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March 2000



Paul Odendahl
Editor & Publisher

British Horology Times

NAWCC CHAPTER 159

News FROM CHAPTER 159

Of course the big news for this year will be the "almost millenium" NAWCC seminar in London England, October 26 to 28. Chapter 159 member Ken Johnston is the US contact person and Phil Priestley is the organizer from the UK end. The topic is the history of British timekeeping, so how could we not like that? Top UK speakers are lined up and the 250 or so seats are about half sold. Why not also join our chapter in an adventure before the seminar? Secretary Frank Del Greco is arranging a tower clock tour with embellishments such as Stonehenge, and can accomodate a few more people at this writing. See you there! Ken's phone is 252-635-6431 and Frank's is 440-338-8261.

Our speaker for the April meeting at the Southern Ohio Regional, April 7-8 at Drawbridge Estates in Fort Mitchell KY will again be John Taylor from England. He spoke last year and was one of our most popular speakers ever, with up to date English market perspective and colorful views.

Member Steve Nelson from Oklahoma is working his way into the leadership of the NAWCC Bulletin Answer Box. Hopefully this will result in Steve finding tidbits for publication in our British Horology Times as well.

-Doug Cowan

Attention English Tower Clock Enthusiasts

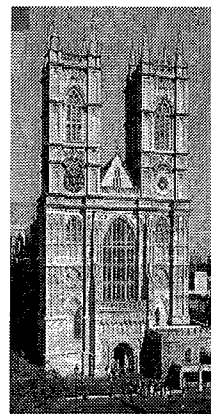
There are still a few openings in Chapter 159's tour of tower clocks in England, to occur the 11 days immediately preceding the NAWCC seminar in London this year. The tour will start on October 15 and will end October 26, the day the seminar begins. If you are planning to attend the seminar and would like to join the tour, please contact Frank Del Greco at 440-338-8261 or fdelgreco@aol.com as soon as possible for details and an itinerary. Phil Priestley and I are finalizing reservations now.

We will visit tower clocks in Banbury, Salisbury and London (including Westminster tower and Big Ben), with stops along the way. There will also be opportunities to see a variety of clocks and watches. We will visit the Whitechapel bell foundry.

The cost of the tour is \$1,700 per person. That includes hotel accommodations, roughly half of the dinners and breakfasts, entrance fees and luxury coach transportation to all the places we will be visiting. We will also have some special hosts, including Chris McKay.

Hope you can join us!

-Frank Del Greco



WESTMINSTER ABBEY

NEXT MEETING

At Ft. Mitchell KY, Drawbridge Estates
during the Southern Ohio Regional,
April 7-8, 2000

For details please
consult your program
upon arrival.



**EDITOR'S
CORNER**

Psst... the Editor will reveal a secret to you →

TWO BARRAUD CLOCKS

Douglas Cowan (OH) discusses the way it was done 200 years ago.

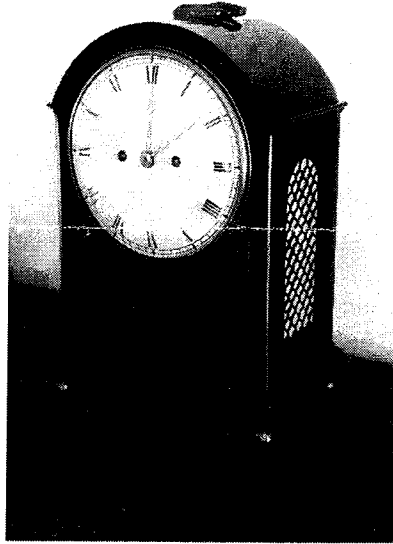


Fig. 1. *The Barraud's/Holmden clock.*

For several years I've puzzled over the prolific range of products sold under the name Barrauds (sometimes spelled Barraud's) Cornhill London. How did a man who was a trained watchmaker, and whose special personal interests were precision watches and chronometers, and who only ever had 5 apprentices manage to make over 10,000 watches and at least 1,000 clocks—including at least one tower clock?

This man was Paul Philip Barraud, a third generation descendant of French immigrants, who is believed to have trained with his watchmaking father Francis, working in Shoe Lane and Wine Street, London, until Francis died in 1795. Francis was not a member of the Company so Paul was not a legitimate apprentice in their eyes. Instead he joined the Clockmakers' Company by redemption—that is, he paid to get in. He worked from 1796 to his death in 1820 at the Cornhill address and left behind a fine reputation, some horological successors, and considerable wealth. He was active in the Company and also a successful business investor, such as the East India Company.

Mr. Cedric Jagger explains the prodigious output of Barrauds, Cornhill in a 1968 AHS publication. He thinks

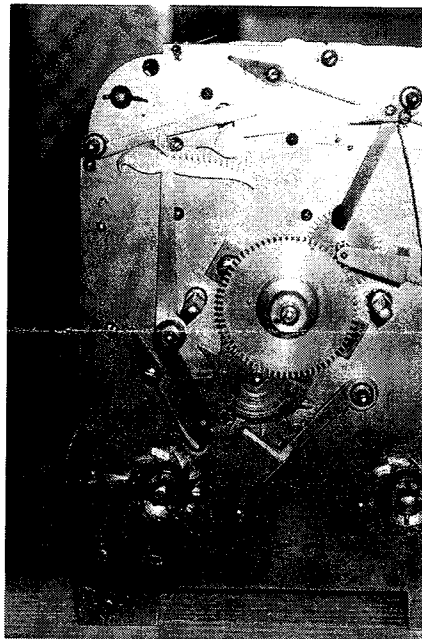
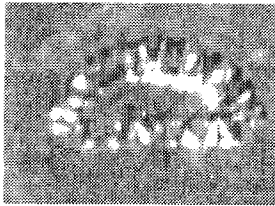


Fig. 2. Backplate of the Barraud's/Holmden clock.



The Holmden London stamp

Editor's Secret Revealed --

provided you will tell. It's that - well, uh - - well, the cupboard is bare and →

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that Paul Barraud quickly became an “horological impresario”—promoting himself and selling under his name clocks and watches made by others as well as his own products.

The following two clocks seem to support that idea. The first is a broken arch time and strike clock (Fig. 1) signed on the backplate *Barraud's Cornhill London* and numbered 755 placing its age at ca 1816. The case is not original but is from the period. However the front plate, under the dial, is stamped *Holmden London* (Fig.2). Holmden was working 1807-1840 and is the likely maker of the movement. He numbered the movement 217 but he is virtually unknown so that doesn't help us much.

The next example (Fig. 3) is a lovely 7-tune musical bracket clock signed on the dial and backplate *Barrauds Cornhill London*. I can't tell from the pictures whether it is numbered, but it probably is, and should date from ca 1800. Looking at the backplate (Fig. 4) we can see that this fine piece is a long way from watchmaking work! The link here, I believe, is to the major clockmaking firm of Thwaites and Reed. This firm was selling movements and whole clocks to other clockmakers from the mid-1700s, and such sales are recorded in the T&R account books to both Paul Barraud and to his brother John. Specifically they sold several clocks like this one to John for “the China market” in the late 1790s. I don't have a photo of the under dial plate but I'd expect it to be stamped T&W and their serial number. Finally I include a photo (Fig.5) of the gear trains with the front plate removed to show the excellence of that work.

Selling other people's work was not unusual—in fact most bracket clock signatures of the time belong to a jeweler or retailer or clockmaker other than the actual movement maker—and of course virtually none of them made the cases. So at least for Barraud's 1,000 clocks, we can assume that a lot of them were just “marketed” by him, enabled by his fine reputation in the horological world of ca 1800 London. ☺ -Doug Cowan

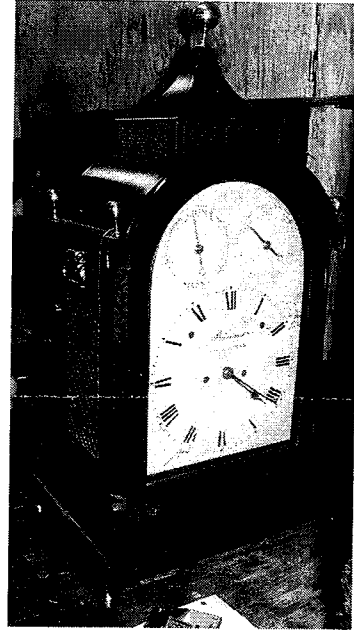


Fig. 3. 7-tune musical bracket clock, *Barrauds Cornhill London*.

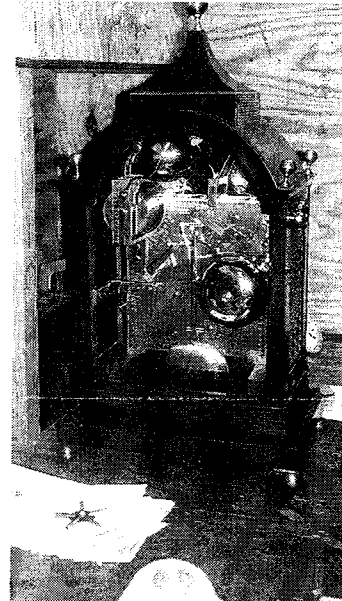


Fig. 4. Back plate of the 7-tune musical signed *Barrauds Cornhill London*.

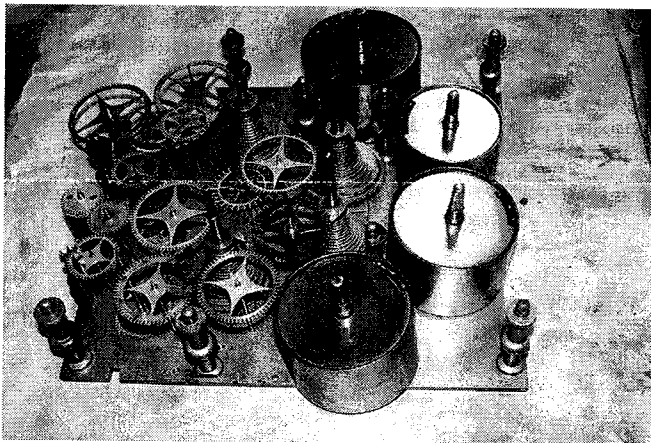


Fig. 5. Gear train of the *Barrauds Cornhill London* musical.

Editor's Secret Revealed - -

we need material to cover the next issues. Tell us about your favorite clock or watch, your worst nightmare, your best “chase”, or simply a “how to”. Make it short or long and →



Doug Cowan, NAWCC's First Vice-President finds the time to research and write articles amidst his NAWCC duties.

ANTIQUE SHOPPING IN LONDON

Frank Del Greco (OH) presents Dave and Pam Carlson's list of favorites.

Many of us will be heading for London this October for the millennium seminar. London is a city with some great antiques, so whether this will be your first trip or one of many, it is always fun and interesting to do a little antique shopping. Prices in London are high, so you won't find any bargains; however, some of the shops have the best examples of English clocks and antiques you will ever see, and there's no law against looking!

Members Dave and Pam Carlson have made many trips to London and have created a short list of shops that should be "musts" on your itinerary. If you can sneak away from the seminar or add a day or two to your trip, you will find these places most enjoyable.

Good Antique Shops

Antiquarius: 135 - 141 King's Rd. Tube stop - Sloan Square, then walk down King's Rd. Shop is on the left.

The Furniture Cave: 533 King's Rd. Tube stop - Sloan Square, then take bus 11 or 22 out King's Rd. Ask driver to tell you where to get off.

Bourban-Hanby Antique Center: 151 Sydney St, Chelsea - just off King's Rd. Tube stop - Sloan Square, then walk down King's Rd. Sydney is on the right side across from Chelsea old town hall.

Lanford Marine Antiques: 535 King's Rd. Right by the Furniture Cave.

Alfie's: 13 Church St NW8, Edgware Rd.

Gray's Antique Market and Gray's Antiques in the Mews: 58 Davies St. Tube stop - Bond Street.

The Old Cinema: 160 Chiswick High Rd. Tube stop - Turnham Green. From station, turn left, then left again at traffic light.

London Silver Vaults: 53-56 Chancery Lane WC2. Tube stop - Holburn. 150 "vaults" each housing a different silver dealer.

After a hard day of shopping a visit to a London pub is mandatory. Dave and Pam's favorite is **The Albert**, 52 Victoria St., Westminster SW1. Tube stop - St. James Park. It is open daily. This is a Victorian pub with original gas lamps and engraved windows. There is informal eating on the street level and more elegant dining on the second level (requiring reservations).

Antique Markets

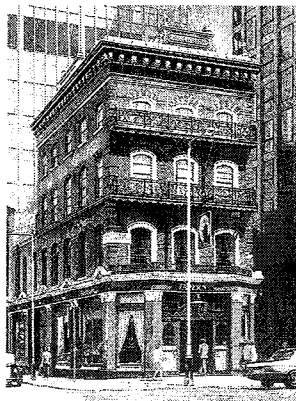
Portobello Road Market: Every Saturday morning. Tube stop - Notting Hill. Try to get there by 8AM because it gets very crowded. There are many little shops and outside stands. The antiques range from very high quality to novelty and souvenir grade. There is food, entertainment, etc.

Bermondsey Market: Every Friday morning. Tube stop - London Bridge. Then catch a taxi for a short drive. Shopping starts before dawn, and the sales are over by about 1PM. These are all outdoor stands. Quality varies.

Jubilee Antique Market at Covent Garden: Every Monday. Tube stop - Covent Garden. This is a great place to visit even if you don't go on Monday. On Friday evenings there is lots of entertainment.

Camden Passage Market: Off Islington High St. Tube stop - Angel. Every Wednesday and Saturday in the AM. ☺

-Frank Del Greco



THE ALBERT

Editor's Secret Revealed - -

→ don't worry about stile or spelling. We will

MART

MART ADS are free to members and should pertain to to British or Anglo-American horology.

Grant Snyder at 301-948-6531 needs:
1. Movement for English 4-glass case. Case dimensions: 14" high, 10" wide, 6" deep with an 8" square dial.
2. Cast brass bezels for English fusee dial clocks: one 18" diam., two 16", four 12" & two 8".

Stu Kelley at 703-437-1351 needs a book by R. Plomp titled *Spring Driven Dutch Pendulum Clocks 1657-1710*.

Doug Cowan at 513-771-0556 wants an English watch with a Massey type 1 lever escapement; and a prebalance spring English watch or movement (pre 1675).

Jack Busch at 416-486-0332 or email, dg431@freenet.toronto.on.ca wants a 12 inch square dial for an 8-day long case movement, preferably brass, or a complete 8-day movement with above dial specifications. Calendar aperture in dial not required.

contents

NEWS

NAWCC seminar in London ¹ and Chapter 159's tower clock tour; next chapter meeting in April.

EDITOR'S CORNER ¹

Editor's Secret revealed.

TWO BARRAUD CLOCKS ²

Doug Cowan has interesting insights about Paul Philip Barraud's production.

ANTIQUE SHOPPING IN LONDON

Frank Del Greco presents Dave and Pam Carlson's list of favorites. ⁴

edit. Pictures are important if you can spare them. And so are you. Thanks.

-Paul Odendahl

P.S. The empty spaces in this Editor's Corner are only symbolic