other tools that they deem necessary. The class will involve polishing pivots and the need to do so. Live demonstrations of the use of the hand Burnisher, Rollamat and Morgan pivot polishing machines. Call the instructor Dave Gorrell at 443 694 4972 or email at djglocks@aol.com for more information or questions.

Council Officers 2020 – 2022

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Instructions for joining our ZOOM presentations:

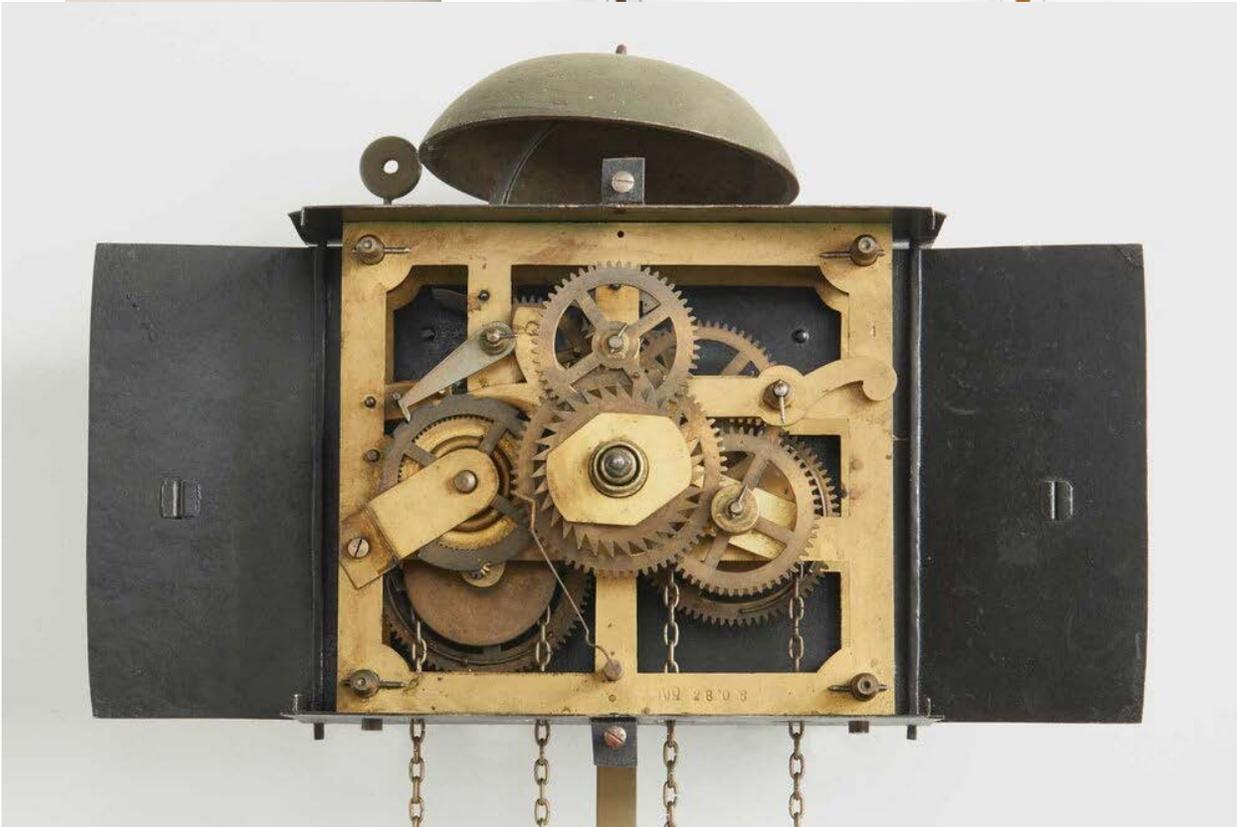
Send an email to Jeffrey.w.fox@gmail.com if you are interested in either the one day class or the Chapter meeting. You will receive an email with an invite to the meeting. When you connect you will be asked to install the Zoom app. If you accept it, it will download the app. If you have any questions, you can contact David Lauer at dml1000@comcast.net.

Mennonite Clocks

In the 16th through the 18th centuries Danzig, the main port city of Poland and a member of the Hanseatic League, developed a bustling trade and industrial economy. During that time a small religious sect arose which followed the teachings of Menno Simons, we now know this group as the Mennonites. By the late 18th century there were about 12,000 Mennonites living in the Danzig area. Danzig due to its toleration also became a center for skilled workers. And among them there was a small group of clock makers. Unfortunately, the tolerance for religions did not carry over into the clock making Guilds. Mennonites were refused entrance and as a result were forced to develop their own apprentice system for training clockmakers and carrying on their trade. Usually the apprentices were family members and the art of clockmaking was passed on from father to son. One of the earliest of these Mennonite clock makers was Peter D. Kroeber (ca 1730 to 1770). A descendant of Peter Kroeber was Johann Kroeber (1754 to 1823) he followed the call of the Russian Czarina Catherine the Great, who was trying desperately to modernize Russia by importing foreign craftsmen. Johann's son Abraham (1791 to 1872) was taught the trade by his father. The Kroeber's settled in Rosenthal in the south eastern part of what is now the Ukraine. They continued to produce clocks until the 1840's. Whether the Florence Kroeber we know as an American clock maker was a descendant of this Eastern European Mennonite group is debatable, I could find no sources to link them. Florence Kroeber was born in 1840 in Paderborn in Westphalia, Germany. I have also been unable to determine whether he had any connections to the Mennonites in Europe or the United States where the family immigrated to in 1850.



Danzig around 1900.



Some Mennonite wall Clocks and Movement
Abraham Kroeber but dates to around 1815.

The middle clock is attributed to either Johann or his son