



National Association of
WATCH&CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.

NAWCC Chapter 52 - Los Padres

Hampden Ball List

[NAWCC MB Discussion link](#)

[2nd NAWCC MB Discussion link](#)

B S = BALL'S STANDARD

S G = SUPERIOR GRADE

H G = HIGH GRADE

C O = CLEVELAND OHIO

W C B = WEBB C BALL

(Scroll down to see pics)

[Jones and Horan DS Fancy Dial](#)

#454237 Lot 225 in 6/21/09

HAMPDEN BALL LIST - HAMPDEN LIST

SERIAL	SIZE	JEWELS	MVMT MARKED	DIAL MARKED	Source
9192			Whitcomb Ball	Hampden	Bulletin
199					
346262	18	15	HAMPDEN	W C B C O	
Ueberall					
372594	18	15	HAMPDEN	W C B C O	Ueberall

372599 Harrison	18	15	Hampden	W C B C O	Nigel
410538 Kapp	18	15	B S H G	Fancier style	Bill
444051	18	15	B S H G	Moorhouse style	Gary Keys
444731	18	15	B S H G	FANCIER STYLE	Hernick
454237	18	15	B S S G	Fancier style	
DS		Jones/Horan			
480780	18	15	B S S G		
480814 Hansen	18	15	B S S G		Fred
480872	18	15	B S S G	FANCIER RED 5 MIN MRKR	Ueberall
481080	18	15	B S S G	FANCIER DIAL RED 5	
MIN oldwatch.com					
481239 Ueberall	18	17	B S S G		
481259	18	17	B S S G		Ebay
481303 Birchall	18	15	B S S G	fancier style	Ron
626754 Hansen	18	17	B S S G		Fred
648781 Hess	18		Hampden (SR)	W C B C O !!??	Jeff
657953 Hansen	18	17	B S S G		Fred
657969 Collins	18	17	B S S G	Moorhouse Style	Ted
657973	18	17	B S S G		
721071	18H	15	B S C O		80 P I
759542	18		B S S G		
759505	18	17	B S S G		Bill Kapp
759593 Hansen	18	17	B S S G		Fred
759597	18	17	B S S G		
759610 Hansen	18	17	B S S G		Fred
759631 Hansen	18	17	B S S G		Fred
759637	18	17	B S S G		Fred

Hansen					
759657	18	17	B S S G		79 P
I					
759720	18	17	B S S G		
Ueberall					
759728	18	17	BSSG		Shugart
759740	18	17	B S S G		Fred
Hansen					
759760	18	17	B S S G		77 P I
760503	18	17	B S S G		Jones/Horan
761624	18	17	B S ??		Joel
Sarich					
761660	18	17	B S C O		F
Hansen					
761682	18	17	B S S		
G				Ueberall	
761709	18	17	B S C O		J. Sernake
761715	18	17	B S S G		Henry
B					
761742	18	17	B S C O	W C B HOLLOW ARABIC	Hernick
761780	18	17	B S S G		Fred
Hansen					
761781	18	17	B S H G		Fred Hansen
761840	18	17	B S S G	W C B C O	Ebay
761845	18	17	B S C O	W C B C O	Bill Kapp
866973	18	17	B S S G		Ueberall

Bill Kapp's Ball Hampden marked Ball's Standard Cleveland O.
 Seller permitted me to use his photo's.



Joe Sernak sent me pics of his B S C O and gave permission to post them below.







Fred Hansen's Dial is pictured below



Hampden marked Superior Grade



Watch below is taken from Old Watch.com site, he describes the dial as a controversial Moorehouse!



Picture below was forwarded by Fred Hansen of a dial reported on a Hampden signed keywind # 94967. Looks like another Moorehouse?



Dial below is another Moorehouse style dial found on Bill Kapp's Ball Hampden Hi Grade #410538, The Earliest known Ball Hampden reported to date.



Below is the back of the dial marked in pen is 8/28 and 9'C



Movement of 410538. This is one of 4 known marked Hi grade and the Earliest known reported serial number for a Ball Hampden marked movement.



Sold on ebay 11/29/08 for \$2152 + 30 shipping



Picture under the Barrel bridge of a BSSG, courtesy of Eric Engh, no serial number, this is the 4th example I have seen like this, apparently Hampden filled early Ball private labels from existing stock and fitted them with new barrel bridges. The Barrel has the number scratched/etched on the barrel cover but not stamped. Barrel pix above and Garwood pix below courtesy of David Abbe. George Jones from the Jones and Horan auction team reports that # 454237 has no numbers under the barrel bridge! This is now the 5th such report! None are reported yet with serial numbers.



The Garwood has the number stamped as one would expect! The uneven spacing is typical. Numerals were individually stamped and alignment was uneven. Guess it didn't matter as it wasn't meant to be

viewed! I haven't seen any Ball's with the stamped bridge yet and other private labels are not consistent! Maybe it depended upon quantity or price. I believe that If a run was dedicated to a private label, it got the serial number, if existing stock was used then the barrel was replaced.



Earliest known Ball Ad ran from Feb to May in The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Journal 1890

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS' MONTHLY JOURNAL.



BALL'S STANDARD Railroad Watches,

Manufactured by the celebrated

**DUEBER-HAMPDEN WORKS,
CANTON, O.**

Being accurately adjusted to Heat and Cold, and six positions, they are more reliable, more durable, and particularly desirable for the services of

ENGINEERS AND CONDUCTORS.

**Webb C. Ball,
WATCH DEALER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL**

Official Watch Inspector and Time-keeper for the

N. Y., P. & O. R. R. Co.

Valley R. R. Co.,


Pennsylvania Co.,

N. Y., C. & St. L. R. R. Co.,

C., A. & C. R. R. Co.,

C., C., C. & St. L. R. R. Co.

SALESROOM: Cor. Superior and Seneca Sts., CLEVELAND, O.



**BALL'S STANDARD
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Being accurately adjusted to Heat and Cold, and six positions, they are more reliable, more durable, and particularly desirable for the services of
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N. Y., P. & O. R. R. Co.	Valley R. R. Co.
N. Y., C. & St. L. R. R. Co.	Pennsylvania Co.
C., C., C. & St. L. R. R. Co.	C., A. & C. R. R. Co.

SALESROOM: Cor. Superior and Seneca Sts., CLEVELAND, O

Above ad ran in the Brotherhood journals from 7/90 well into 1891. I don't have copies of late 91 or any 92 journals so I am not sure when they stopped.

Simultaneously Dueber was running his own ads in the journals like the one below.

FOR RAILWAY SERVICE
NOTHING BETTER THAN THE
Dueber-Hampden Watch.



CHICAGO, ILLS., January 15th, 1890.
The Dueber Watch Case Manufacturing Co. :

GENTLEMEN :—Personally, we are unacquainted, and, therefore, have little interest in common, but the fact that I am required to carry a correct time-piece, and that you are manufacturers of fine Watches, brings us indirectly together, and induces me to say to you that I am Conductor of a Passenger Train on the C., B. & Q. R. R., and have for the past eight months carried one of your No. 60 Dueber-Hampden Watch Movements. The number of the movement is 409605. Its variation, during the above mentioned time, has been *five seconds*, on the average, *for each twenty-eight days*, and some months *no variation*. The examiner's records will prove my statement. I want no better Watch.

Yours respectfully,
 J. RUTHERFORD.

For Sale by all First-Class Watch Dealers.

Much has been made of the fact that Dueber was not happy with Ball's claim to be a manufacturer but there was a time when the two men had a closer relationship.

Early in his career, Ball was employed By Dueber and when he started his business in Cleveland his first private label watches were manufactured by Hampden.

Interestingly enough the Ball's standard watches that I know to have survived all have Webb C Ball dials on them.

_But when you look at Ad Cuts that both Dueber and Ball ran throughout 1890 and into 1891 in The BLE journal , it would seem that they both used pictures of an identical watch! (See the two ads above!!)

As far as I know, none of the surviving Ball Standard watches have the dial pictured in the ad.

They obviously cooperated on the Ad copy and maybe even the Ad cost. Many of the Ball Hampden Dial's were in the style of Moorhouse, an employee of Dueber in 1885 for a year, which suggests that the dials were provided by Hampden and not replaced by Ball. (I always wondered about those dials and Harold Visser pointed me to Gerrit Nijssen's OHara dial article in the Bulletin that documented Moorhouse's employment.)

And now for some further speculation!

There was an earlier Ball/Dueber AD! (Scroll 3 pics up!!)

That earlier ad ran from Feb thru May 1890. Note the not so subtle difference! The earlier ads were weighted more in Dueber's favor than the ones appearing after July.

The earlier Ad is also more in keeping with other ads that Dueber ran in cooperation with other retailers such as G.A Schlecter, Reading Pa.

It is my calculation that Ball had ordered approximately 600 watches from Dueber, thus giving him a more favored status over other retailers, leading to the Ads that appeared from July onwards that gave Ball a more prominent presence.

So what do I think the reason might be for the eventual parting of the ways of Dueber and Ball?

When Rood and other prominent execs left Hampden to start up Hamilton, they called in their capital in Hampden forcing Hampden to shut down for a short time. They probably also had a personal relationship with Ball and invited him to participate in the new venture. Remember Ball was a VP early on in Hamilton's formation and had an exclusive agency for the western part of the US.

I surmise further that Ball might have been slightly overextended with Hampden at this time when Hampden needed to raise Capital to satisfy Rood et al.

This all occurred in the context of the Panic of 1893 when money was exceptionally tight.

It wouldn't be the first "divorce" caused by money or the allure of a more attractive partner!

Ball Time line: information derived from Ohio Dept of Corporations, Bulletin Articles by Kent Singer & Ed Euberal(338), Winslow, jewelers Circular and posts by Jeff hess such as [NAWCC Disc Ball Co's](#)

75-79 employed by Deuber
79 Whitcomb/Ball
10/79 Webb C Ball
85 Bankrupt
90-91 (92?) Selling Ball's Standard Hampden watches
91 In Oct Ball forms stock co with 100000 capital and 5 investors.
92-93 Selling Brotherhood and Ball's Standard Howard watches
93-? Hamilton mfg Ball Standard and ORRS/Brotherhood watches
94-96 Stockholder and VP of Hamilton

Hampden time line

1891 Rood and Cain leave Hampden for Hamilton start up, Deuber cash strapped after buying them out had to suspend operations for a few weeks, raise additional capital and within 6-8 months had sole ownership.

1893 could be a pivotal year as there was a general economic collapse that history calls the "panic of 93".

Bulletin 234 p17 by Campbell/Fuller discuss Deubers dissatisfaction with Ball Ads that claim mfg status. They also mention that Ball had previously ceased buying Hampdens and future orders had gone to competitors. The ads cited were in 1901 but Ball had claimed mfg status all thru 1896 in the various brotherhood journals.

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