

Number 4
December 1994

Douglas Cowan
Editor

British Horology Times

NAWCC CHAPTER 159

News FROM CHAPTER 159

Membership is 190 and growing at the rate of 5 per month. The club got a "plug" from the English *CLOCKS* magazine, which might cause some more UK NAWCC members to join. As well, we are glad to welcome our first members from Australia.

After some delay, we have been granted tax free status by the Internal Revenueurs so we don't have to pay income tax on our dues stream. The bank balance, after the IRS \$150 application fee, is up to over \$400 again. This means that we may not have to collect dues again until 1996, though this timing also depends on continued membership growth.

Wishing some wider oversight, the current 3 trustees, Spittler, Dircks and Cowan, have been extended to 5. Mel Crouse of Dayton OH and Bernie Pollack of Oceanside CA have been appointed trustees as of August 1, 1994.

Chapter 159 member LEHR DIRCKS has been nominated to run for the position of Director, NAWCC. I urge all of you to use your votes next spring and to vote for Lehr. He is an excellent person, eager to share his expertise, Chapter 23 past president and a NAWCC Fellow.

The next chapter meeting will be held on

February 2 at the Orlando Florida Regional: Twin Towers Hotel, Dural Room - time 2 PM.

The April 1995 meeting in Cincinnati will be a very informal "show and tell". ☺



Paul Odendahl,
New Orleans LA
is publishing this
newsletter - the
first time that the

"action" has taken place away from the close scrutiny of Tom Spittler and myself. I hope that you enjoy Paul's work. He has given us several good suggestions in past months. It's good to broaden newsletter participation in this way. No less than ten different members have contributed articles to the newsletter, and we want more of you to do so!

Those of you who receive *CLOCKS* magazine from the UK may already know that our co-president Tom Spittler is a frequent contributor of articles. In the September 1994 issue, an expanded version of the BHT issue #3 page concerning Reeded Hood Columns appears. Separately, Stuart Kelley's Dial Rings article from BHT issue #2 is scheduled for the NAWCC Bulletin.

Finally, Tom Spittler has been most appreciative of all the letters and phone calls

which he received in response to the "in-between" newsletter mailed to you this summer. This has enabled him to answer most of the questions relating to British/American production of late Victorian chiming longcase clocks, resulting in his interesting article in this issue of BHT. ☺

- Doug Cowan



Clocks

Unknown makers:
Anyone have dates for Challenger of Wrington, or Parslow/(Parslan?) of Stonehouse? Write or call the Editor, Doug Cowan, 110 Central Terrace, Cincinnati OH 45215, 513-821-7569.



Barry Parker, 28 Berne St., Bateau Bay 2261, Australia **wants** a rack lever pocket watch, and also has some high grade English movements to **sell or trade**. He's making reproduction repoussé outer cases for 18th century pair cased watches too -- more on that in our next newsletter.

Jonathan Scatchard, Vine Cottage, Boroughbridge, York YO5 9JF, England **wants to trade** English and American watches.

Swap. Grandfather with small dial. I have a nice oak grandfather case for a 9" square dial, and a 10" brass 30 hour movement. I want to **trade** my 10" movement for a 9" movement or my 9" case for a 10" case, oak ca. 1770's-ish. Tom Spittler, 513-845-9032

RECOIL



David Heilpern's request for patterns and information concerning the engraving of bracket clock backplates resulted in the following letter from The Antiquarian Horological Society (Tom Robinson):

"Many artists - French, Flemish, English, etc. published engravings in sheet or book form showing flowers, herbs and foliage.

"These designs or drawings were adapted to suit marquetry panels as well as clock dials and backplates, etc.

"Clockmakers probably specified designs they wanted from designs held by the engraver or from existing work by him.

"Engravers worked largely freehand; they still do!, the design being adapted to fill the space and taking into account obstacles, etc. I have seen one 'master' clock dial, beautifully engraved but with no winding holes or dial feet, it was presumably made as a sample only. There is no evidence that any direct transference of design to metal took place.

"The dial or backplate was taken to the engraver after all other work had been completed. To support this there is evidence that Tompion made batches of movements, numbered in sequence, but did not have them engraved until wanted for sale, when they were decorated in the current fashion.

"I do not know of any technical book devoted to engraving of early backplates, but *Practical Engraving on Metal* was published by Percival Marshall & Co, London between the wars, probably 1930's, and is long out of print but should be available in a good library. This gives a good account of traditional engraving methods and tools, which were very simple."

Thank you, Tom Robinson. ☺

MORE ON ELLIOTT

By Tom Spittler

In our last newsletter I presented some information on J.J. Elliott and the American hall Clock industry of 100 years ago. The results have been a great example of what the British Horology chapter is all about. Eight of you wrote or contacted me with information that has been most useful. I thank you all.

As a result of this I have prepared an article for the Bulletin to be published in a couple of years. One part of that article is a list of facts about J.J. Elliott and F.W. Elliott. Those two fact sheets are presented here for your information.

FACT SHEET

James Jones Elliott

Born: 1849 (possibly late 1848)

Place: ? (First known address, 1865: 156 Cheapside, London)

Parents: John Elliott, mother unknown

Apprenticed to Frederick J. & John Bateman, Smithfields, Middlesex working 1863-75 as Bateman Brothers, London.

Dates of apprenticeship: June 24, 1865 - 1870 (age 16-21?)

Details of early employment: Vine & Thompson, 5 Percival St., Clerkenwell, London. Left in 1882.

Whom did he marry? When? (1870-74?) Where?

1886, Started firm J.J. Elliott (possibly J.J. Elliott & Co.), age 37, at 5 Percival St., Clerkenwell, London. This was the old Vine & Thompson premises from which they had moved. Complete Elliott clocks, movements and cases are known from this period. Did J.J. Elliott buy in or make their own cases (possibly both) during this early period (1886-1901)?

1892, J.J. Elliott received British patent 5095 on March 15. The patent covers a clock striking on wires like a piano.

1893, Elliott receives U.S. patent 496,870 on May 9 on same wire piano clock; none of these clocks are known (?).

1900, Business formed into Limited Co., (J.J. Elliott Ltd.)

1901, Firm moves to 121 and 123 Rosebery Ave., Clerkenwell.

1904, Son Frank Westcombe Elliott (1875-1944) takes over firm upon death of James at age 55.

----- Continuing with firm J.J. Elliott Ltd. -----

1907, Frank Elliott files J.J. Elliott Ltd. trademark in Great Britain #293380 on May 31 and starts using mark on clock movements after that date.

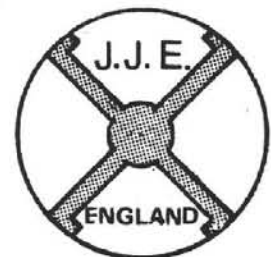
1908, Frank Elliott receives U.S. patent #496870 on same trademark on December 22. Letterhead shows firm as J.J. Elliott & Sons Ltd. Who was brother?

1909, Amalgamation of firm with Grimshaw Baxter.

1911, Relocated to Gray's Inn Lane, London

1917, Relocated to St. Anne's Road, Tottenham.

1921, Amalgamation "broke" and Frank Westcombe Elliott sells "rights" to J.J. Elliott Ltd. (name?) to Grimshaw Baxter.



James Jones Elliott Fact Sheet, continued:

From this point on the firm J.J. Elliott is no longer controlled by the Elliott family. J.J. Elliott Ltd. hall clock known from 1929. J.J. Elliott Ltd. clock (type unknown) reported from 1937. Possibly firm still in existence today??? **Question:** *When Frank Elliott sold the name and rights to J.J. Elliott Ltd. the employees and the equipment at St. Anne's Road must have gone to Grimshaw Baxter???* *Many of the employees returned to Frank in 1923.*

Dating J.J. Elliott Ltd. clocks: the movements were numbered but no dates are associated with numbers and it is not known if numbers were sequential or by movement model number.

FACT SHEET

Frank Westcombe Elliott

Born, 1875

Place, Probably London?

Mother, ?

Father, James Jones Elliott.

1892, Father purchased him partnership in retail jeweller Walden, Brompton Rd., London

1904, Took over firm J.J. Elliott Ltd. at age 29 upon death of father.

1904-1921 (see details on J.J. Elliott fact sheet)

Between 1921 and 1923 Frank joins firm Gillett & Johnson Ltd. at Union Road, Croydon.

1923, Frank takes over Gillett's domestic clock production (domestic meaning clocks for the home - Gillett & Johnson continued making public clocks) and formed the present company F.W. Elliott Ltd., Union Road, Croydon. Many former J.J. Elliott employees come over to Frank.

1923, Showroom opens at 105 Hatton Garden (London).

Frank's 3 sons join firm:

Horace, 1919, Richard's father

Ronald, 1929

Leonard 1946

1932, Son Horace, works manager, introduces Imperial pendulum chime. Back wind movement introduced.

1939 to end of WWII, clock production slows.

1944, Frank Westcombe Elliott dies in December at age 69. Horace Elliott takes over as director.

1950, Firm introduces 5 tube version of their hall clock.

1952, Horace Elliott made Chairman of BHI and Horace's son Tony joins firm as cabinet making expert.

1958 Showroom moved to Tharies Inn (London?).

1965, Showroom moved to factory (Croydon?).

1966, Peter Elliott, Ronald's son, joins firm.

Later in 1966, Ronald Elliott dies at age 66.

1967, Richard Elliott, Horace's oldest son, joins company full time.

1968, Richard Elliott appointed as Managing Director with Horace becoming Chairman.

1978, F.W. Elliott purchases Thwaites & Reed.

1991, M. Lee purchases F.W. Elliott and Thwaites & Reed.

1992, New name: Elliott London.

Frank Westcombe Elliott Fact Sheet, continued:

1993, Richard Elliott ceases to be a director

1994, Peter Elliott ceases to be a director. M. Lee, Owner and Director states:

- "Thwaites & Reed is operating as a separate entity, making turret clocks,
- "Elliott London now makes clock movements for the trade and a full range of 200 traditionally made bracket, mantle and longcase clocks,
- "There is a new range of American Cherry clocks fitted with traditional movements."

In a future BHT Tom will consider the importance of the chime tubes in dating these clocks.

Dating F.W. Elliott Ltd. clocks: Pre-War, year of manufacture was stamped on movement (i.e. 1935). Post-War, year/month was stamped on movement (i.e. 52/7 is July 1952).

I now need photos of Elliott Clocks as well as other hall clocks with Elliott movements and any Walter Durfee and Bawo and Dotter clocks for the Bulletin article. Please

contact me if you might be willing to provide photographs and I will let you know what I need. Tom Spittler, 10925 Sigler Rd., New Carlisle OH 45344. ☺



A LOT IN NEXT BHT!

A letter from Australia

Where to find parts

And more

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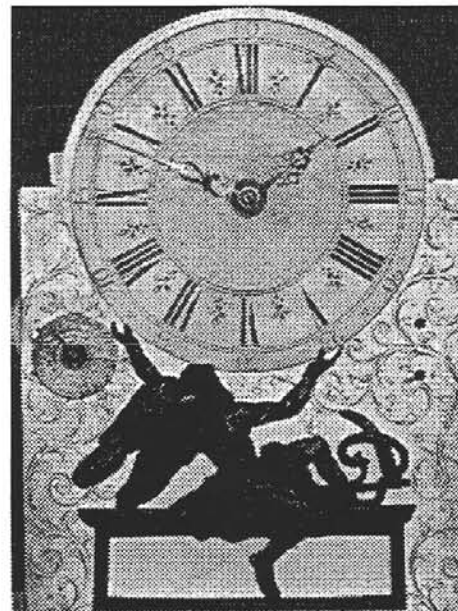
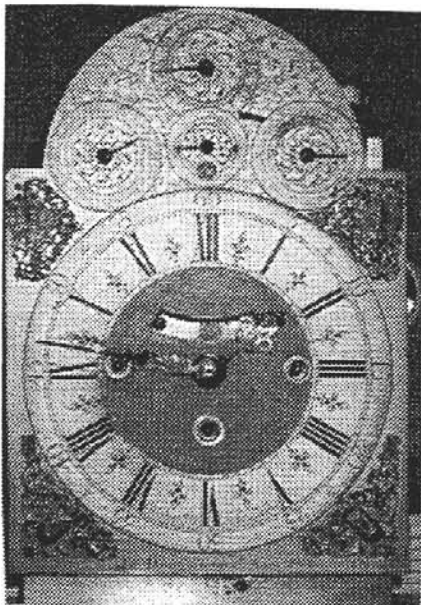
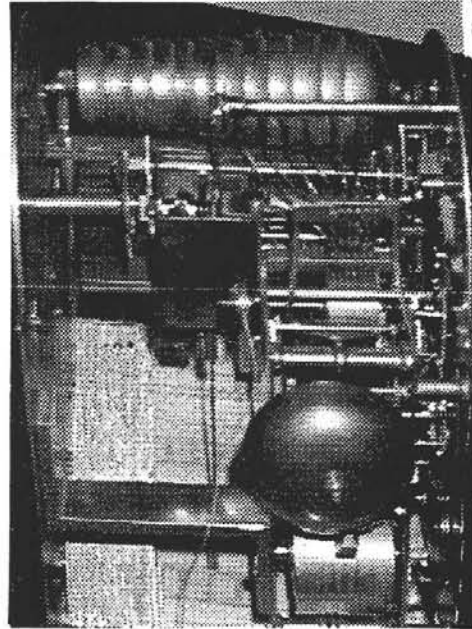
A CLOCK FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Doug Cowan

The clock shown in the pictures is unique even in the experience of the London auction houses! It is a musical (24 hammers on 12 bells) and calendar movement by Claudius du Chesne, London, ca 1715, a Huguenot immigrant from France who was known for complex clocks.

The movement has TWO DIALS! Each is about 8 inches wide and the movement is about 12 inches deep. The "front" dial with the winding arbors is English, and the "back" dial is very French in style, with both appropriate for an early 1700's clock.

Now for the story that goes with it: The movement was purchased by a Vancouver collector at a garage sale, just before it was to be thrown out! Subsequently the collector died and I was contacted by an agent of his family with a request for casing advice prior to them selling it. I told them to sell "as is" since it is extremely rare and the case style unknown. By the way, the asking price was Cdn.\$50,000! Finally it ended up at Sotheby's, London on October 6 of this year, estimated to bring US\$17,000 to \$25,000. It was bid in (didn't sell) for about \$10,000, so it's probably still available. Anybody have an idea about the case? I visualize a bell top case in a magnificent finish such as red tortoiseshell, which was in use then. I think that the case would have been made with two fronts so that it could be displayed either way, as your national politics dictated. ☺



HOROLOGICAL HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND

By Doug Cowan

Where to begin? England is a treasure island for lovers of clocks and watches. If there is sufficient reader interest, I'll do more articles, but for now, let's try to do justice to those shops, museums and events in London and the South (see map page 9). But first, an apology to our watch collector readers -- my interests lie mainly in clocks, and most of the shops I'll mention feature clocks. If members will send me some details of their favorite English watch dealers, I'll be glad to provide these in a future newsletter. And, remember that things change! I can accept no responsibility for the future accuracy of addresses, phone numbers, etc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The reason I shop in England is because it is much easier to find rare and desirable clocks there. For example, a recent Sotheby's auction included about 15 clocks ca 1700. When did you last see that many for sale in the USA or Canada? But don't expect bargains! I've consistently found "sleepers" in less well known American clocks, but almost never in English or European ones. Like it or not, both the English and US currencies are weak, and England sees very strong international competition for clocks and watches.

Plan Ahead! Here are some tips:

Take English travellers checks, and use your credit cards. US\$ travellers checks and US cash will receive very unfavorable exchange rates. When buying antiques, £ cash will get you the best price.

Have your shipping ideas clear before you shop. If you want to pack and ship home as luggage (62 inches total of length, width and depth, plus 70 lbs maximum weight) a Packaging Supplies store will provide all that you need. A good one is A&A Packaging, to the south of Gatwick airport, phone 0705 597792.

Alternatively, an excellent shipper is Hedley's Humpers in northwest London, phone 081 9658733. They are much less expensive than the fine arts shippers associated with the major auction houses and will pick up if that's needed.

If possible go in May, June, September or October. Then the weather is best, the vacation spots less crowded, and there are more auctions. For travel outside of London, you'll need a car. Don't expect to average more than 35 mph on the country roads, and it's less expensive if you arrange the rental before you arrive in England. Also you will really need a 3 miles to the inch scale road atlas. I haven't found affordable good lodging in London, preferring to stay in outlying towns and commute into the city. Cheap day return train tickets are sold after 9:30AM. Do book accommodation before arrival and departure because it is scarce in the vicinity of the airports.

Some publications which will make your visit more enjoyable are: *Weekly Antiques Trade Gazette*, available every Tuesday near London auction houses and antiques fairs. Lists everything going on for next 2 weeks. It is my one essential purchase (about \$2).

Quarterly Antiques Trade Calendar, lists shows and fairs for 3 months. Available at antique shops or from ATC, GP London, 32 Fredericks Place, North Finchley, London N12 8QE (about \$2).

Buying for the best price is not very different in England. At outdoor antique and flea markets (called "boot fairs"), haggling is expected. Always ask for "Your best trade price in cash". This will usually be about the lowest that the price can be. In shops, add "for export". If you'll handle the simple paperwork when leaving England, the dealer can avoid some sales tax, which he may be willing to share with you.

So here we go!



Horological Holidays in England, continued

I've divided the information into five vacation areas, as follows:

- A. London City
- B. London, South Suburbs
- C. South Central England
- D. The West Country
- E. Just West of London

AREA A, LONDON

Nearest underground station is given in brackets (), if known.

Most of the following museums are open from 10 to 6 daily, except Sunday when it's 2 to 6 PM. All have good clock exhibits, and the Guildhall especially has watches. See October 1994 Bulletin for museum details.



Clockmaker's Co. Arms

British Museum (Tottenham Court Road)

Guildhall Museum (Bank)

The Wallace Collection, mainly French clocks and weapons (Bond St.)

Victoria & Albert Museum and nearby **Science Museum** (S. Kensington)

London Museum at Kensington Palace (Queensway)

Antique Markets in London tend to be expensive, but they are fun. The best are:

Portobello Rd. (Notting Hill Gate). This one's on Saturday morning and features hundreds of indoor and outdoor stalls.

Camden Passage (Angel). Wednesday and Saturday mornings, plus lots of antique shops open 6 days.

Bermondsey (London Bridge). Mostly outdoors, rain or shine, on Friday mornings. Starts about 5AM by flashlight and is over by 10AM. Don't try to find it in the dark if it's your first visit. Take a taxi.

Permanent indoor antique centers are

usually open on Bond St. (Grey's Market), Church St. (Alfie's), King's Road (Chelsea Market), to name just a few. Finally, there's an antiques "fair" almost every weekend, whether large or small. Consult your *Antiques Trade Gazette* for these.

Clock\Watch Auctions are held typically four times per year, in March, June, October and December by four main firms. These are listed below with their phone numbers. Drop the first 0 if your are calling from N. America.

Bonham's, Montpelier St. near Harrod's,
071 3933900

Christie's, King St., 071 8399060

Phillips, New Bond St., 071 6296602

Sothebys, New Bond St., 071 4085359

These companies also have many country town auctions which often have clocks or watches. A particularly nice one is Sotheby's at Billingshurst in the South, held about quarterly in a large, stately country estate. At all English auctions, viewing is informal and leisurely with the chance to closely examine the many fine and rare items.

Watch and Clock Dealers are too numerous to list here, so I'll just mention a few to get you started. Any of them will direct you to others:

Patric Capon, 350 Upper St.,

T. Plank, 359 Upper St.

Bushwood Antiques, 317 Upper St.

All of the above are in or near the Camden Passage market.

Near Christie's you'll find:

J. Carlton Smith (clocks) and
Camerer Cuss (watches), both at
17 Ryder St.

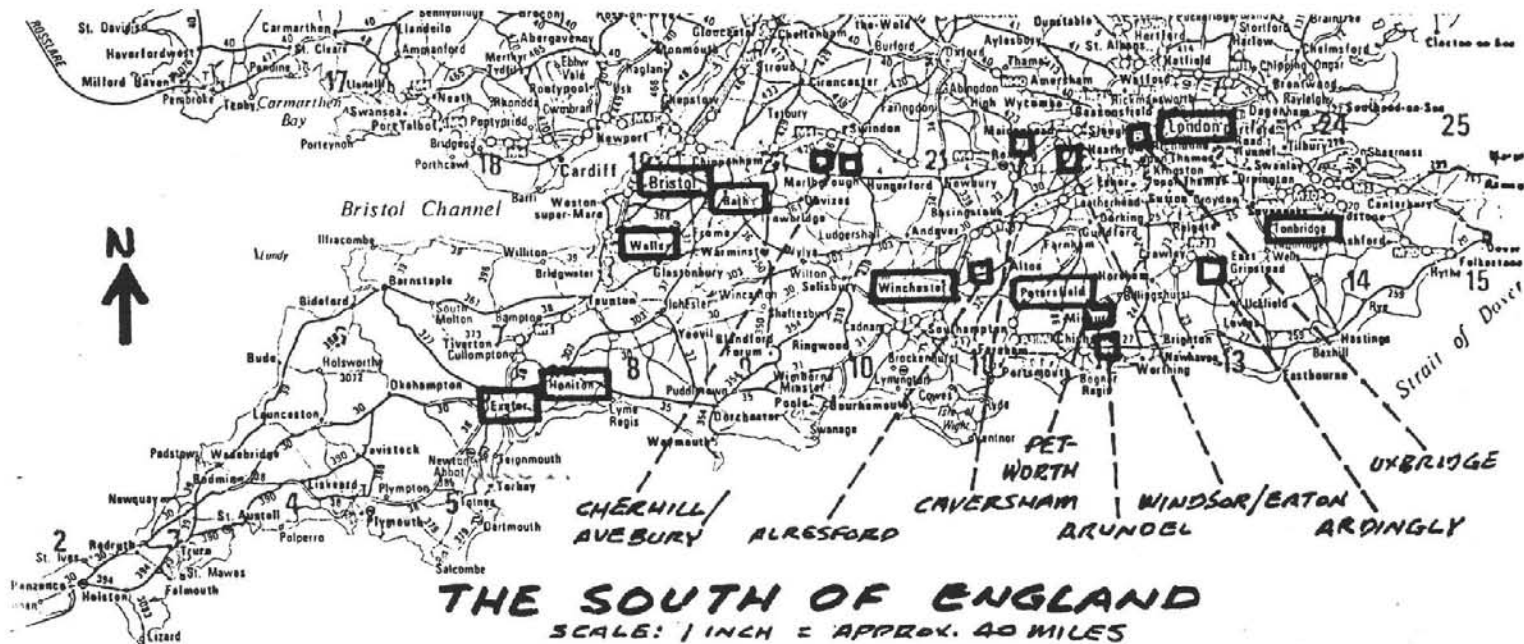
Philip Whyte (chronometers\watches),
32 Bury St

In the Chelsea district are:

E. Hollander, 84 Fulham Rd.

John Coxhead, 464 Fulham Rd.

Horological Holidays in England, continued



AREA B, SOUTH LONDON SUBURBS PLUS GREENWICH

You will need a car for the rest of these trips. I've also tried to locate shops which have other attractions nearby, to placate long suffering companions!

Greenwich is of course actually southeast of London, but is a good visit due to lots of antique shops plus the National Maritime Museum on Romney Rd. (Chronometers, astro-regulators, watches.)

Due south of London you'll find B.S. Antiques, 39 Bridge St., E. Molesey, among several antique shops and near Hampton Court Palace. Nearby Weybridge contains the Clock Shop at 64 Church St. Tattenham Antiques, 1a The Parade, Burgh Heath is a shop with both restored and unrestored clocks for sale.

The town of Dorking is worth a day, with lots of antique shops, three of which have good clocks. These are: Hampshire's, Patrick Thomas, and Nicholas Harman, all on West St.

AREA C, SOUTH CENTRAL ENGLAND

We'll start to the east of Motorway 23 in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport. Excellent clock shops include: Derek Roberts, 25

Shipbourne Rd., Tonbridge; Tony Woodburn, Leigh near Tonbridge; and the Old Clock Shop, 63 High St., West Malling.

Also east of the M23 is the Ardingly antiques fair, held twice per year at the show-ground (fairgrounds). This is a one day show, but it is so large that it is worth paying the dealer fee of £20 to get in the day before, during setup. The atmosphere is much like the Brimfield, Mass. antique shows. This is recommended, as are the even bigger Newark (in the Midlands) shows run by the same people. Ring International Antiques & Collectors Fairs at 0636 702326 for dates.

West of the M23, heading towards Winchester on the A272, detour south to Arundel, a scenic town with antique shops, including Frank Henderson's clock shop. Then back to A272 and Petworth, another historic town, home to Baskerville Antiques. Some general antique stores in Petersfield have clocks. As you approach Winchester watch for Alresford and Evans and Evans, 40 West St., open Friday and Saturday. And in Winchester lies the well known shop of Gerald Marsh at 32a The Square.

Horological Holidays in England, continued

AREA D, THE WEST COUNTRY

By this I'm using a less strict definition than would the locals. Starting west on the M4, you can search out a small shop called Yealland, 17 prospect St., Caversham, just north of Reading. Further west, at Cherhill, near Calne, is P.A. Oxley, a large shop out in the countryside. A side trip to the prehistoric stone monoliths at Avebury is well worthwhile, followed by visits to the Roman city of Bath and scenic Wells. Wells market square contains a clock/scientific instrument shop too.

Other West Country interests could include K&D Clocks, in the Bristol Antique Center, on Broad Plain in Bristol; and in Honiton, the Clock Clinic, at 167 High St. -- also lots of antique shops in Honiton! Exeter boasts a quarterly indoor show - call 0136 382571 for details.

AREA E, JUST WEST OF LONDON

This segment is mainly to describe the Clock and Watch fairs held in April, October and December at Brunel University, Uxbridge. These are like an NAWCC regional mart, with about 150 packed tables. They are held on Sundays and are open to the public. Buy carefully! - even the organizers say that 80% of the items are "unrestored". Phone 0895 834357 for dates.

And finally, a visit to Windsor/Eton is very pleasant, including a stop at Times Past, on Eton's main street. They sell mostly 19th century clocks.

I'm sure that I've missed many good places, so if you like this information, send me your ideas, and I'll consider similar articles covering middle England and also Scotland and the North. ☺



Would you like to offer an article for publication in BHT?

**Short, long, a memory, a tip, an interesting experience,
a special clock?**

Just jot it down and send it to the Editor:

Doug Cowan

110 Central Terrace

Cincinnati OH 45215

Great writing skills not necessary. We will edit.