



National Association of

WATCH&CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

NAWCC Chapter 52 - Los Padres

Bill Kapp's Collection

Hampden Ball

Ball's Standard, Cleveland, Ohio # 761845

Of the 39 known surviving Hampden Ball's, only 6 are known to be marked Ball's standard, Cleveland Ohio, one of which is the only hunter known.

The most common marking is the Ball's Standard, Superior Grade of which 29 are known.

Only four are known to be marked as Ball's Standard, High Grade.

Of these 39, I have only seen 7 either in person or with real clear photographs. In only two of these cases did the damaskeening match! The five that did not match had no serial number under the barrel bridge. It is not known whether the two with matching damaskeening are serialized. At first I thought the fact that the unserialized barrel bridges were obviously replacements, that this might account for the mismatches, but in looking through the Hernick/Arnold Hampden book, I see that there are plenty of examples where Dueber did not match all the damaskeening on various movement plates. Even the adcuts of the movements over the years show this anomaly. Mostly he did, but quite often he did not. I can't see any logic or reason for this puzzling artistry.



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Recently acquired #410538 marked Ball's Standard Hi Grade. it has a Moorehouse Style dial and 15 jewels. This is the earliest known Ball marked Hampton other than the Whitcomb Ball in the NAWCC museum



Pictured below is a Ball's Standard Superior Grade # 759505. Acquired this in LA at the 2013 regional. Like my other Ball Hampdens, it has no serial number under the Barrel bridge and the damaskeening of the barrel plate does not match the rest of the movement. The dial is absolutely gorgeous!



Another movement pic of 759505 that shows the damaskeening more clearly.





What makes the Ball and Co Hamiltons attractive to me besides their rarity is that they are not subject to as much case swapping as seen in the later models. They are not found in Ball Marked cases. If the style is right and there are only one set of screw marks, you can have a high degree of confidence in correctness or originality.

Pictured below:

Ball's Standard Superior Grade Hamilton/Ball 936 Serial # 8629

Production believed to be 87 with only 12 known to survive





Pictured below:

Ball & Co ORRS serial # 8774 from the first Run of ORRS.(938's) Only 3 known to survive marked Ball & Co. The other 7 survivors of this run of 100 938's are Private Label Ball Jewelers.



Dial below was originally on 28223 switched now to 8774



Pictured Below:

Railroad Watch Co serial #20969. A single run of 200 with 22 surfacing to date. 16 Jewel, Single Roller Model 999F. Eight with different markings on the movement and having 17 jewels have been reported in the 90101-90200 serial number range. Runs 5 sec a day slow with a combination of face up and in my pocket.







Pictured below, Ball's Standard Railroad Watch Co #20529, one of 30 known survivors in the run of 20501-20800.



Another 999F, this one has a small "crow's foot" hairline on the dial around the 8 hour and someone in the past has done a poorly and erroneous engraving of 17 jewels on the barrel bridge. Even so, the watch is attractive and scarce.

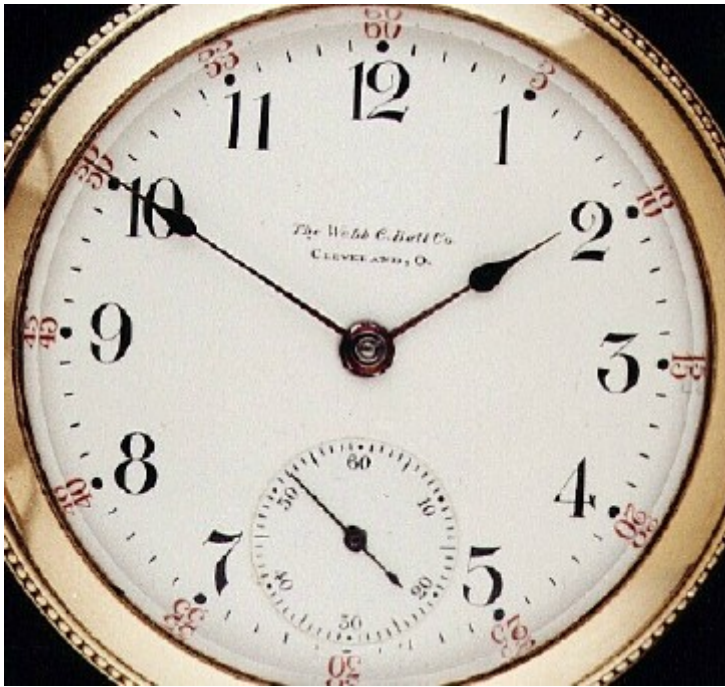




Pictured below is 90179. This is the last run of Railroad Watch Co watches. From a run of 100 (90101-90200) The Hamilton factory lists these also as 999F's but they differ from the first run (20801-21000) in that these have Ball & CO engraved on the movement and The Webb C Ball Co printed on the dial. Only 8 of these have surfaced to date.



And the dial of 90179



Pictured Below,

Private label movement 13266 , C.C. Fried, 2nd run ORRS, one of only 51 known surviving Private label movements. Unfortunately it is missing its matching dial. At least 17 of the survivors share this fate.



Pictured below # 42769 another Private Label (Wm Kendrick's Sons, Louisville Ky) Fortunately this one has its dial.



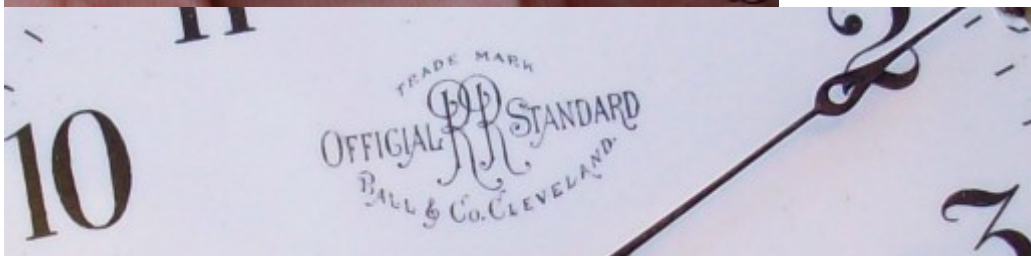
and now the movement of 42769



#28371 is another Wm Kendrick's sons private label Ball Hamilton. The dial below has a flake in a half moon shape from the 5 min to 8 min markings. Unfortunate but still a good looking appropriate wavy 3 dial. Over a third of these private label Ball watches have had their dials replaced. Note the overlarge 5min marker at the one o'clock position. the half moon flake in that area repair is a bit off color but overall a decent dial.



Pictured Below, Ball and Co ORRS from second Run of 400 (1st run to be factory designated 999) serial # 13312. This run is about evenly split between private labels, Brotherhood watches and Ball Marked Movement and dials. 33 known survivors, 13 are Ball ORRS. Note the curly bottom on the A on Cleveland. Only occurs in this run. Jan, 2013 this was keeping time within a second a day! .



Pictured below is Ball & Co ORRS serial # 14779. 3rd run of 1000. 67 known survivors. 38 known ORRS survive from this run.





Pictured below is the movement from 14993 a June 2012 acquisition.



And now the dial from 14993



Pictured below is #28223. I switched its dial with 8774.



Of the 54

known surviving examples in this run of 1000, only 18 are marked Ball & Co. The rest are brotherhoods and PL's.

Below is the 8774 dial now found on 28223.



Pictured below is # 42880, of the 56 known survivors in this run of 1000, only 15 have been identified as Ball & Co marked movements and dials. The rest are brotherhoods and PL's. The dial on this watch is correct. Wavy three 's have been seen on only two early BIF's in this run. Later BLF's have the straight 3. One could speculate that Ball used up his supply of earlier BLF dials before using the more modern flat 3 style. This explanation is more acceptable to me than the reverse.





Pictured below is 42881, A BLE with a great dial. I estimate that only about 200 of these were produced. There are about 20 known survivors.

The Barrel plates for the BLE and ORC were installed at the Ball facility. They left Hamilton as ORRS models. Ball would fill Brotherhood orders by replacing the barrels and adding a matching dial. Some of these plates were discovered still in Ball's inventory decades ago. It is critical that the collector obtain these with the correct matching dial.



Note that these replacement barrels have no serial number under the barrel bridge.





Pictured below is the correct dial for a Railroad Watch Co Movement in the Hamilton serial number range 90101-90200. I don't have a movement for it yet but there are only 5 known Dials like this. The dial is better than the scanned picture! The WEBB C Ball Co and Cleveland O are much sharper!

There are 7 known movements but 4 of them have replacement dials. Movements in this serial # range differ from the RRWCO movements found from 20801-21000 in that Ball & Co is marked on the movement under Railroad Watch Co.

I FOUND THE MOVEMENT !! SCROLL UP TOSEE 90179 !



Pictured below is 90220 from a run of 400 that are marked "A" . Note the double sunk dial! Factory records describe this run as "Uniform Standard" and a prototype dial marked Uniform Standard has been seen and is shown in my Railroad Watch Co Page. That dial was found on A Ball's Standard Railroad Watch Co movement. The sapphire pallets marking is in an unusual script and almost seems like it may have been done outside the factory. 26 known examples of this watch and all but two have been seen with the same script, two lack any sapphire pallet engraving. Those so engraved are not inked in and are hard to see in the picture. Note also the different ball damasceening which is wider spaced and is just like the damasceening seen on the Ball's Standard RR Watch Co watches from serial number 20501-20800.



Pictured below is # 118708. I only have 21 ORRS in my data base, but until recently I was only keeping track of watches seen below 100K. About half of the watches in my sample are brotherhoods. There are some more Ball & Co's in the 170K run and I believe that is the last run of Hamiltons that they will be found.





Just picked up a 21 jewel ORRS #118660 with that sunburst damasceening. Checking Hamilton factory records and my database, it would appear that 425 21J watches were made for Ball & CO. Of the 31 survivors known to me , 6 are ORRS and the other 25 are Brotherhoods. That makes the ORRS rarer but I am certain the market will always favor the Brotherhoods!



Acquired August 12, 2013. Serial # 170215 marked single roller Ball & Co mvmt with a DS Ball & CO dial. There were three hundred produced like this in this run from 170101-170400. I have reports on 18 survivors. Dial has its hairlines and some chips around the edges that the Bezel will help hide a little bit. Would like a better dial but you only find these DS dials in this run of 300 and on watches between serial # 90201-90750. 33 additional survivors in that run. I have 90220 with a great dial but sometimes you have to take what you can get.



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