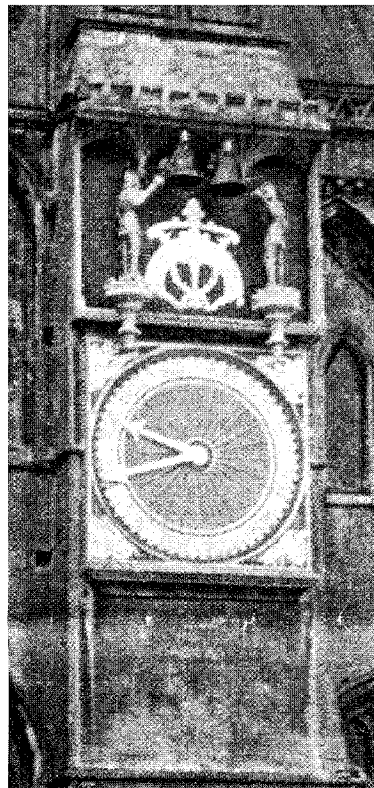


British Horology Times

NAWCC CHAPTER 159

News FROM CHAPTER 159

This is my first message as President of our chapter and I have been reflecting on its growth and the direction that it should take in the future. Our current format of three meetings a year at the Florida, Southern Ohio and National Conventions has proven to be very successful. We have had some world class speakers and the attendance at these meetings reflects the membership's interest and I hope we can continue to maintain this format. As an example look at the article on Restoring a Georgian Cartel Clock by chapter member Dennis Radage recently published in the Bulletin. This story was initially given at our chapter meeting at the National in 2005. I was very impressed with the initial presentation and the article is excellent. In addition we have this newsletter that the whole membership can enjoy. Paul has done an excellent job with it and we owe him a debt of gratitude - thank you, Paul. The third pillar is our website at <http://www.nawcc-ch159.com/> which was set up and is administered by Sam Kirk -



Wells Cathedral

thank you, Sam. In addition to these regular features we have special events that Chapter 159 promotes, e.g. Educational Horological Tours, the most recent to England in March of this year, and co-sponsorship of the annual Southern Ohio Regional and the Millennium Seminar in London.

In my view there is not much wrong with the format but, as with any organization, we must not be satisfied with the status quo but look to make improvements wherever possible. Our calendar is very full in the first half of the year and I think we need something to maintain interest in the second half. I have a few ideas and would welcome your suggestions.

We currently have 135 members and 75 of these memberships will expire at the end of this year. The members are the chapter and I would suggest that you consider sending in dues for two years so you will not have to do it again next year.

-Ken Johnston

EDITOR'S CORNER

I bring you glad tidings. Again.

Life is good. We have money in the bank. We have enough articles to ensure a full 8-page newsletter issue next March. We have elected officers who are running with the ball. We have members who share their knowledge and experience by writing and submitting articles for our newsletter, members who pack our meetings, and who participate in the events we

stage, and we have those much appreciated members who give themselves and their talents to plan and organize these events.

So - no moaning and pleading for articles from me. I will let you know when your writing talents are needed. For now, just relax.

Life is good. Enjoy it.

-Paul Odendahl

SECOND LINE



LET THE BUYER BEWARE!

By Doug Cowan (OH)

This column concerns expensive early English bracket clocks which should fool no one but still get sold at very high prices. During the past ten months I have encountered two of these.

Figure 1 shows a ca 1700 seven inch dial bracket clock signed Charles Gretton, London. Gretton was a noted maker who joined the Clockmakers Company in 1672. Sorry that the photo is slightly out of focus, but you cannot learn much from it anyway, because the case is not the movement's original home. The movement, in Figure 2, is a mostly correct Gretton movement of fine quality, though the back cock is obviously a replacement, albeit an old one. The cock does not hang true on the backplate, I believe that the crown wheel/verge escapement has been replaced, though that was well done. Note the empty holes near the edges of the plate at the 10 and 4 o'clock positions. These were meant to screw in the L-shaped braces to hold the movement in the case, but this case had never been pierced, and said brackets were not present. There was literally no way to mount the movement - no holes up through the base pillars and no "turn pieces" on the back of the dial to latch the movement into the front case frame. The movement sat loose in the case, with a relatively new baseboard to raise the dial to the correct fit in the frame.

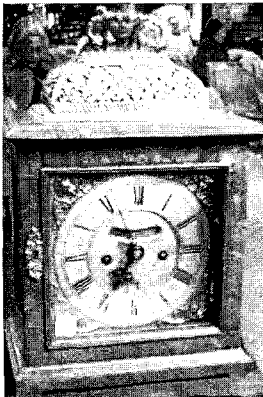


Fig. 1. The Charles Gretton clock.

There was evidence in the case that at least some of it was period. One side of the front frame did have a slot for turning a latching piece in to hold the movement, but the other side did not. I could also see evidence of an earlier height-adjustment baseboard glued into the base. Parts of the pretty walnut veneer were newer, but the brass basket on top was period, as were the hands.

The auction firm knew it wasn't pristine. They gave it a minor position in the catalog and estimated about \$5000. The actual result? \$21,000 !! I had estimated about \$5000 for the movement and \$2000 for the mixed heritage case.

The second example is not illustrated but it looked very much like the Gretton, though with a highly figured kingwood veneered case. The late owner had paid \$35,000 for it and I must admit that it came a lot closer to being satisfactory on preliminary examination. To spot this fakery one had to get the movement out of the case. It was a pleasant movement, striking quarters on 3 bells and made by Cornelius Herbert Jr., ca 1710. But sadly, the excitement quickly turned to sadness.



Fig. 2. The Charles Gretton movement.

The height-adjustment seatboard was quite new - and even worse showed a lot of unremoved brass dust which could only be seen once the movement was out. The source of that was not obvious, but it was not from wear and the clock ran strongly so someone had been "bodging" in there and had not bothered to clean up where the brass dust would not show. With the movement out, one could see where a quarter inch strip of newer oak had been added to the frame so that the dial would fit up nicely in the opening. This was all veneered over in front, so that had to be newer as well. I think that the case was period, so wonder why go to all that trouble for a clock by a relatively common maker? The Gretton would have been a better choice.

This clock was turned down by a few collectors before reportedly going to a British dealer for something like \$15,000. I am sure it will reemerge with its obvious flaws corrected and be sold as a good one. Many of these walnut, prince's wood and kingwood cased clocks were originally ebony veneered but the more colorful cases have higher commercial value.

A clock of this type which really is correct in all respects probably will sell for at least \$30,000 now, so there can be a great temptation to create more of them. ☹

Doug continues to delight with facts and pictures.



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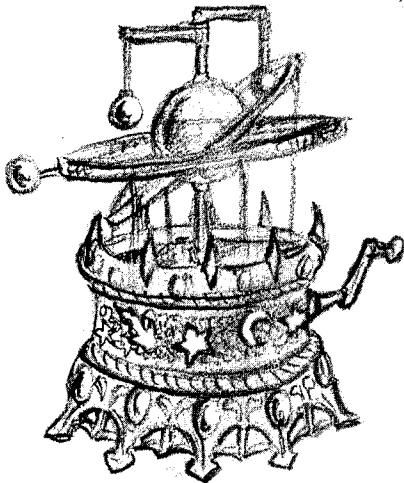
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THE LONDON TRADESMAN - PART 2

In Part 1 of this article by [Stuart Kelley \(VA\)](#), transcribed from a book by R. Campbell written in 1747, we presented descriptions of the Watchmaker, the Movement Maker, the Spring and Chain Maker, the Cap, Stud and Case Maker, and the Finisher. We continue now in Part 2 with descriptions of the Clock and Orrery Maker, and of the Apprentice.



Stuart Kelley



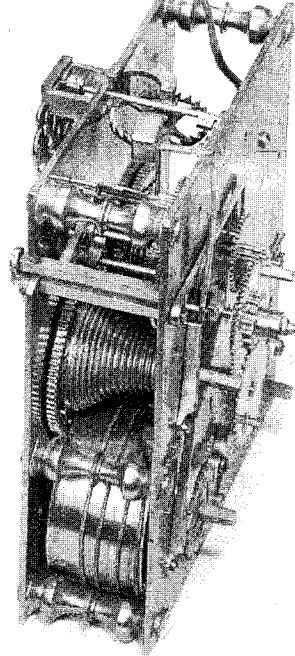
An 18th century orrery

Section 6. Of the Clock and Orrery Maker.

In treating of the watchmaker I have said everything that can be said of the clockmaker, or any other branch of tradesmen concerned in making any instruments for the mensuration of time. They differ only from the watchmaker in the size of their work; the principles they act upon are constantly the same, and a person who understands the theory of watchmaking cannot be ignorant of any other movement whatever; but such as are used to one sort of work only, are certainly better than he who rambles after many, though the principles of all are alike. Therefore I wish the articles of clock making and watch making were kept more distinct from one another.

* * *

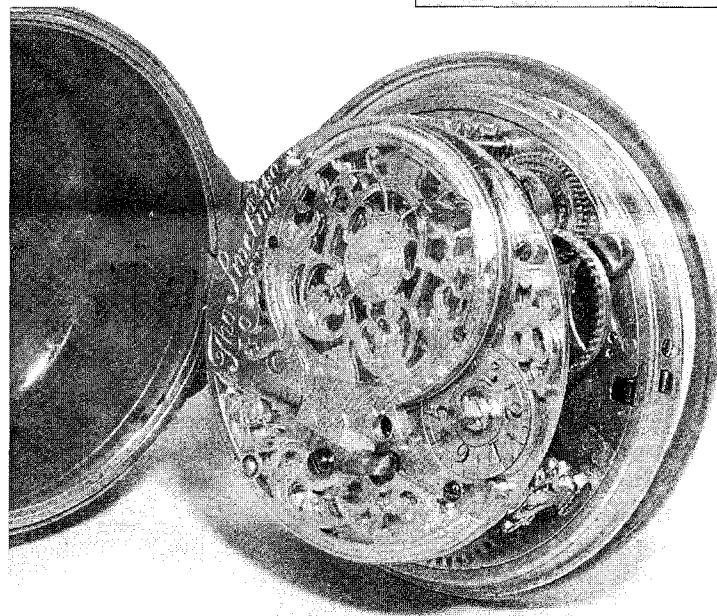
Here the author, Stuart Kelley, skips several chapters that are not directly related to clock or watch making.



English striking bracket clock movement, ca 1670, gut fusee, verge escapement, signed *Henry Jones in ye Temple*, plates 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high (22.5cm).

“...the watchmaker and clockmaker differ only in the size of their work...”

These photos compare a clock movement that is 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high with a watch movement that is 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter.



English clockwatch, ca 1770, chain fusee, verge escapement, signed *Tho Swetman, London, 4540*, striking with bell housed within the watch case, 55mm diam. (2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches).

See **TRADESMAN**, page 4

TRADESMAN, from page 3

Chapter LXXIV

Advice to the young apprentice, how to behave during his apprenticeship, in order to acquire his business, obtain the goodwill of his master, and avoid the many temptations to which youth are liable in this great city.

I shall now suppose the youth has made choice of his education, has signed his indenture, taken leave of his mother, and is fairly settled with his master, whom I shall presume to be a man of good nature, sagacity, and knowledge of his business. I would have such a lad to consider that he has made the first step into the world of business, and has fixed himself for life in one certain sphere of action, that his future happiness in this world, and, in some measure, his hopes of another, depends upon the use he is to make of the present time. If hopes of bread, prospect of wealth, and a settlement for life in the world can have any weight upon the mind, they ought to take place now.

As we suppose he has fixed upon his business from a natural liking or turn of mind, we must believe he at first takes delight in his business; this liking he must keep up by often reflecting what an advantage it will be to become master of it. The greater affection he discovers to it, the greater application he gives to it, the sooner his labor will be over; for a tradesman no sooner becomes possessed of the mystery of the craft than the uneasy laborious portion of it vanishes. The ready and expert workman does his business with pleasure; he scarce feels the instruments he uses; everything goes on smoothly; whereas the bungler who works, toils and struggles, is more oppressed with his own ignorance than the weight of anything else.

To obtain his master's good will, he must be diligent in his business and consider that it is a crime against moral honesty to trifle away his time when he should be employed in his master's work; he ought to be diligent and apply closer

in his absence than in his presence, and make conscience of the discharge of his duty. By this conduct he not only acquires his trade sooner and promotes his master's interest, but from it he may expect the protection and assistance of



The apprentice must accept his master's "lawful Commandments every where gladly done" even though they entail pursuits like working in the garden.



Indenture of William Buckland of Oxford to James Buckland, Joiner, of London, for the term of 7 years from April 5, 1742.

Indenture: the term comes from the medieval English "Indenture of Retainer" - a contract written in duplicate on the same sheet, with the copies separated by cutting along a jagged edge (toothed, hence the term "indenture") so that the teeth of the two parts could later be refitted to confirm authenticity.

Divine Providence in his future life. For this reason also he must be faithful in everything that is entrusted to his care or management. He should look upon his master as his parent, and be as watchful over his interest as that of his father and mother. The character of honesty and integrity, which this is the time to acquire, will contribute more to his success in business and his real peace of mind than every other qualification; art and ingenuity without honesty can be of no use. All mankind shuns the villain

and chooses rather to deal with the bungler than the designing crafty knave, though ever so expert in his business. Honesty is a stock, sets up the tradesman without money, procures him respect even in poverty, and a friend in a country where he has no relations.

The apprentice, who would live in peace with his master and family, must interfere as little as possible in the domestic concerns of his house; he must keep close to his business and mind nothing

else; he must avoid tattling between servants, or carrying stories between husband and wife. He ought to be ready to do his mistress all the good offices in his power and if he has any complaints to make of her, let him endeavor to have them taken notice of by the master himself, without making the complaint. He must keep his master's secrets, both in relation to his craft and dealings, and to the private affairs of his family. He must carry no tales to his neighbors house or en-



A successful watchmaker...

TRADESMAN, from page 5

tain his friends at the expense of his master's and mistress's reputation.

He ought to take his master's advice and reasonable correction with the same submission as if he was his father. He must consider him in the place of a parent and that what he says must be for his good and advantage.

A lad grown to some years must carefully avoid idle company and ale houses; the time he spends there must be stolen from his master, or encroach upon those hours necessary for rest. Late hours, though he should have an opportunity to keep them without his master's knowledge, destroy his health and give him a habit of drinking and a love of company, the great bane of all tradesmen. That time his master can

spare him, or can be taken from his hours of rest, he ought to employ in learning to write, read, call accounts, drawing, or any other qualifications suitable for his station.

The knowledge he reaps will afford, while he lives, pleasant reflections, resulting from the consciousness of having employed his time to useful purposes.

Women is another strong temptation to go astray. The blood runs warm in their young veins and they are naturally prone to gratify the new-grown appetite. Against this evil the young apprentice must exert all the force of reason, interest and religion. He must consider, he risks his health and plunges him-



...can proudly wear his own product.

self into a sea of diseases when he embraces a common woman; he not only endangers his health but his morals; their arts, their blandishments and snares are such that sooner or later they tempt their votaries from one degree of vice to another, till ruin, diseases and a shameful end finishes their catastrophe. As to what is called lawful love, courting a woman to make a wife of, that desire ought to be checked in the bud, for an apprentice is never completely miserable until

...an apprentice is never completely miserable until he has got a wife.

he has got a wife. He ought to consider marriage as a matter of the last consequence to his peace, not to be undertaken rashly at any age, but on no account to be entered upon till he is settled in a way of providing for a family. Let him consider if he has nothing to depend on but his trade when out of his time, that he ought to live some time single to try to save something to fit him for entering into such a chargeable state. If he cannot save when single, how can he propose to maintain a family

upon his wages? What a dreadful thing it is for a man to see a wife and children want, and he unable to support them? It is worse than death to an honest man and therefore ought to be maturely weighed before we reduce ourselves to that dilemma.

Great care ought to be taken in the choice of company. Idle, profligate fellows ought to be shunned; we soon partake of the manners of those we converse with. Their vices, by being frequent, become familiar to us and by degrees steal insensibly upon our minds and convert us into one of themselves.



A common woman



A possible wife

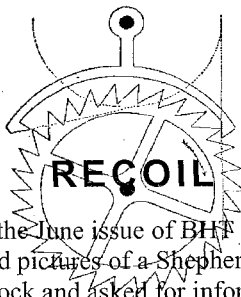
See *TRADESMAN*, page 8

A **journeyman** is a tradesman or craftsman who has completed an apprenticeship but is not yet able to set up his or her own workshop as a master. In parts of Europe, as in later medieval Germany, spending time as a journeyman (*Geselle*), moving from one town to another to gain experience of different workshops, was an important part of the training of an aspirant master. In later medieval England, however, most journeymen remained as employees throughout their careers, lacking the financial resources to set up their own workshops

The word "journeyman" comes from the French word *ournée*, meaning the period of one day; this refers to his right to charge a fee for each day's work. He or she would normally be employed by a master craftsman but would live apart and might have a family of his own. A journeyman could not employ others. In contrast, an apprentice would be bound to a master, usually for a fixed term of seven years and would live with the master as a member of the household. The terms *jack* and *knave* are sometimes used as informal words for journeyman. Hence 'jack of all trades, master of none' - someone who is educated in several fields of trade, but is not yet skilled enough in any to set up their own workshop as a master.

TRADESMAN, from page 7

Above all, gaming company ought to be avoided; even gaming for amusement is pernicious to the mind of youth, the habit soon grows ungovernable, and the itch of gain, too prevalent in most natures, draws us on by degrees to love gaming for the sake of money, which we formerly loved only for diversion; and when that spirit once possesses us all sense of honesty is lost. We are uneasy when we are not engaged in play, suffer all the tortures of the unhappy when fortune has been unfavorable, and to repair the breach made by our folly, run all the lengths that craft, despair and villainy can suggest. Therefore the young apprentice who values his integrity, his peace of mind, his reputation in the world, and happiness thereafter, must shun every temptation to play, and find out some other amusement to pass away his idle hours than those games that are reckoned the most innocent.



In the June issue of BHT we showed pictures of a Shepherd Electric Clock and asked for information about it. Donald Brown and Ken Johnston replied that the clock shows Greenwich Mean Time and is located on the steps at Flamsteed House in Greenwich, England. What I thought were cast iron panels are actually brass and the knobs were used for the standards of length. The prime meridian is only a few feet away.

The replies are extensive and we will publish more of Don and Ken's answers in a later issue of BHT.

Reverence for religion, and a conscious discharge of the duties of it, I place last; not as contributing the least to our happiness, but that in it all other considerations are entered. Without it all our endeavors are in vain, all our attempts fruitless. It is this alone that gives us a true relish of life and the rational enjoyments in it. It is too much that the fashion nowadays is to laugh at religion, and even to be ashamed of acts of devotion; but mode or fashion cannot quell the checks of an enlightened conscience, nor will they be allowed as a good plea at the Grand Tribunal.

Let the young apprentice then be constant in his devotions to the Supreme Being, live in a constant fear of offending against His laws, and in a thorough dependence on His divine providence; and however unfashionable the practice may be, he must reap from it that content of mind, that sublime satisfaction which no earthly enjoyment can afford him. Then he may rationally expect success to attend his endeavors in this world, or, if he is disappointed in these, he may with assurance conclude that all things are ordered for his good. ①

APPENDIX - A Table

- A. Amount the apprentice's parents would have paid the master to take the apprentice on.
 B. Amount the recently freed apprentice would have to pay the Clockmakers' Company to set up business.
 C. Hours per day the apprentice was expected to work for his master.

Name of Trade	A. Sums Given with an apprentice	B. Sums necessary to set up as Master	C. Hours of Work
Turner of Ivory	£5 to 20	£50 to 500	6 to 9
Turner of Silver, etc.	5 to 20	50 to 500	6 to 9
Watchmaker	10 to 30	50 to 100	6 to 8
Movement Maker	5 to 10	10 to 20	6 to 8
Spring Maker	5 to 10	to 50	6 to 8
Chain Maker		to 5	
Case, cap, stud Maker		20 to 50	6 to 8
Finisher	5 to 20	50 to 100	6 to 8
Wire Drawer	5 to 20	100 to 200	6 to 8
Wood Cutter	5 to 10	50 to 100	6 to 8

MART

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

For Sale. Doug Cowan has AHS Journals from their beginning to end of 2006, missing only 2 or 3 1994 issues. More than 150 journals and most indexes. \$350 plus shipping He also is beginning to sell his large library. If you want particular out of print book(s) on clocks/watches email him at dojec@aol.com. Prices will be well below internet bookstores.

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