

Number 5
April 1995



Douglas Cowan
Editor

British Horology Times

NAWCC CHAPTER 159

Notes

FROM CHAPTER 159

Membership has reached 205 despite the loss of about 20 members who didn't respond to our friendly personal letters reminding them of dues renewals. A few aren't even members of the NAWCC anymore but in any case we thanked them for their membership support during our struggling early months. I continue to forecast no more dues needed from current members until sometime in 1996.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- **April 7, 1995, Cincinnati Regional.** This will be very informal.
- **June 22 or 23, 1995, Richmond VA** at the NAWCC national convention. This is our annual meeting. Our guest speaker, subject to his attendance, will be EDMUND ZYGOWSKI of Selkirk Ontario. He'll present his excellent program from the 1994 NAWCC Seminar, concerning the restoration of early English clocks.
- **September 29, 1995, Del Mar CA,** during the Pacific Rim regional. Please see your Mart for details of this new regional. Our British Horology Meeting will be hosted by BERNIE POLLACK, and TOM SPITTLER will be guest speaker. It will be good to have a Chapter 159 meeting on the West Coast. Bring something along for the "show & tell" session! ☺

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

By Barry Parker, Bateau Bay

Australia was a British penal colony and our first settlers arrived in 1797. No watch or clock factories were ever established and consequently everything horological was imported.

In a country with an area as large as the USA and a total population which is just exceeded by that of the combined cities of Chicago and New York, it is not surprising that there are very few dealers in old watches and clocks.

There are a few antique timepiece specialist repair shops with well qualified workers who can turn out

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**Editor's
Corner**



Lots of you have enjoyed the improvements made to the readability of BHT as seen in issue #4. All of the credit

goes to PAUL ODENDAHL, publisher and backup editor. Please express your thanks the next time that you see him.

TOM SPITTLER'S article in this issue, *Buying Materials in England*, will be followed up in future issues with more suggestions, and with phone numbers when we have them. Please send me the names of your favorite parts and service vendors for inclusion next time. (Doug Cowan, 110 Central Terrace, Cincinnati OH 45215) ☺

AUSTRALIA, from page 1

first class results. Repair costs are usually much lower than USA, as the dollar exchange rate favors the USA. Most of these repair shops have items for sale.

Antique shops are plentiful but watches and clocks are usually very ordinary and overpriced.

In the past, watch/clock auctions were held bi-annually but were dropped because of lack of buyers. Australian collectors are well known to have long pockets and short arms! They are also very secretive for fear of becoming robbery targets and one can only wonder at what is held by them.

Recently the European based Antiquorum company has been operating in our major cities, taking out full page advertisements to buy high ticket wrist and pocket watches for resale at auction in Europe.

Three NAWCC chapters operate in the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Small marts and occasional auctions are held. 95% of the members' interest is in clocks. Of course by the time that you read this, the first Australian NAWCC regional will have been held, at Parramatta, near Sydney.

I believe that there may well be "sleepers" in the Australian watch and clock field. As a matter of interest, an early Bulletin reports that the very last key wind pocket watch made by Waltham was exported to Australia.

As a retiree I realized that my hobby budget would soon be exhausted so I decided to become a collector/dealer and thus have the pleasure of locating interesting pieces to restore and then finding good homes for the finished watches. This activity has kept me

busy in retirement and I have attended the national conventions in Chicago, Dallas and Orlando, where I've met many nice people through the NAWCC connection.

Incidentally, any member planning to visit Sydney, Australia is invited to contact me prior to your trip and I will be pleased to assist in any way that I can. ☺

Barry Parker
28 Berne St.
Bateau Bay 2261
Australia

Phone 011 61 43 327568

Fax 011 61 43 344148

Editor's Note: Mr. Parker is making and selling silver pair cases for 18th century watches, as well as recast repousse outer cases in 9 ct. gold. Please contact him for details. (See advertisement on page 4.)



RESEARCH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Philip Priestley is researching a sequel to his NAWCC Supplement #20 with the intention of identifying Watch Case Makers in the 100 years prior to 1720 (the start date for his supplement).

Specifically, Phil needs information on any **Watch in a Gold or Silver Case** which has either a **Maker's Mark and/or a London or Chester Date Letter on the case prior to 1720**, also any **Maker's Mark on Base Metal Gilt Cases**.

PLEASE ONLY PROVIDE DATA ON WATCHES WHICH HAVE A MARKED CASE AS DETAILED ABOVE.

Requested information:
MOVEMENT:

Description (eg Pair-case Verge)
Maker/Retailer and his address
(on plate or dial)

Other information on movement or dial

CASE(S):

Metal (gold, silver, gilt base metal, etc.)

Date Letter (can send a drawing)
Assay Office Mark (Leopard's head for London, parts of three lions and a wheat-sheaf for Chester)

Maker's mark (please draw an exact outline and state whether cut [stamped in], or in a cameo)

Any other markings

See **RESEARCH**, page 4

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Editor: DOUG COWAN

All correspondence, manuscripts and applications for membership should be sent to Doug Cowan, 110 Central Terrace, Cincinnati OH 45215, USA.

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MARRIAGES

By Paul Odendahl

Not your's, your clock's.

First let's define a clock marriage. Let's say that a clock marriage is the putting together of two elements: a movement and a case, neither of which was made by the same artisan. Using that simple definition it is probable that your clock is a marriage.

But, you say, I don't like to think of my clock as a marriage, first because it has become a derogatory term ("that married-up piece") and second because I think of a clock marriage as one where the movement and the case didn't start life together. OK, then we should redefine: a clock marriage is one where the elements are of different ages, perhaps even of different generations and one or both of the elements have previously been divorced. Or widowed.

Before we go too far with this let's talk about sex. For most of my clock life I could never figure out the sex of a clock. "It" sounds harsh and I would rather refer to my dear clocks as "he" or "she" but I know "it" is the pronoun most people use, probably because they can't figure it out either. Well this essay eliminates the problem. Wipes it out. By either the Different-Artisan definition or the Divorced-Widowed definition any given clock is most likely a marriage and therefore there are two genders. I choose to think of the movement as the male and the case as the female. I feel better now. You can reverse the genders if you wish to or if it makes you feel better.

What's the motive for these marriages? For the Different-Artisan marriage the motive is to give birth.

For the Divorced-Widowed marriage the motive is to prolong life and therein lies the essence of the logic for an argument that can be made in favor of Divorced-Widowed marriages. Grant that male and female parts of a clock will likely have different life expectancies. The male movement, generally speaking, will outlast the female case. No offense to the female case but it's the part that takes all the external punishment like bumping and gouging, pushing, lifting, mopping, cleaning and so on, and it's also the part that is usually more fragile being made of wood in many instances and relying on glue and fasteners to hold it together. In the case of fire or flood the case will fare the worst.

So it seems logical to assume that some movements will survive over time and many cases will not. What to do with these movements? Well, it would not be right to just cast aside a widowed movement, especially if it is a fine movement or carries the name of a reputed maker. So, look around and wait for a suitable case? Or make a new case? Both have been done. Finding a suitable case for the movement is very difficult. Making a new case is hard enough but in the hands of a skilled and sympathetic craftsman the outcome can be a marriage made in heaven (like yours).

In the book *Early English Clocks*, Percy Dawson discusses the evolution of domestic clock cases from about 1660 when he counts at least two specialist clock casemakers until the beginning of the 18th century when there were many more, and in no place is there a reference to a clockmaker who made his own cases. Certainly Tompion, Knibb, Quare, Windmills, Graham and other masters relied on specialists for their

clock cases as well as for their engraving, dials, hands and who knows what else. Different-Artisan marriages were effectively used by the old masters.

An interesting example of a Different-Artisan proposal of marriage was divulged by Susan Stuart of Lancaster, England during her February 1994 lecture at the NAWCC Florida National Meeting. She shared some of her research amongst which were excerpts from the Gillow Archives. Gillow was a Lancaster furniture making firm in the 18th century and clock cases were within their capabilities. The Gillows Order Book shows that a certain Mr. Bonnette of Guadeloupe, West Indies gave an order to Gillow for "One clockcase neatly and firmly made if a clock can be procured for it". The date was 1760.

"Here's a first rate opportunity

To get married with impunity..."

-The Pirates of Penzance, Act I

Certainly there do exist today fine examples of the Different-Artisan marriage. Passed down through the family (perhaps royal) and carefully and lovingly kept, perhaps in a castle in Kent, tucked away for safekeeping during wars or civil unrest, these (usually very expensive) objects can come to your attention in an auction house where they are briefly exposed to reverent eyes, handling, inspection and minute examination, and then they

See MARRIAGES, page 4



MARRIAGES, from page 3

disappear. Similarly there exist fine examples of Divorced-Widowed marriages and you may not know that they are such and neither may the owner. Some restoration of movement is acceptable on an old piece for parts do wear and earlier repairers may not have been sympathetic. On a fine old clock, much case restoration may be needed. Indeed the case may be missing or too far gone so that a different, properly fitted, old one, or a new one may be called for. It seems that such a preservation of the work of these old craftsmen is a fitting tribute to them and to the nations in which they practised. ♥



Editor's note: The "Marriages" which Paul doesn't discuss are those "brokered" by individuals for the purpose of financial gain and/or to mislead a buyer. For example it's known that marquetry longcases often contain non-original movements, since the combination of a top "name" and a marquetry case is nearly irresistible! Any readers' comments upon this subject?



We'd like to wake up our **Letters to the Editor** column — but we need (guess what) l-e-t-t-e-r-s.

!

RESEARCH, from page 2

Phil is making the rounds of the UK museums but would welcome data on members' watches and the whereabouts of appropriate watches (say circa 1600 to 1720) in collections in the USA and in Europe (excluding UK).

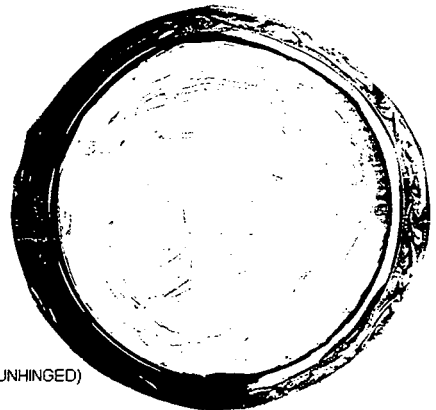


1711-2 1712-3 1713-4 1714-5 1715-6 1716-7 1717-8 1718-9 1719-0 1720-1

Please send any data to:

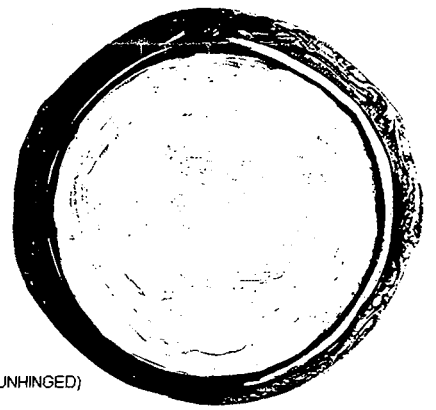
Phil Priestley
1 Foxdell Way
Chalfont Saint Peter
Bucks SL9 0PL
UK

or to the Editor. The strictest confidence will be maintained. ☺

ORIGINAL CAST SILVER REPOUSSE OUTER PAIR CASE, CA 1760

(SHOWN UNHINGED)

INNER CASES WERE OFTEN ORIGINALLY SILVER/GILT AND NOT GOLD

PARKER REPRODUCTION IN 9 CARAT GOLD, CA 1994

(SHOWN UNHINGED)

I could supply 9 carat outer cases only \$750 US (4 presently available)

BARRY PARKER

28 Berne St, Bateau Bay 2261, Australia
Phone 011 61 43 327568; Fax 011 61 43 344148

BUYING MATERIALS IN ENGLAND

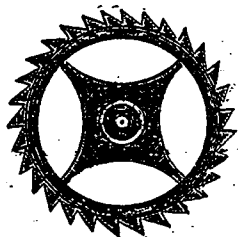
From an article by Laurie Penman
Condensed by Tom Spittler

This article in its full length version appeared in the July 1994 edition of *CLOCKS* magazine. We have shortened the article to provide the members of the British Horology Chapter with information on where to buy materials for British clocks. The editor of *CLOCKS*, Mr. John Hunter, has given us permission to publish this article. The addresses of the firms mentioned were not given in the article, but all the cities are in England, so if you need to contact one of the firms you will have to conduct your own investigation to find a mailing address. I find that international telephone information will usually give you the telephone number AND the address if you use their service. (Editor's note: If your LD carrier is AT&T, dial "00" to access the AT&T operator who can connect you to international directory assistance. There is a charge of \$3.95 plus toll charge.)

- Southern Watch and Clock Supplies Ltd, Orpington. One of the largest parts houses. Have a large catalog and good value on common items but require a minimum order of £15.
- Meadows and Passmore, Crowborough. Another large parts house with a catalog. They do go out of their way to try and find large mainsprings for fusee clocks. They also have ruby pallets for Brocot visible escapements (for you French clock people).
- Mahoneys, Bristol
- Bartlett and Son, Southampton
- R.E. Rose, London
- Jevons, Birmingham
- Cousins, Romford

The previous five firms are all smaller parts houses that just might have what you are looking for. Their prices are lower than the larger houses and they all have catalogs.

- C.R. Frost, London. Another small parts house who have a large range of glass domes. They also have a good range of raw parts for longcase and dial clocks.
- The Glass Dome Company of Tonbridge also handle glass domes.
- Carter of Swavesey, Cambridge and
- R.C. Wadsworth of Willington both repair platform escapements, including cylinder escapements but they are expensive.
- Devon Clocks, Exmouth can supply new platforms for about £30.
- Lynton Dials of Fenham, Norfolk can supply expensive replacement vitreous enamelled dials for carriage clocks. They can make custom dials to match your original up to 10 inches. Cost £40-50.
- Chris Wadge of Salisbury can supply silvering paste of high quality in small amounts.
- Jim Habgood of Barnstaple has fusee chain for clocks in four sizes.
- The Clockmaker of Gosport,
- Ellis-Rees of Burford, Oxon, and
- Jones and Chambault of Chunderwen will all cut clock wheels and pinions.



Our own British Horology Chapter members:

- Greg McCreight of Greg's Clock Shop in Lima, Ohio, and
- Jim Christianson of Ohio also will be able to cut wheels and pinions for any British clock.
- John Wardle and Co. of Brailsford Derbyshire can supply you with a new bell strike longcase movement for £600. They also have a complete line of finished and raw longcase parts including steel hands blanked at £5.75 a pair.
- Turn a Round of Rockland Saint Mary, Norwich can supply many case parts that commonly fall off clocks.
- Laurie Penman himself can supply many items including a quality silvering paste.
- Newcombe and Son of London make new longcase cases in the traditional styles.
- Timberleys of Littlehampton, West Sussex restore longcase dials as does
- John Pearson of Harrogate

We hope you have luck finding the part or service you need. If you do and you feel the members of the British Horology Chapter would want to know of your success, write the Editor and we will let everyone know of your find. ☺



Bracket clock hands,
Jonathan Lowndes, ca 1690

The
Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company, Ltd.
 Watch and Clock Catalog
 (London)
 Dated 1901

Contains the following:

**“The Company undertake the winding of Clocks
 in any part of London by yearly contract.”**

This opens up a possible subject of historical interest:

What kind of workman did the Company send out to do this?

Was he skilled?

How many keys did he carry?

Would he check the movement? Any other tools?

Clean the glass?

Look for possible repairs?

Considering dial clocks, a ladder would be necessary.

Who provided the ladder?

How did the workman make his rounds?

On foot?

Bicycle?

How did the workman gain access?

Was he on a schedule specific to day and time?

Did he carry identification?

Was he constrained to a certain time limit per job? What was it?

What was the Company's charge for the winding service?

How payable?

How was the workman paid?

If this kind of information has been recorded it would be of great interest to re-publish it in the Times. Otherwise an interesting story could be written by anyone who has the facts in his mind or who is willing to undertake a bit of research. Anybody interested?

c o n t e n t s

RESEARCH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

by Philip Priestley

Help needed about watches
with marked cases.

MARRIAGES

by Paul Odendahl

Do you have a marriage?
What kind?

EDITOR'S CORNER

CHAPTER 159 NEWS

Membership update, dates
of future meetings given.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

by Barry Parker

Barry paints the picture of what's
going on "down under".

BUYING MATERIALS IN ENGLAND

by Laurie Penman

condensed by Tom Spittler

A descriptive listing of
many parts sources.