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Editor

British Horology Times

NAWCC CHAPTER 159

CHAPTER NEWS

Membership stands at 126, up from 100 at the end of November 1993.

The annual meeting was held on February 5th at the National Convention in Florida. Because of scheduling problems we met at a very awkward time. My thanks to those persistent souls who attended, and especially to Norm Landmaid for his excellent slide talk on early English bracket clocks. We also enjoyed a video tape presentation on the development of English clocks during the period 1680 to about 1800, courtesy of Stuart Kelley.

Financially, we are sound, but not wealthy. As reported at the annual meeting, we took in during 1993, \$488 in membership dues and bank account interest, and spent \$437, entirely due to newsletter costs and incorporation expenses.

In order to manage dues renewals, we'll work toward a once per year payment, skipping any year when we don't need additional funds. Those of you who joined in late 1992 or in 1993 should send me \$5 (\$6 over-seas) with the reminder sheet included in this newsletter, soon, but no later than September 1994. 1994 joiners will owe no more fees until the fall of 1995. Recall also that you must be a paid-up NAWCC member to belong to Chapter #159.

Paul Odendahl developed and printed attractive new membership application forms. These will be distributed at Regional NAWCC meetings and samples sent to you members as mailing funds permit.

The next meeting, and our first regular meeting, will be at the Southern Ohio Regional, April 15, 1994 in Cincinnati. This will be in conjunction with a regional display of 19th Century English clocks, and a

lecture on the same subject by Cowan and Spittler. We've had a lot of help with this from Chapter #159 members. Thank you!

A **California meeting** in September 1995 will replace the Ohio one, so we'll have meetings well spaced out that year: Orlando in January; Richmond, Virginia in June; and Southern California in September. Hopefully, this spread will allow more members to attend a meeting. Bernie Pollack will chair the California meeting, and I'm sure it will be a good one! Note that's September 1995 not 1994.

Next newsletter will be published in December 1994. Normally we will have three newsletters a year. December's newsletter will be a larger one, and will be published by Paul Odendahl in New Orleans. I'll still be Editor, so send along articles and items to me, as in the past.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Creating this newsletter (BHT) is fun, and a great way to learn more about British horology. For instance in BHT #1, I wrote that early (ca. 1700) bracket clocks were always signed on the backplate. *NOT!!* I've personally seen three since which were not signed on the backplate - an Edmund Massey signed only on the chapter ring, and two anonymous clocks.

In the same vein, Arthur Robert's diagram of English lever and roller escapement watches, drawn in 1965 (BHT #2) has drawn an excellent update from David Penney (see RECOIL section, this issue.) You don't have to know it all to get published in BHT, and other members will add to our collective knowledge, as in this case.

REEDED HOOD COLUMNS

by Tom Spittler

Why are reeded hood columns on longcase clocks not reeded on their reverse side?

The terms reeded and fluted are used interchangeably with reeded favored in Britain and fluted in America. Both terms refer to the straight grooves that are cut into furniture, supposedly to accentuate the lines of the piece. Used in all periods, reeding reached its peak of popularity with Sheraton. Reeding was very popular on longcase clocks from 1760 to 1815. During that period many, if not most, of the hood columns on longcase clocks were reeded. I have examined hundreds of these columns and none were ever reeded on their back side. The reason for this is the topic of this article.



Cross-section View of Reeded Column

The first explanation I received and the one I believed for many years was that the grooves did not show on the back of the column, so they were not grooved to save the extra labor involved with cutting the grooves. As a result of my recent efforts to replace a missing column, I now do not think the "labor saving" rationale is the complete or even the major reason for not reeding the back.

Hood columns on longcase clocks are widest at a point about one third the way up the column. From that point they taper to both the bottom and the top. The top, being twice as far from the widest point ends up being smaller than the base. This classic proportion for columns was used by the Greeks many thousands of years ago. The overall

effect is to make the top of the object the columns are supporting appear to go away from the observer. If straight (untapered) columns are used, the top of the object, the top of our longcase clock in this example, seems to lean forward towards the observer. So much for optical illusions.

To cut grooves on a double tapered column, one must mount the column in a straight sided box and let the top side of the column stand above the box. The outside of the box is used as a guide to keep the grooves straight while the top of the side of the column is used as a guide to maintain uniform depth to the cut.

To make the cut I used simple hand held gouge which is a piece of hardwood cut with a right angled notch to follow a straight side and slotted with a saw to hold a scraper blade (the gouge). The wooden portion of the tool can be made in about 20 minutes and a tooth filed out of a broken paint scraper blade in another 10 minutes.

The box that holds the column is not rigid and must be held secure in a bench vice. This gouge is worked back and forth over the column to cut the grooves one at a time. After a little practice, each cut takes about a minute. It takes another minute to remove the column and box from the vice and index the column by eye to cut another groove. Notice I said index by eye.

This leads us to the conclusion as to why the columns are not grooved on the back. Because the cutter is made up without much regard to exact size in comparison with the diameter of the column and indexing is accomplished by simply rotating the column in the box, making sure the spaces between each cut are about the same size as the cut itself, there is no reason to expect that this "eyeball indexing" will result in the last groove and space coming out equal. The solution, leave a space on the back of the column ungrooved and this indexing error will never show.

And that is the main reason the backside of hand reeded columns are left uncut!

RECOIL

Letters To The Editor

Please note that letters to the editor may be published in whole or part, at the editor's discretion. Every effort will be made to preserve the author's intended message.

THE ENGLISH LEVER ESCAPEMENT

Dear Editor,

Interesting and informative as was the lever variant chart by Arthur Roberts in the last Newsletter, it does contain descriptions that could be confusing to readers. Taking the points in turn:

1) The rack lever escapement can be found in English watches from circa 1792 onwards.

2) Masses No. 1 escapement dates from circa 1813. Early examples have a particularly short length of lever.

3) Masses escapements Nos. 2,3 and 5 (not shown by Roberts) can be found from circa 1816.

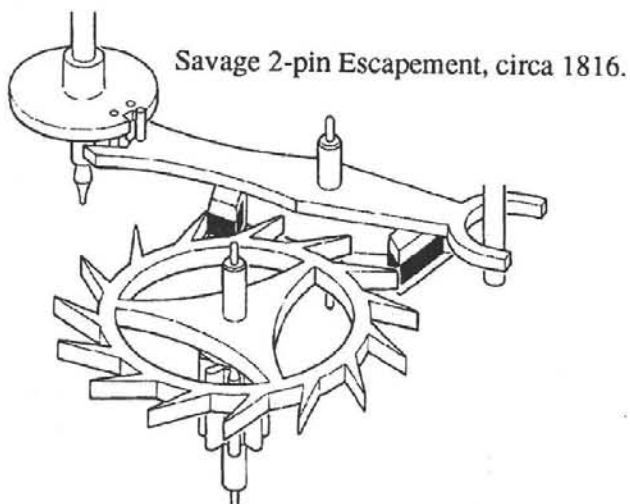
N.B. The nomenclature of Nos. 1 to 5 given to the Massey lever variants do not indicate a sequence of development, just a difference of type.

4) Conversions to single (table) roller from Massey are only obvious when the Massey lever safety action is retained. A change in lever makes it very difficult to spot the conversion. Conversions/changes of one type of Massey roller to another, if well done, can be impossible to see.

5) Single (table) roller escapements can be found from circa 1820 onwards with both a safety flat and a safety crescent.

6) Curved sides to the lever become the norm during the 1820's.

7) Many other variations of lever escapement (the Savage 2-pin for example) are used during this period.



I hope to publish in 1994 a treatise on the English lever escapement and will be showing upwards of 30 different variations, complete with details and dates.

Lastly, and most importantly, it is very difficult to be certain of originality and/or changes to watches of this period, especially so it well done.

Sincerely,
David Penney

INLAID CASE CLEANING. Stuart Kelley shared his way of cleaning the brass inlay in Regency period clock cases. He uses a typist's eraser, in the shape of a pencil, sharpened to the correct width of the inlay to be cleaned. After polishing in this way (without scratching the wood veneer), he maintains the gleaming brass with a thin coat of polyurethane (thinned to 50% strength). (Hope this answers John Hardiman's question from BHT #2.)

CLOCKTRADE: ENGLAND vs USA. Mr. A. D. Harris, immediate past chairman of the British Horological Institute wrote to explain that the Institute's 35 branches throughout the UK actually do have members only horological auctions at least once per year. Also the Clock Fairs open to the public have grown in frequency to about 10 per year, mostly in the London and Birmingham areas.

HELP!!

Both the British Horological Institute and the Antiquarian Horological Society have written to offer encouragement and help. For simplicity, your questions should be sent to Doug Cowan, 110 Central Terrace, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215, and I'll get them to the right person in one of these organizations.

DAVID E. HEILPERN, 7134 FIFTH AVE. NORTH, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33710 has questions on engravings found on the backplates of bracket clocks.

- 1) Who designed these engravings?
- 2) How were these designs given from artist-creator to the actual engraver?
- 3) Were there pattern books of engraving designs available so that customers or makers could order specific designs?
- 4) Were templates or patterns used to transfer a design from paper to brass?
- 5) I notice on many clocks that the location of

pivots and screws are incorporated into the design. Does this mean that the engraving is a one-of-a-kind commission, or the work of the clock maker?

6) Are there any available technical descriptions of the tools, methods, techniques and workshops of clock engravers of bracket clocks? (especially clocks 1725 and earlier)

\$\$ DUES RENEWAL \$\$

\$5.00 US (\$6.00 US for overseas members) payable to Chapter #159, c/o Doug Cowan by September 1, 1994 ONLY FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN 1992 OR 1993.

In order to improve communication, please provide phone number, main interest, e.g. clocks, watches, clock making, books, restoration, etc.

George Savage, Huddersfield & Montreal

courtesy of D. Penney, P. LaVoie, J. Connell, & J. Varkaris

David Penney's letter to the editor (see RE-COIL) mentions the Savage 2-pin watch escapement and his drawing of this is shown in his letter. In fact, George Savage is an interesting subject for Canadian collectors.

George Savage (1767 - 1845) of Huddersfield, Yorkshire was a well known watchmaker who invented the said two pin watch escapement. He also patented a remontoire and in 1822, received a Silver Medal for a detached watch escapement which combined features of the lever and chronometer types.

In 1818 he emigrated to Montreal (Lower Canada, now Quebec) and became a successful jeweller and silversmith. Clocks bearing the names G. Savage, Savage & Son (Joseph) and Savage and Lyman (an American brother-in-law to Joseph) are known.

Most of his longcase clocks are English imports from the 1830's and 1840's with Savage and Son Montreal on the dial, though some dials read London, instead.

The bracket and wall clocks are very typical of the English clocks of the early Victorian period, but the longcase clocks, are perhaps the most interesting, using very attractive Canadian cases with typical painted dial English movements.

George Savage died in 1845, but the firm continued until the 1870's, when an economic depression caused its liquidation.

Varkaris and Connell's book, Early Canadian Timekeepers, Boston Mills Press, 1993 gives an excellent review of Savage during his time in Canada.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

This list has been assembled to facilitate members contacting each other to discuss common interests. Without specific agreement to publish addresses or phone numbers, we felt that it would still be helpful to know who might be in your own geographic areas. To get specific addresses, please call or write the editor and these will be promptly supplied.

Also, where we have this information, I've indicated the member's main horological interest, using the following abbreviations:

B - Books	R - Restoration
C - Clocks	SC - Skeleton Clocks
CB - Clock Builder	W - Watches
D - Clock Dealer	WH - Watch Holders
EC - Electrical Clocks & Time Recorders	

EAST COAST

Ambrosino, Mike	Flushing, NY	
Andrewes, Will	Cambridge, MA	C,W,R
Bartels, Tom	York, PA	C
Blackwell, Dana	Naugatuck, CT	C,W
Bridgen, John	Skillman, NJ	C
Butler, Bob	Fallston, MD	C
Cammarata, John	Marlboro, NJ	
Cherry, Harold	Merrick, NY	
Degnan, Paul	Maplewood, NJ	C
Destival, Jim	Burke, VA	C
Dieter, Fred	W. Springfield, VA	
Gard, Robert	N. Reading, MA	
Gibbard, Julian	Harper's Ferry, WV	R
Grossman, Joe	Brooklyn, NY	W
Grunsell, Gerald	Ridgefield, CT	C
Hansen, Fred	New Paltz, NY	C,D
Hansen, Sean	New Paltz, NY	C,D
Kacik, Walter	New York, NY	
Kelley, Stuart	Reston, VA	C
Langmaid, Norman	Washington, D.C.	C
Marasse, Henry	Somers, NY	
Mialki, Ray	Harwick, PA	
Miller, Harry	Reading, PA	W
Miller, Wm. H.	Glen Arm, MD	
Morgan, David	Whitehouse Stn., NJ	C,D
Nathanson, Neal	Philadelphia, PA	
Richardson, Allen	Allentown, PA	W
Schuetz, George	Woodstock, VT	C
Smith, Lee	Hudson, MA	C
Sposato, Ken	White Plains, NY	C,D
Thompson, Larry	Greenlawn, NY	C,D
Thompson, Steven	Greenlawn, NY	C,D
Thompson, James	N. Arlington, VA	C

MIDDLE USA & CANADA

Barr, Doug	Westlake, OH	
Bergman, Wm.	Kettering, OH	C
Bowman, Bernard	Columbus, OH	C
Brown, Don	Thiensville, WI	C
Bush, Bruce	Whitefish Bay, WI	
Carlson, David	Avon Lake, OH	C
Chaplick, Gerry	Chicago, IL	
Cowan, Doug	Cincinnati, OH	C
Crouse, Melvin	Dayton, OH	C
Curtin, Wm.	Glendale, WI	
Dircks, Lehr	Yellow Springs, OH	EC
England, Charles	Burlington, KY	C
Ferone, Ralph	La Grange, IL	C
Ganczarczyk, Jerzy	Islington, Ont	W
Hahn, Jerry	Cincinnati, OH	C
Hardiman, John	Sagamore Hills, OH	C
Hartwick, Irene	Clinton, Ont	C,D
Heffner, Paul	Waynesville, OH	C
Heiden, John	Barrington, IL	C
Huelsebusch, Mark	Cincinnati, OH	R
Keller, Wm.	Crystal Lake, IL	EC
Kochauer, Victor	Minneapolis, MN	C
Linhart, David	Oak Brook, IL	
McCreight, Greg	Lima, OH	C,R
Miller, Denzil	Miamisburg, OH	C,W,D
Miller, Mike	Cincinnati, OH	C
Mulvin, Walter	Orangeville, OH	W
Murray, Charles	Hamilton, Ont	C,W,B
Nekrosius, Scott	Centerville, OH	C
Niehaus, Jim	Vandalia, OH	C,WH
Roberts, Arthur	Farmington Hills, MI	W
Rozycki, Joanne	Troy, MI	
Spittler, Sonya	New Carlisle, OH	
Spittler, Tom	New Carlisle, OH	C,D
Stockwell, Carl	Lynchburg, OH	
Varga, V	Oakville, Ont	CB,W
Warner, Ralph	Troy, OH	W
Watson, Karen	Franklin, OH	W,C,D
Wehling, Hal	Cincinnati, OH	C
White, Drew	Mississauga, Ont	C,W,D
White, Ted	Dayton, OH	C,R
Wise, Les	Richmond, IN	C
Wolfe, Gene	Calumet City, IL	
Zygowski, Edmund	Selkirk, Ont	R

SOUTH

Caulkins, Doug	Shreveport, LA	W
Jacobs, Ron	Taylors, SC	C
Joos, Wm.	St. Petersburg, FL	CB
Odendahl, Paul	New Orleans, LA	C
Shuey, Ralph	Huntsville, AL	C,W
Stevenson, Donna	Miami, FL	

SOUTH WEST

Bacon, Ben	Rogers, AR	
Barrolaza, Julian	Carefree, AZ	C,W,R
Cox, Richard	Irving, TX	
Garner, R.D.	Albuquerque, NM	
Golay, Paul	Shawnee, OK	
Kiser, George	Austin, TX	
Robbins, Ronald	Headrick, OK	C
Stephens, Francis	Springfield, MO	
Whitehead, Vincent	Houston, TX	

WEST COAST

Barnes, Lloyd	Seattle, WA	C
Booz, Pete	Escondido, CA	SC
Doyle, Larry	Carlotta, CA	W,SC
Hesketh, Les	Sumas, WA	
Hewitt, W.J.	Bellingham, WA	
Holladay, Howard	Fallbrook, CA	
Kruger, Wm.	Lompoc, CA	
Kunkler, Joe	Vista, CA	
Lane, Buford	San Diego, CA	
Linner, Doug	San Diego, CA	
Mackenroth, Noah	Sacramento, CA	
Miller, Lewis	Redwood City, CA	
Murray, Robert	Santa Ana, CA	
Perry, Harvy	Eagle Creek, OR	
Pollack, Bernard	Oceanside, CA	E,C
Poole, George	Portland, OR	
Preston, Wayne	Vista, CA	
Rieger, Karl	Vancouver, BC	
Saunders, R.L.	Vancouver, BC	
Tabakian, Jacques	Santa Ana, CA	
Van Sant, Scott	South Pasadena, CA	
Wagenhals, Nils	Ridgecrest, CA	
Wauson, Richard	San Diego, CA	
Wemer, Wilbur	Spring Valley, CA	
Woodsley, Sam	Murrieta, CA	
Zitter, Saul	Huntington Bch., CA	

OVERSEAS (U.K. & OTHERS)

Allen, Steven	W. Sussex, England	R,CB
Enloc, John	London, England	
LaVoic, Paul	Monserrat, West Indies	C,W
Penncy, David	London, England	W,B
Penman, Laurie	Devon, England	R
Shenton, Rita	Twickenham, England	B
White, Geoffrey	Helsinki, Finland	C,W,D