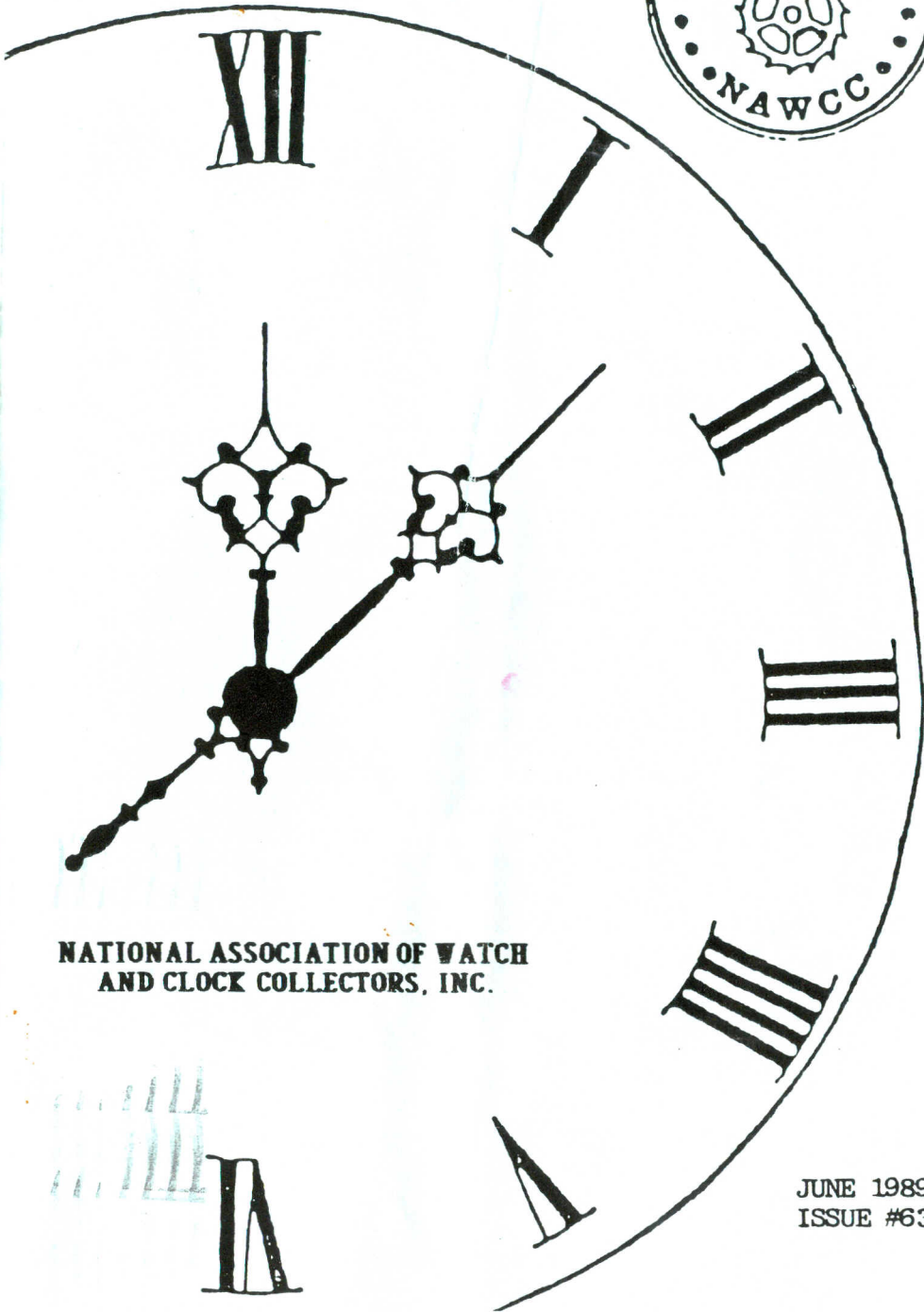
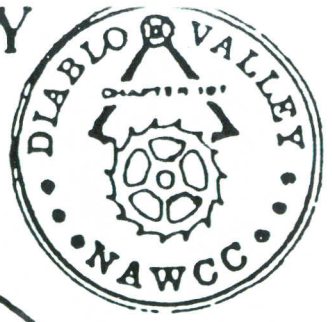


DIABLO VALLEY BULLETIN



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH
AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC.**

JUNE 1989
ISSUE #63

1989 OFFICERS

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VICE-PRESIDENT.....	JOHN NORTH.....	676-9188
VICE-PRESIDENT.....	RICHARD ROGERS.....	209-944-2608
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	ED OKVIST.....	357-6257
RAFFLE DRAWING.....	HAROLD MONTANO.....	
PHOTOGRAPHER.....	ED OKVIST.....	357-6257

CHAPTER MEETING DATES: FEB. 5, APRIL 9, JUNE 11, AUG. 13, OCT. 8, DEC. 10
EXEC. BOARD MEETING DATES: MAR. 13, MAY 8, JULY 10, SEPT. 11, NOV. 12

CHAPTER MOTTO: ACCENT ON EDUCATION

STATEMENTS OF OPINION OR FACT MADE BY AUTHORS OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN CHAPTER PUBLICATIONS ARE TO BE ACCEPTED AS THE AUTHOR'S OWN; THE CHAPTER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR CORRECTNESS OF ANY STATEMENTS OF ITS CONTRIBUTORS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Chapter Members,

At Chapter 107's Exec. Board Meeting held on May 8th, 1989, we discussed the results of the survey on additional meetings. The results are as follows; 34 Responses; 17 for & 17 Against. The 17 for broke down to favoring Mart. Weeknight, workshops, an extra notice, and an increase in dues. The food and beverage vote was even.

Because only half of the membership responded, and only half of the responses were favorable to a meeting, the board voted to use a board meeting night to combine with a trial weeknight Horological meeting. This meeting will take place Monday, July 17th, 1989 at our regular meeting place in Walnut Creek. Mart Set up time is 7:15 PM and we must be out by 10:00 PM. We will have our executive board meeting and workshops.

So all you volunteers, please see me at the June 11 meeting and let's get our July trial meeting off to a good start.

Fred

MEETING INFORMATION:

DATE: June 11, 1989

PLACE: Home Federal Savings & Loan
Tice Valley Rd & Rossmoor Pkwy
(Walnut Creek) in
multi-purpose room.

MART SET-UP: 11:30 AM

MART BEGINS: 12:00 NOON

PROGRAM: John Sanderson will discuss
the Clockmakers Guild in London.

Also: Royal English will demonstrate the
handling of a fuzee clock. (Dismantling
& Reassembling)

MEETING BEGINS: 1:00 PM

DISPLAY THEME: British Clocks, Fuzee
Clocks

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00
NON-MEMBER DONATION: \$3.00
MART: FREE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

NOTES FROM THE MAY 1989 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. General: The poll to gather members views on additional meetings was an even split for and against. 34 members responded. The board decided to proceed with a trial of an additional evening workshop session in July. a Mart will be available, but the library, raffle and silent auction will not. A separate mailer will be sent advising date, location, and workshop topic.
2. Membership (No Report)
3. Treasurer (No Report)
4. Programs: The June Programs, given by John Sanderson, will be on "English Clocks". The display will be on the same subject.
5. Chapter Emblems: New pins are available (Red Enamel) and will be sold at the current price of \$2.00. See John Sanderson.

STEVE FABES

WANTED;

- * ILLINOIS WRIST WATCHES (MEN'S/ LADIES). INTERESTED IN CASES, MOVEMENTS, OR COMPLETES, RUNNING OR NOT.
- * 24 HOUR DIAL WRIST WATCH. 12 NOON MUST BE AT THE 6 POSITION.

WILL BUY, TRADE OR PAY FINDER'S FEE!

CONTACT: STEVE FABES

DAYS: 675-4945
EDES: 932-5091

The Kitchen Clocks (1873-1935)

By Phil Russell

The embossed solid wood walnut and oak mantel clocks were made from about 1873 to 1935. These ornate clocks are called Kitchen clocks and sometimes are referred to as Gingerbreads because of their inexpensive fancy carvings. The 'kitchen' name became popular, as many were used in the kitchen. (I understand other 'non-conformists' to the design said they should be in the kitchen). In any case the name 'kitchen' and 'Gingerbreads' are the common names.

There were millions of the kitchen clocks made. Most every clock made had its own individual name, (same as the Black mantel clocks). The clocks were about 22" to 25" tall, had a 6" dial, and almost all were time and strike. In addition some clocks were fitted with an alarm (cost 30¢ to 45¢ extra). There was also calendars with days and months and automatic. Some models had a barometer or a thermometer. The designs for the embossing process were almost endless. The prices of the kitchens were very reasonable, retailing in clock stores for \$8-\$12. In the large discount stores like Sears-Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, St. Louis Clock and Silverware Co. and other the prices were \$4 to \$6 for the same clocks. They were bought from the major clock companies by large volumes and got large discounts.

The largest producers of the Kitchen clocks were E. Ingraham Clock Co. followed by other Clock Co. E.N. Welch, Seth Thomas, Waterbury, Ansonia, Gilbert, and New Haven-and later by Sessions. Ansonia and Gilbert had Kitchen clock on the market in 1875. Also Florence (aka Flo and F.) Kroeber in 1875. (Kroeber is said to have bought clock parts from other companies & assembled them-he was not considered a clock maker, per se.)

Most homes had at least one kitchen clock

Kitchen Clocks P-2

or more.

Origin: The exact origin of the embossed walnut and oak clocks is not known, nor the first manufacturer (but, probably E. Ingraham). However, in the 1870s there were many manufacturers of molds and embossing dies around Cincinnati and the use of pressed wood was very popular for furniture, other household items and no doubt the pressed clock case..

The Embossing Process: Kitchen clocks were made of walnut, and mostly of red oak and some white oak (red obtained from the mid south). There was no quarter saw used. The wood used had to be clear grain, no knots or other defects. The wood was kiln dried and sawed to the desired thickness by a band saw and planed and cut to the proper size. This wood was then put in a steam kiln to soften the wood. The molding dies were heated in a hot oven or chamber and the heated wood was run through the molding dies which were under great pressure. In this way the wood was embossed (a raised design) with the many, many designs, portraits, flags, etc.

Once the embossing was completed the pieces of wood needed for the case of the same design were stacked-usually 15 or 20-and by this 'gang' saw method a narrow bladed saw cut the case side pieces or the top (This saved time and money). The cases were glued with animal glue.

The sash for the case doors were similarly embossed by running the heated wood through heated metal rollers. Some of the embossing was done using a round die on a rotary press which impressed the designs into the wood.

The cases after completion were highly varnished.

The Glass Scroll(etching): The scroll was done by a special printing press technique. By using a 'glue' on the scroll plate, it was pressed on the glass-bronze and silver gilt was dusted over the 'glue'- scroll was done.

Over the 60 odd years the Kitchen clock was produced the number and models made by each Clockmaker is almost endless. Most of the Clockmakers produced what they called 'Lines' and 'Assortments' and sold in case lots of six (6) assorted styles to the case. Price for case ranged from about \$20 to \$26. The Wm. L. Gilbert 'Railroad Assortment' clock model names were: Tourist, Traveler, Drummer, Commuter, and Conductor. Price was from \$21.65 to \$25.65 per 6 clock case. Reason for the variation in price were some had alarms, other time and strike, barometer, thermometer etc. Other Clock Lines were the Seth Thomas 'Lake Line' and later the 'Ocean Line'; E. Ingraham had the Army-Navy Line replaced by the 'National Line'. This gives an idea of the Lines and Assortments used by almost all the Clockmakers.

The End of the Kitchen: In March, 1935 the E. Ingraham Clock Co. ceased manufacturing the Kitchen clocks and all molds, dies and machinery was scrapped. E. Ingraham was at the start of production and was the last to stop. The Ingraham President Edward Ingraham said there was no profit in manufacturing for if the wholesale price was raised over \$2.25 there was no market. The Ansonia Clock Co. failed in 1929 as a result of low prices and no market. In 1929 Russia purchased the entire company and machinery and shipped it to Russia. 200 Technicians went to Russia to set up Moscow Clock Co. No 2.

Kitchen clock value today at the Marts runs from about \$125 to \$250-pretty good mark up for a \$2.00 clock. Ingraham noted in his March, 1935 information that the clock makers were hard pressed with fears of inflation and unfavorable legislation & U.S. Administration was unfriendly to industrialists. (How times have changed).

Pre-1873 Japanese Clocks
Questions and Answers
By Phil Russell

"Let it be known that I do not consider myself an expert on the Japanese clocks. My responses are based on research of published materials."

I hope others have been reading and enjoying my articles and the 'Tip Off'.

(1) The striking mechanisms of the Japanese clocks and the 'hours' went backward (to us) from 9 to 4, and 9 to 4 (that was their day).

Background: The Japanese day was divided into two periods-dawn to dusk, and dusk to dawn. Each period was divided into 6 equal parts (or 'hours'). The length of the hours varied with the time of the year. Every Japanese clock was made to be adjusted for the variable lengths of night and day.

In Japan, the number 9 had magical powers. For this reason the number '9' was selected to indicate midday (noon) and midnight each day. The striking of the clock goes backward from 9. The half hour strike is also unique and is shown in brackets. The time sequence is as follows: 9(1), 8(2), 7(1), 6(2), 5(1), 4(2); Then 9(1), 8(2), 7(1), 6(2), 5(1), 4(2), and then the start of the new day.

The numbers 3,2,1 were held in reserve for use by the Temple or other sacred use.

My research found that: "Scholars are still seeking a satisfactory explanation as to why (by Western Standards) the sequence is backward. Another authority refers to several theories based on numerical considerations, but found no evidence to support any relationship. Steve Fabes mentioned one theory based on 9 times the hours in sequence and using the last number of the product to arrive at the sequence 9,8,7,etc Apparently the researchers found no evidence for this relationship. Steve could be right ??

(2) How did the Japanese adjust their clocks for the variable lengths of the days and nights?

background: Mechanical clocks in Japan were unknown until traders arrived in the 16th century and who brought European clocks. Japanese copied these clocks and modified them to keep Japanese 'time'. Since clocks in this early period were a luxury, most were owned by nobles and the very rich. Most of these owners had their own 'clock adjuster' person. Some of the clocks had to be adjusted twice a day, and others at least once every two weeks.

The early clocks were controlled by a foliot. A foliot is a pivoted bar on the verge with weights on each arm-moving the weights in or out controlled the time. The foliot arms usually had 30 to 35 notches on each arm. The weights moved towards or away from the verge staff and the rate of movement of the foliot changed. Those with only one foliot had to be moved twice a day-sunrise and sunset.

The addition of the second foliot (one above the other) and a mechanism was provided so that the foliots would change at the end of each 6 'hour' period. This saved the labor of moving weights. But the clock still had to be readjusted every two weeks to keep correct time. The clocks with the foliot were the earliest style and the most expensive.

The Pillar or stick clock was less expensive. They were tall and narrow, weight driven, had a crown wheel (like an escape wheel. It had no dial, but had removeable scales. There was a pointer on the driving weight and the pointer noted the time. Another variety had sliding indicators on the scale and these could be adjusted by hand.

The dial or scale have two sets of -numbers and the second is that the hours were named for animals-like the Chinese. Midnight is the hour of the rat; 6, Sunset, is the hour of the cock or rooster.

It would be interesting to know how the Japanese accepted the new time system. We grumble over a one hour daylight time saving change

The Tip Off

By Phil Russell

****If you happened to miss it, there is an interesting Article on the 'Milky Colored Black Marble Clock' in the April, 1989 NAWCC Bulletin.

Some one asked me 'How to polish marble or other stones'. Remember, the stone is already polished, and need the same attention as a fine wood. Ordinary dust and grime in the air will cause marble to lose brightness and luster. A deteriorated wax will cause the same problem.

Marble should be washed often with a clean, soft cloth & fresh warm water and wiped with clean soft cloths. Twice a year wash the marble case with warm water and a non fat mild detergent, rinse generously with warm water & wipe with clean cloths. If you wish-a non yellowing wax may be used, but is not needed.

*** DO NOT USE ABRASIVE CLEANERS. Marble has a hardness of 3 plus and can be easily scratched or damaged. Spills of any kind NEED to be wiped up immediately. If there is interest in stain removal from marble, let me know.

*** A British delegation of seven experts went to Russia from August 15 to September 5, 1956 at the invitation of Russia to study their research, training methods, design, and manufacturing techniques including automation.

They visited Moscow Clock factory No. 1; (the old U.S. Hampden Watch Co.) and also Moscow factory No. 2 (Successor to Ansonia Clock Co.) Both U.S. Firms were purchased by Russia in 1929-U.S. Technicians helped them set the plants up for operation. I have a copy of the written report--very interesting. The report discusses oil performance, testing of materials, and other activities. A Russian watch or clock was put on the market that cost 14 times what it cost to make. That shows you what competition will do. Seen any Russian timepieces lately? (except my cuckoo clock/)