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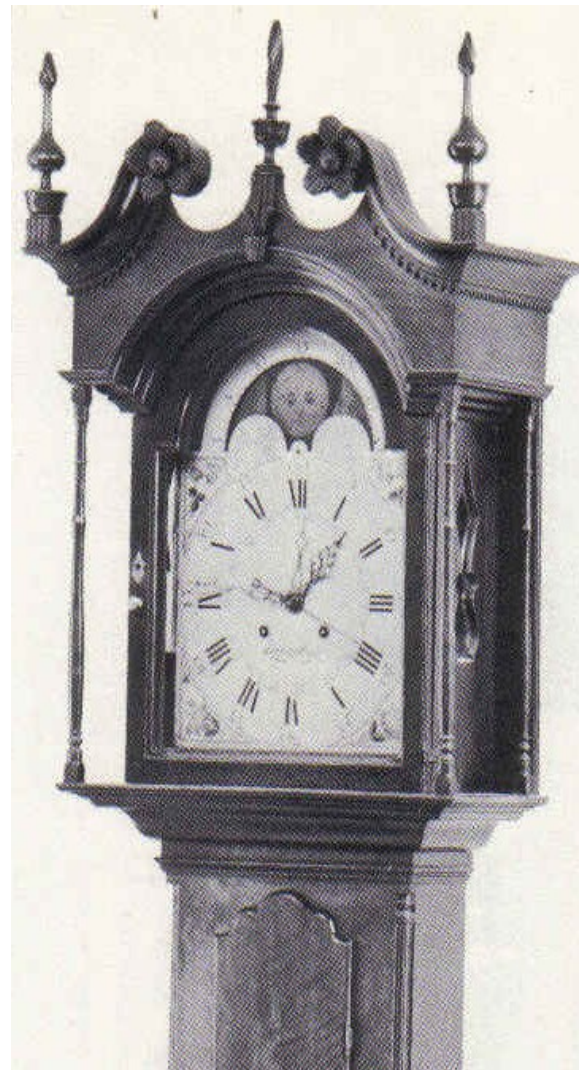
British Horology Chapter 159 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Robert Leslie by Tom Spittler

The American Revolution caused a major interruption in the flow of clocks & watches and related material from England to the Colony. This lack of British clocks in the American marketplace allowed American clockmakers, such as the Willards, to prosper, or at least succeed without British competition during the war. Peace came in 1783 and it didn't take the British long to reenter the marketplace, if not with complete clocks, at least with British components required by America's clockmakers. One of the most ironic facts is that the first documented shipment of British clock parts made after the war went to Paul Revere. On May 22, 1785, Revere advertised, "Clock, Watchmakers, Goldsmiths & Jewelers files, tools &c...Enamelled Clock Faces,..." This was the introduction of the painted dial into America. It had become popular in England during the war but Americans were still using brass dials on their tall clocks until this time (1785).

Shortly afterwards there were other Americans that established or reestablished contact with British parts manufacturers in New York City and Boston. In Philadelphia, two generations of John Woods (Sr. and Jr.) had run a clock and watch material house at the old location of Peter Stretch, one of America's first clockmakers. John Wood Sr. first advertised in 1734 and continued doing so until his death in 1761 when his son took over the business and continued to advertise. These ads are very important as they show what and when materials were available to American clock and watch makers.

Enter the Englishman Robert Leslie. It is probably best to introduce Robert Leslie in the words, of Philadelphia clock material dealer John Wood Jr. by the words Woods



The first shipment of clocks with white painted dials was introduced by Paul Revere.

wrote to the editor, Mr. Bache, of the (Philadelphia) General Advertiser on Dec. 22 1790:

“Mr. Bache, It has long been the endeavor of Robert Leslie of this city, weaver, (not clock and watchmaker, as he stiles himself) to draw the company of clock and watchmakers of this city into a newspaper altercation, to lift himself into the notice of the public. This they (the Philadelphia Company of Clock and Watch makers) have avoided though repeatedly insulted by him in the public paper;...”

It seems Mr. Leslie came to Philadelphia from England in 1787. He had several clock inventions that he wished to patent, many of dubious potential such as a perpetual motion clock. Living and trading in Philadelphia he refused to join the local guild, the Philadelphia Company of Clock & Watch makers, and in turn the guild refused to allow the city’s clock material dealer, John Wood Sr. to sell anything to Leslie. They also would not allow any of the clock and watch makers to with his harangues.

As an ultimate challenge, Robert Leslie went into business in 1792 with Isaac Price as a clock & watch material dealer in direct competition with John Wood Jr. Initially Leslie and Price traded from each of their locations, but by 1792 Robert Leslie informed the public that he was going to London where he would have, ‘work executed on his several improved plans, for which he has obtained patents, from the Government of the United States,...and forwarded by the earliesmake any patent models for Leslie. Leslie went on a rampage and filled the Philadelphia papers t opportunity to the shop of Leslie & Price, in this city (Philadelphia).”

Things went well for Leslie & Price when, sadly, John Wood Jr. passed away by November 1793. They were left as the only clock material dealer in the largest city in America. In November of 1795 a third partner, Abraham Patton, was added and he managed a new store in Baltimore, as Robert Leslie & Co. In March of 1799 Isaac Price died and Robert Leslie, still in London, dissolved both Leslie & Price of Philadelphia and Leslie & Co. of Baltimore. He had a new business model where he requested that any orders from America be sent directly to him in London. Robert Leslie’s last advertisement from America was on May 17, 1800. (Note, the author has used advertisements published in the Carter Directory to prepare this article and it stops including advertisements at 1800 so Leslie could well have continued.)

To finish the story, Abraham Patton left R. Leslie & Co. and formed a partnership of Patton, Jones & Co. in 1797 with Samuel C. Jones, and that partnership was in direct competition with R. Leslie & Co. in Baltimore. They changed the name of their company to Patton & Jones in 1798 and Robert Leslie & Co. was dissolved in 1799 as previously mentioned. Later in 1798 they expanded into Philadelphia. The Patton & Jones partnership failed in 1814 when they could no longer get materials from England due to the War of 1812.

There were similar relationships in other major American cities with trading partners in England but Robert Leslie was the most colorful character in my opinion. *

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Chapter 159

President's Message: The AGM at our meeting at
the national in York brings to an end our three year cycle
and we need to elect new officers. The open positions are
for President, Treasure and Secretary. Nominations from the
floor are in order but I would like to put forward the follow-
ing slate:

President	Richard Newman
Treasure	Peter Stipanovich
Secretary	Marion Krajewski

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing
officers for there support during my term of office, also the
Vice President and our Editor who stepped in at times of
crisis.

In recognition to her service to our Chapter I have awarded
Betty Brown a Lifetime member of the British Horology
Chapter 159.

Finally I would like to say it's been an interesting three
years that I could not have done without the support of all
our officers and in particular our Treasurer Dave Kern. He
has taken on the burden of many tasks and brought to the
table expertise way beyond the normal in an organization
such as ours.

Thank you. Ken Johnston. *

Editor's Corner: I think winter is over and now it is
time to venture forth and travel to regional's again. There
are four or so I attend with regularity. One is already history
for this year. I am counting the days until the next one.

I hope you enjoy reading about my new little English man-
tle clock. I picked it up at the Southern Ohio regional in
April. It was Wednesday before the regional opened, i.e.
the unofficial tailgate day. The clock was sitting patiently,
looking grand, next to a couple of other clocks I never took
notice of. Negotiations were completed and there I was with
a new clock. I missed our meeting held at Ft. Mitchell as I
was on the road when it took place. I hope to make it to our
next gathering at the National convention in York Pennsyl-
vania this June. So much to do, so little time!
Deena. *

2010 Program Schedule: by Dennis Radage

British Horology Chapter 159 meets three times a year, at the Florida Regional, at the Southern Ohio Regional and at the National. The program schedule for the remainder of 2010 is as follows:

2010 National in York PA June 16 – 20:

“Captain Cook, Venus and a Great Discovery” by Philip Priestley

This new talk covers the period of Cook's first (of three) trip of discovery to the Pacific. On the face of it, Cook was just to sail to Tahiti to study the transit of the Venus across the Sun in order to help measure one of the great unknown universal constants, the distance of the Earth from the Sun. This he did to a remarkable degree of accuracy. He also was under orders to trial various remedies against the dreaded disease, scurvy.

Cook also had sealed orders which he opened after his scientific endeavours - he was to sail on to discover the unknown, but fabled territory, of Terra Australis Incognita. In the event he did not reach Antarctica, but did prove that New Zealand was two islands - he also discovered the western side of Australia which he named New South Wales.

The talk covers details of the astronomical sightings, the finding of new botanical specimens and the perilous journey back home to Britain.

Our meeting is scheduled for Saturday in the afternoon.

You may also be interested in the Pocket Watch Chapter 174 meeting on Friday afternoon:

"The British Horological Institute and American Watchmaking, 1857-1862" by Richard Watkins

In 1858 the British Horological Institute was formed and it established the Horological Journal later that year. One of the first articles to feature was a description of the American watch company at Waltham, and this provoked some discussion of American watchmaking. However, the editor of the Horological Journal and the contributors made some very unfortunate mistakes which led to an incorrect view of what was happening at Waltham.

See page 6 for information on an extra added grass roots meeting.

The National in 2011 will be at the Overland Park Convention Center, KS and Bill Dugan, the Convention Chair, would like to feature British Horology for the exhibition. If you would be interested in loaning any items for the exhibition please contact Bill at wtd.1@sbcglobal.net or (913) 782-1057. *

The Enfield That Wasn't an Enfield by Deena Mack

The style of the clock case is what first caught my eye. I am a sucker for all manner of items from the Art Deco period of 1920 through the end of the 1930's. The geometric shapes and simple composition that define the style really appeals to me. When something is Art Deco and happens to be a timepiece, how can I resist? As I looked closer, I read the tag: "Enfield English Art Deco" plus the owner's phone number. I was in a hotel parking lot at a gathering of horologists who were passing the time the day before the regional began. I picked the timepiece up and noticed it's hefty weight. As you know, I am looking for English clocks to include in my collection. This one seemed to fit the bill, as I knew Enfield was an English clock. When I opened the backdoor and peeked at the movement I saw a name that started with a G and on the gong unit another G. No matter, by then I really liked the clock no matter who made it. After cruising the parking lot a couple of times I stopped for a second look. Yep, still liked it. By the third time I was getting nervous that everyone else was going to start liking it also, so I called the number on the tag. The owner appeared in quick order a deal was struck, and the clock was mine. As an afterthought I asked if the clock ran, and the man said yes. As we all know, there is a difference between 'running' and *good running order*. Of course by that point it did not much matter, I was just happy to own the clock. At home, I took it in the shop and jotted down what ever I could see stamped on the dial and movement plates. Just for the heck of it, I set it on my movement stand, hooked the beat amplifier up and gave the bob a nudge. Gee, it took right off. With the loupe I deciphered the name on the plates; Garrard. In researching the name, I learned more about gramophones and spring motors than I did clocks. Garrards had been around since 1721 when they cared for and maintained the British Crown Jewels. Skip forward to the 1900's when they made precision range finders for the British Artillery. After the war, they decided to manufacture small lathes and boring tools. They moved from Willesden, London to Swindon. Spring wound motors for gramophones came next. In 1928, a belt drive motor was devel-



This photo highlights the Art Deco styling. I believe the case is mahogany.

oped. In 1931 a subsidiary company was formed to manufacture clocks using the spring motor, called Garrard Clock Ltd. Now we're getting somewhere! In 1939, production was turned over to large numbers of clock based mechanisms that were used in mines and other military equipment. Following the war, record changers and turntables were produced and sold in large numbers, esp. in the US. They are now collectable and in demand. By 1954 clock making was no longer profitable due to price competition. Throughout my research process, these words kept popping up in regards to the company Garrards: quality; most popular; best obtainable; super quality; international reputation. Indeed, my clock, although only time and strike, appears very well made. I would love to know if there was ever a catalog with models pictured. My clock has no label or model name. Perhaps there were none. In searching for other references to these clocks, I came across other people who own one and for the most part, they are all three train movements, time, strike and chime. Mine is two train. Oh and by the way, the little fellow ran for 14 days on the test stand before falling silent. I am very pleased with my purchase. If you own one or have more information I would like to hear from you. *



*A view of the gong unit with the "G" visible.
Note the nice engine turning on the plate.*

British Horology is coming to the Midwest Regional by Marion Krajewski

At the British Horology Meeting-at the Southern Ohio Regional, Ralph Ferone, David Grace, Rich Newman, and Bill & Marion Krajewski, talked about hosting a British Horology meeting at the Midwest Regional. The meeting is planned for August 6, Friday, at 4 pm. at the Porter County Fairgrounds, Valparaiso, Indiana.

They would like to introduce the members who attend the regional-and don't get out to many others, to British Horology. The meeting will be a lead in for their program on Carriage Clocks.

If you need any further information, please call or email Marion or Ralph. Marion Krajewski can be reached at: 219-769-8247 or 219-775-0876 (cell) Email her at: bm177@sbcglobal.net
I was not provided with contact information for Ralph.

Folks, in the past few years Marion and her band of merry men have put 110% into the Midwest Regional. It's the place to be August 6 & 7. Consider attending, I am sure you will have a great time. The NAWCC website has information on the Midwest Regional. On their homepage look for "Regional Events". *

The following two summaries are from presentations I gave at our meeting at the SOR in Ft. Mitchell earlier this year. Naturally much of the material has been omitted, but I hope that these summaries capture the essence of the presentation.



A Charles Clay clock from 1736 with a Royal connection throughout its lifetime **By Ken Johnston**

In the times of George II¹ Charles Clay was the preeminent maker of Musical Clocks in London. He had examples in the Royal Palace in Kensington and made this clock in 1736. It is recorded in the earlier editions of Britain that:

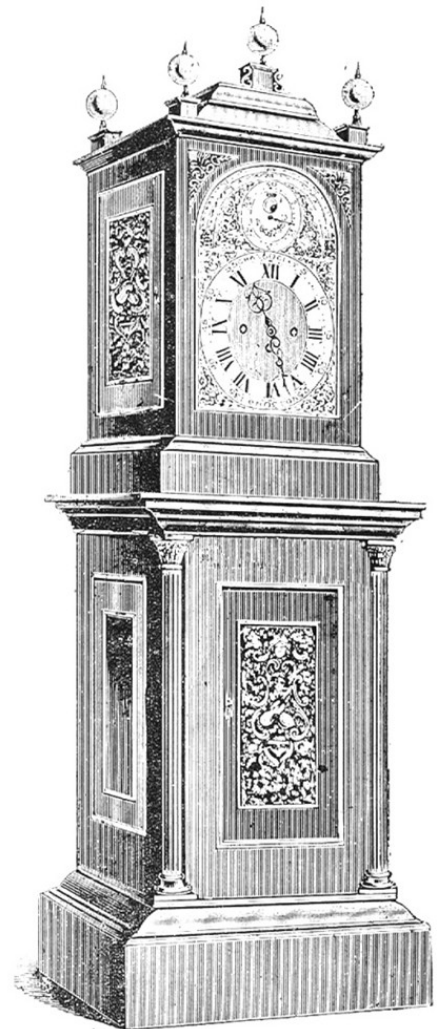
“A remarkably handsome musical clock which stood for many years in a manor house in Suffolk. It is 8 ft. 6 in. in height, the case being divided into two portions, the upper part of which is the clock. In the arch of the dial are shown the age of the moon, the day of the month, and a list of tunes played by the clock.”

This clock is referred to in the Weekly Journal, 8th May 1736:- “On Monday Mr. Clay had the honor of exhibiting to her Majesty² at Kensington his surprising musical clock, at which time her Majesty, was pleased to order fifty guineas to be expended for numbers in the intended raffle, by which we hear Mr. Clay intends to dispose of this beautiful and most complete piece of machinery.”

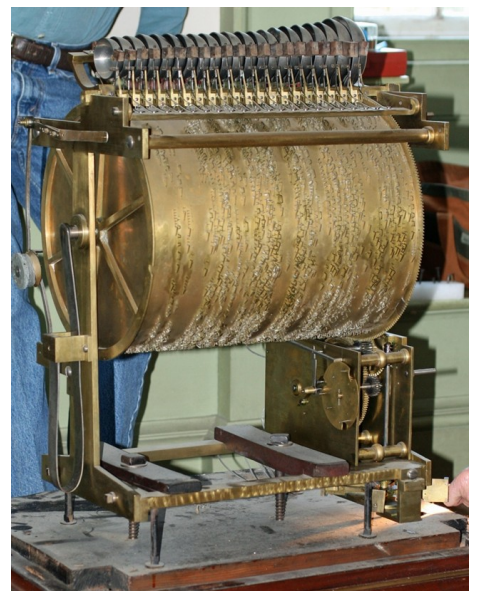
The clock was in the manor house in Suffolk for the next 166 year. In 1902 it was purchase by J. P. Morgan, Sr. and bought to the United States. Subsequently William Halstead Von Poel of Oyster Bay, NY purchased the clock and in 1957 he donated it to Tryon Palace in New Bern, North Carolina. This Palace is a recreation, built on the same foundations as the original Colonial Palace.

It remained in the Council Chamber for the next fifty year until it was decided to move it to another location in the same building. The local NAWCC Chapter 191 was asked to advise and we had the opportunity to look at the workings. The clock is in good working condition but the music drum is misaligned and the on-off mechanism of the drum needs attention.

1. George II was King from 1726-1759.
2. Caroline of Ansbach was the Queen Consort and Regent when the King returned to visit his native Hanover. *



As Illustrated in Britain



The musical drum today

John Forrest – his watches and his legacy to this day

By Ken Johnston

John Forrest was apprenticed to Menzies, in Charles Street, Northampton Square in London. Menzies always spoke of Forrest as a very dull sort of workman but while his skills at the work-bench may be lacking he made up for it with his marketing skills.

In 1857 or 1858 Forrest commenced business in a very modest way at No. 29, Myddelton Street in Clerkenwell. His chief customer being a dealer named Edey, who, by travelling through the towns of Scotland, obtained a kind of reputation for Forrest's watches. He used to put "John Forrest, London," on his watch faces, and "John Forrest, chronometer maker to the Admiralty, London, E.C.," on the back plates. **The last-mentioned description was, however, untrue as he never made a chronometer in his life.**

Forrest died in 1871 and his sister sold his trade belongings, including unfinished stock and goodwill, to Messrs. Carley & Co. but by 1890 they got into difficulties, and assigned their business to Mr. Read for the benefit of creditors who, in turn sold the name, title, and goodwill of the business of John Forrest to Mr. R. Thorneloe for £20.

In the mean time on 20 October 1883 and again on the 26th C. J. Hill of Coventry registered 'Forrest, London' with fir tree symbol as a Trade Mark and marketed watches with 'John Forrest, Maker to the Admiralty' inscriptions.

R. Thorneloe took C. J. Hill to court. In January 1894 at the Chancery Division of the High Court in London, the action was brought to prevent the defendants from using the name of 'Forrest' or 'John Forrest' in connection with the manufacture of watches. The action was dismissed and C. J. Hill continued to make watches inscribed Johns Forrest etc. with a fir tree logo on the dial.

Other manufactures seized the opportunity marketing their watches 'Forrest' and 'Makers to the Admiralty' and I have seen many examples from the Lancashire Watch Company (case by TPH) and even one by the British United Clock Co. that said 'Sir John Forrest'

These watches still get premium price at auction – not bad for an advertizing logo that has no credibility whatsoever and is a hundred and fifty years old! *



Forrest 4133 ca 1850. Hallmarked London 1850. Case maker IT James Thickbroom of Clerkenwell
This is the only genuine J. Forrest I have ever seen!



Registered Trade mark of C. J. Hill in Coventry