

Newsletter of the Horological Tool Chapter #173 of the NAWCC

Tool Enthusiasts' Round-Up

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A Scale for Measuring Balance Wheel Screws

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The Horological Tool Chapter of NAWCC

The Tool Enthusiasts' Round-Up is the newsletter of the Horological Tool Chapter #173 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Inc., a non-profit educational organization. This chapter and its newsletter are intended to foster interaction among NAWCC members who share a common interest in the use and collection of horological tools of all sorts. If you have an item you have researched, a book of interest, or notes on a project you have made, please consider sharing your knowledge with others through the newsletter.

The annual chapter dues of \$10 will ensure that members receive the newsletter and are included in the Membership Directory when it is published. Members are also entitled to one classified ad in each issue.

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2923 16th Street
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Editorial Director: Bruce Forman
234 Eagle Ridge Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46385
219-763-4748, email: bruce.forman@frontier.com

Editorial Team
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Welcome

We welcome John Koepke as the new president of NAWCC Chapter 173. John is well known for his high quality tool articles that have appeared in TER over the last few years. He has also served as the vice president of Chapter 173 for many years. John is one of only three people to hold the prestigious position of President. The first was Harvey Schmidt followed by Ron Bechler.

We would also like to thank our many volunteers and members who have contributed to make Chapter 173 the success it is today.

Bruce Forman
Editorial Director



A watch crystal measuring gauge from the collection of Price Russ

More Scales for Measuring Balance Wheel Screws

In the last issue of TER, we featured several styles of balance wheel screw scales and asked readers to send in any additional examples or information that they may have on this topic. The editor received four new pictures to add to our collection and some of the featured scales are marked. The first is a derivative of one scale that the author has seen supplied with a black box, Figure 1. However, this new example is a little different in the details and it came without a black storage box or it is now missing, Figure 2.

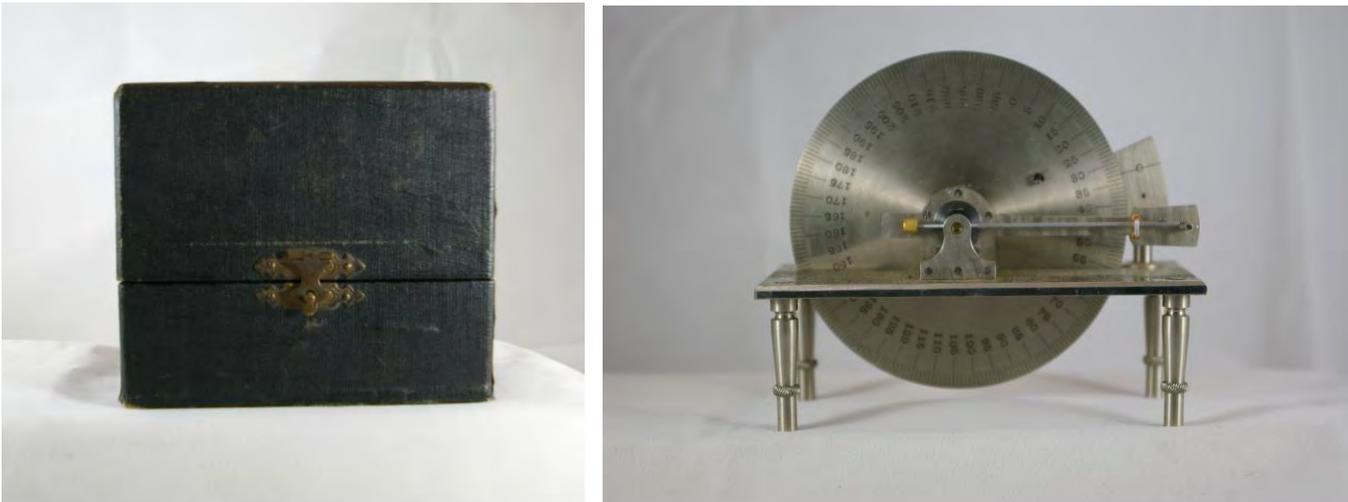


Figure 1. A balance wheel screw scale with a black box.



Figure 2. An unmarked balance wheel screw scale.



Figure 3. A balance wheel screw scale marked E. N. W. Co..

The next example has an enamel dial which is marked E. N. W. Co. and we assume this stands for the Elgin National Watch Company, Figure 3. Figure 4, shows a similar unit and the silvered brass dial appears to be stamped with company initials and the words Elgin IL..

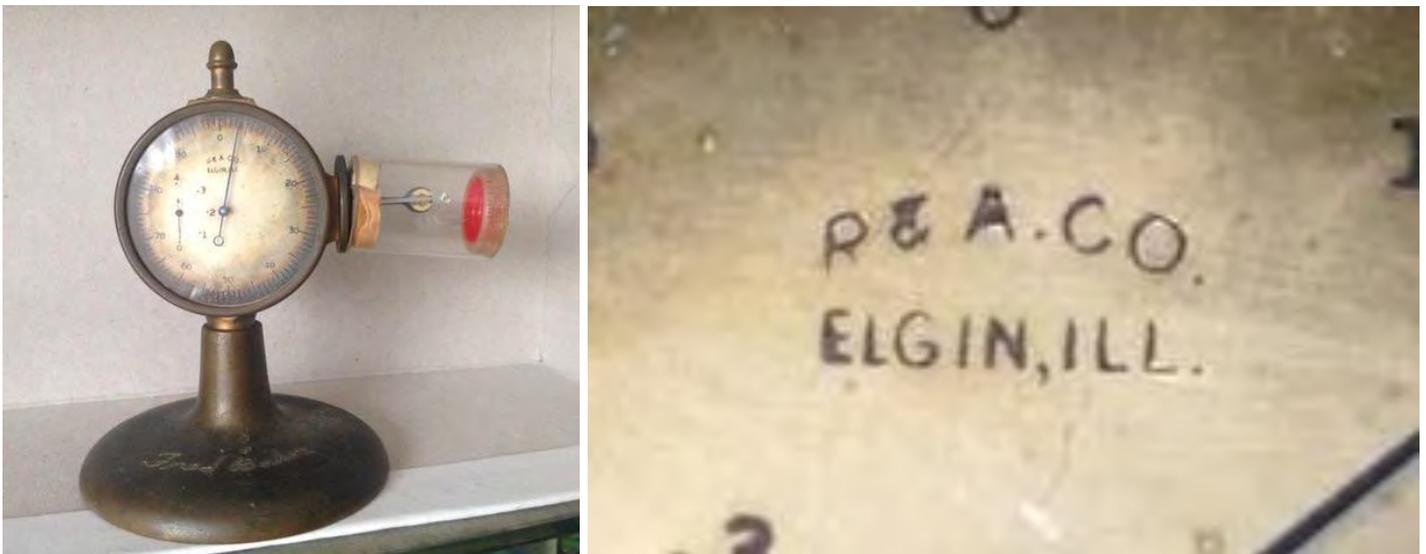


Figure 4. A balance wheel screw scale marked Elgin, IL..



Figure 5. Unmarked scale possibly from Elgin.

The next example is also of a similar form but no markings are seen on the dial, Figure 5. It has the same style hands as seen on the example in Figure 4. Although each of the last three scales are different, their general appearance suggests that they may have come from a common source and were probably used by the Elgin National Watch Company.

We thank Mark Fulmer for sending along the photos.

Response to a Question for Chapter 173 Members

In the last issue of TER, one of our members asked if someone knew the history of the “Favorite” brand name. It can be found on horological tools made in the last century. Two members responded that the firm appears to be Swiss and branded tools and replacement watch parts. No other information has been received concerning this brand name.

The Halim Time and Glass Museum

The Time Museum in Rockford, Illinois, was a private museum that held one of the best collections of horology in the world. This collection was amassed by Seth Atwood, a successful business man with deep pockets for his collection habit. The museum was open to the general public and this was Atwood's way of sharing the many unique timepieces he owned with the world. He later closed the museum and the majority of the collection was shipped to New York City where it was auctioned at Sotheby's, in 2004.

After the sale, rumors circulated that a wealthy business man from Chicago had purchased a large portion of the collection and he was planning on opening his own museum in Chicago devoted to horology. Opening a private museum is a large undertaking and a great financial challenge. After many years of waiting, collectors in the Chicago area thought that the rumors were false. However, a new horological museum has now opened and some of the core collection originating from the Time Museum.

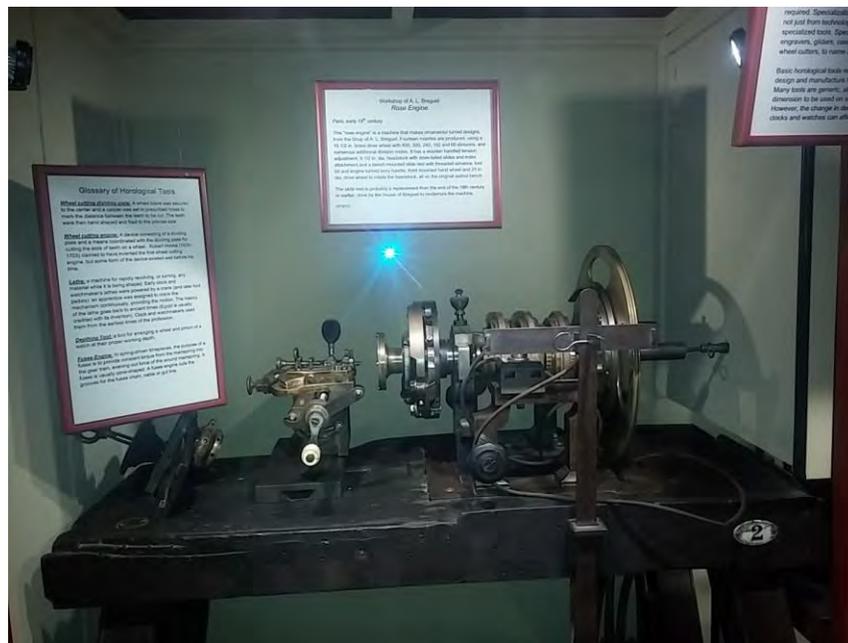


Figure 1. A Rose engine from the shop of Breguet.

This new museum is called the Halim Time and Glass Museum and is located in Evanston, Illinois (North Chicago). It is on a smaller scale than the Time Museum but, it contains some of the best clocks you are likely to ever see in North America. The clock exhibit starts (as it should) with a small display of clockmaking tools, including a rose engine once used in the shop of Breguet, Figure 1.



Figure 2. An American wheel cutting engine (left) and a lathe (right).

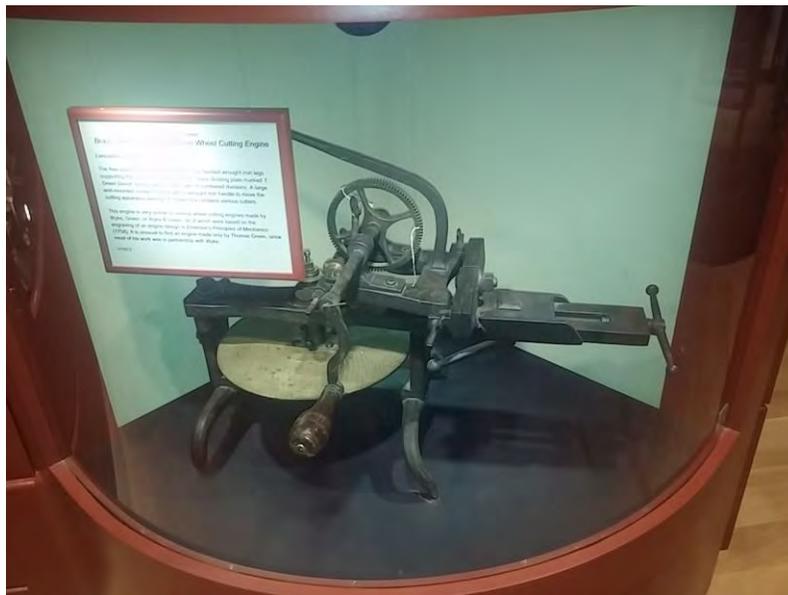


Figure 3. A Thomas Green wheel cutting engine.

Most (maybe all) of the tools on exhibit are from the collection of Ted Crom. Ted Crom owned what may have been the largest private collection of early horological tools in the world. Crom had hoped to give this collection to a museum but, could find none that would accept the

collection on his terms. It was later sold after his death at Skinner's Auction Company, in 2010. (See TER No. 5, Summer 2010) The owner of the Halim Museum must have been bidding at the auction or later acquired some of the tools that were offered for sale. This includes an American wheel cutting engine related to the Daniel Burnap school of clockmakers and a fine Thomas Green wheel cutting engine made in England, Figure 2 & 3.



Figure 4. Wheel cutting engines.

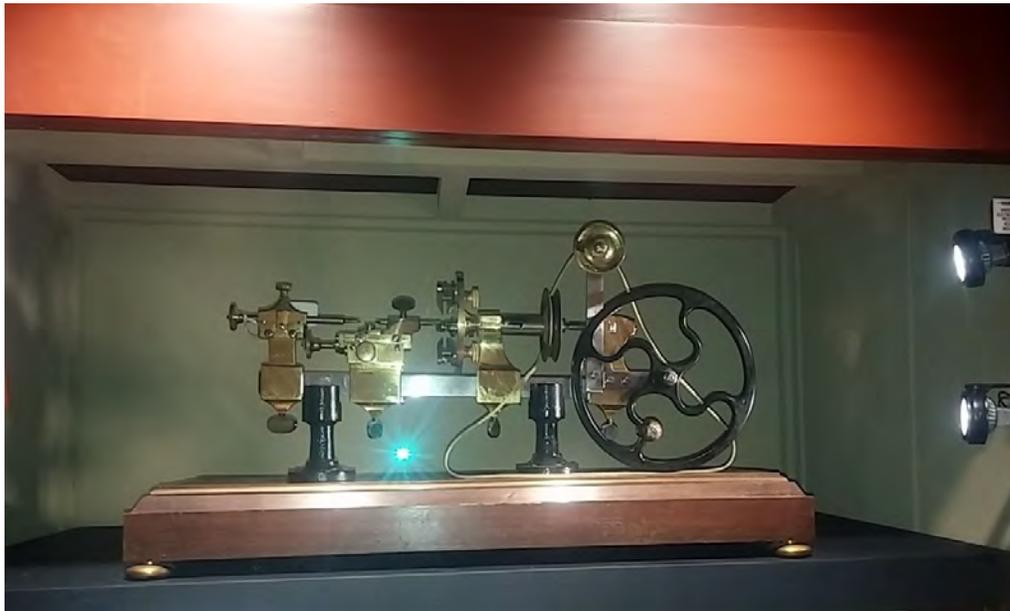


Figure 5. A Swiss mandrel lathe.

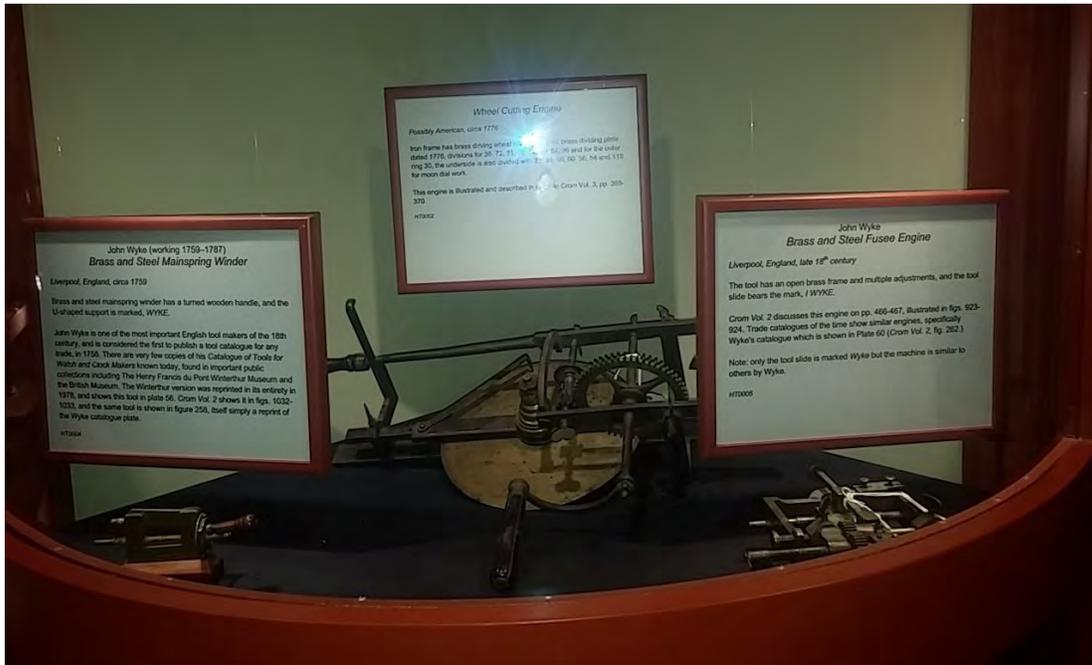


Figure 6. A mainspring winder, wheel cutting engine, and a fuse engine.



Figure 7. A dial making tool and mainspring winders.

There is about 10 feet of show cases filled with clockmaking and watchmaking tools in this section of the museum, Figures 4-7. All displays have large print descriptions that are easy to read by the ageing collector.

The museum has separate rooms for English, French, China, and American clocks. Many of the China clocks are automaton designed to simulate flowing water or fireworks displays. These are the type of clocks only made and seen by royalty. In addition to the clocks, there is also a portion of the museum dedicated to stained glass. If you are in the Chicago area you might want to stop in and see this interesting collection.

Bruce Forman
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Smaller Than A Two Dollar Bill



Figure 1. A mystery watchmaking tool!

Sometimes you discover a new tool that you are sure was used to build watches but, you just cannot explain what it does! One of our members owns such a tool that is no bigger than a two dollar bill, Figure 1. It was made by CIANA which we assume is a Swiss company? There is a hand wheel on the right side and it appears to have turned an arbor that could take collects of different sizes. The dial has two scales and one scale is marked “T”, which we assume means turns? The other scale is marked “F” in gr./cm, which we assume means torque? Please look at the following pictures and see if you recognize what this tool might have been used for. Do you know any history of the CIANA Company? Did they make other watchmaking tools? Write to the editor with your information.



Member Don Rossi had some free time on his hands. He decided to use this opportunity to make some tool post holders for his lathe. See the photo above as a work in progress.

Classified Advertising

Wanted

Levin and Derbyshire headstock and tailstocks (lever feed) in 10 mm sizes, any condition, running or not. Also 10 mm Levin collets and other related equipment. M. L. Shetler, Watchmaker, 4151 Paul Road, Woodhull, N. Y. 14898

Deckel, Aciera, Rivett, Schaublin, Lorch, Hardinge, Levin, lathe or mill accessories wanted. Will trade, or sell if I have duplicates. Mark Fulmer
(330) 877-2021, Markusfu@hotmail.com

Derbyshire Elect model lathe attachments- pivot polisher, screw cutting attachment, roller file rest, and screw feed tailstock - will trade - for sale: tools from the Elgin watch factory, lathes, grinders, millers, etc...some made by American Watch Tool. J. Dill, 2117 22nd St. Road, Greeley, Co. 80631, Tel: 970-353-8561, jimdle@yahoo.com.

Wanted cutters for an Ingold Fraise I acquired on eBay. Unfortunately the seller did not have any cutters for the tool. Also would like original or copies of any W. D. Clement Lathe and tool catalogs. John S Koepke, 2923 16th Street, San Pablo, CA 94806, 510-236-2197, jskoepke@comcast.net.

For Sale



Vintage Craftsmen 6a? lathe, model 109-212270. Includes head and tail stock, slide, tool post, 4 jaw chuck, change gears, faceplate & dog, original operating instructions/parts list, motor and belt. Local pick up only. \$350. Deena Mack, dmack18@rochester.rr.com. Attica, N.Y. 14011, 585-591-1343 leave a message.

GEAR CUTTER Setup For Sale Asking \$1500
I am not sure of the original use of this machine but
it has been modified into a nice gear cutter.
The table only moves up and down and right to left.
It comes with 50 index plates and some arbors.
It has two motors mounted on adjustable bases for
quick change from one motor to the other.
With different size pulleys this allows speed change.
Located in Jonesbor, AR. I may consider meeting someone
at a show or other location if they purchase this unit.
Questions or additional photos please contact me.
Pete Cronos pete@usa.com 870 974 2583

Thanks
Pete Cronos
pete@usa.com
870-974-2583



Federal dial indicator 0 to 0.005 in 0.0001 inch divisions. With Hamilton stand and wooden box. One extra base plate. Price \$250. It is heavy to ship, will sell or trade for antique tools I want but do not need. Bruce Forman, 234 Eagle Ridge Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 763-4748, email: bruce.forman@frontier.com.

SOLD- Hardinge Cataract Bench Lathe, 5C collet head stock, with two speed motor and misc. tooling. A good restoration project for someone. Tailstock needs attention. Normal ware for a machine of this age. \$650, Bruce Forman, 234 Eagle Ridge Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 763-4748, email: bruce.forman@frontier.com.

Buying antique clock and watchmaking tools prior to 1850. If you have something of interest to sell or trade let me know. Bruce Forman, 234 Eagle Ridge Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 763-4748, email: bruce.forman@frontier.com.



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Wanted – Does anyone know of a source for clock size bearing jewels? I am building a large escapement model and need jeweled bearings. Bruce Forman, 234 Eagle Ridge Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46385, (219) 763-4748, email: bruce.forman@frontier.com.