

The Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter



Chapter 178 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

www.acc178.org

2012 Volume 2

Presidents Message

As I write this message Mother's Day is rapidly approaching. Recently I was reminded of an old tradition that was observed where I grew up in Richmond Virginia. On Mother's Day everyone wore a flower in their lapel, if your Mother was still alive the flower was red and if she had passed away it was white. I'm not sure this tradition is observed in other areas and I know that this message will not be read before Mother's Day this year. To me it is a nice remembrance of Mothers. No such tradition, as far as I know is associated with Father's Day but it behooves us all to honor our parents through out the years. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who knows of any other customs associated with these or other holidays. We keep the past alive by remembering the people and events from our lives.

All of this has nothing to do with clock or watch collecting but I do have a story from my past. When I grew up in my grandparents home, my grandmother had a Westclox Big Ben legged alarm. This time piece was used to wake many different people in our household; she always had boarders in the house, and was a part of my past that came to mind after I joined the NAWCC. On my first Chapter meeting there was one of these time pieces on a Mart table. In my naiveté I decided that I would collect one of every model that Westclox had made. As you can imagine this dream was rapidly proven to be impossible or at least impractical to accomplish. Anyway this is how I became a fan of alarm clocks, an affection that still persist today after nearly 35 years later.

One more thing I want to mention before closing is the National Convention in Pasadena, California this June. If you possibly can attend please do so and show up early on Saturday June 16th for the Chapter 178 meeting. I would love to meet you all in person.

Till next time
Bob Linkenhoker

Dr. Doug Stevenson Obituary

The NAWCC has lost a remarkable man when Dr. Douglas K. Stevens, Fellow NAWCC, passed away on April 29, 2012.

Doug was member of Chapter 178 contributing articles to "Clocks" Magazine, our chapter newsletter, and numerous articles published in the NAWCC Bulletin. The most recent Bulletin dated Mar/Apr 2012 featured Doug's article "Wakers", about turn of the century German alarm clocks and the collection of fellow Chapter 178 member Dennis Sagvold.

Doug was a valuable resource sharing his encyclopedic knowledge of German clocks that he gained during his 30 year career as a Linguistics Professor in Germany.

2012 NAWCC National Convention
June 13 - June 16, 2012 Pasadena Convention Center

Visit the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter display in the Mart Room. Check out the displays and say "Hi" to Vince and Phyllis Angell if they aren't out shopping!

Alarm Clock Peter's Corner



Alarm Clock Peter with an Alarming Woman

Below is a letter that Alarm Clock Peter sent me in preparation of a fabulous display he was going to have in Germany. Peter is not only the biggest collector of German alarm clocks in Germany but since I have seen his collection I can assure you that he is the biggest collector of German alarm

clocks in the world.

Following the letter I have included some pictures of the display that he had in the museum. Sorry to be so late with the information but it was just "lost" in my massive file for the Howard Banta Alarm Clock Chapter.

Needless to say he eventually purchased my Seth Thomas "Echo" for the display and not only was I happy that he purchased it but also that many people in Germany had a chance to view it. -Vince Angell

GREETINGS FROM GERMANY

By
Alarm Clock Peter

I was recently in the Black Forest in the town of Furtwangen. There were 24 antique clock markets in the watch and clock maker school near the German Clock Museum (Deutsches Uhrenmuseum).

I made the alarm clock collectors 2008 meeting where there were more than 20 collectors from

Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands. It was a very nice evening as you can see by the pictures. The collectors brought alarm clocks, pictures from their collections, alarm clock parts, old catalogs, etc. The event ran very long into the night and was very interesting for alarm clock collectors in attendance.

Next year, I am excited to announce that my alarm clock collection will be on exhibition at the German Clock Museum. With around 300 clocks in my collection, the exhibition will run for 14 days (two weeks) at the end of August 2009. The exhibition will run around the same time as the antique clock market. This will attract many clock collectors to the Black Forest and to my exhibition. I will let you know the exact date of my clock exhibit.

I plan on making 12 glass show cases to display my 300 alarm clocks in one room of the museum. One show case will display clocks from the USA. I have a few, very nice, old American alarm clocks. For example, the Nutmeg by Seth Thomas, a little Bee by Ansonia, and a very nice Seth Thomas animated blacksmith that I recently purchased.

I need a model from "Echo" for the exhibition. I am interested in buying one before the exhibit. If I can't find one, I will have to borrow one from a Swiss collector. Please let me know if you have an "Echo" for sale, know anyone who does, or see one on eBay.

Uwe H. Peter (a.k.a. Alarm Clock Peter)



Photos from Alarm Clock Peter's display in Germany



F.H. Straub Optometrist and Jeweler Fergus Falls, Minn. Big Ben, mfg. 1926, courtesy of Dennis Sagvold.

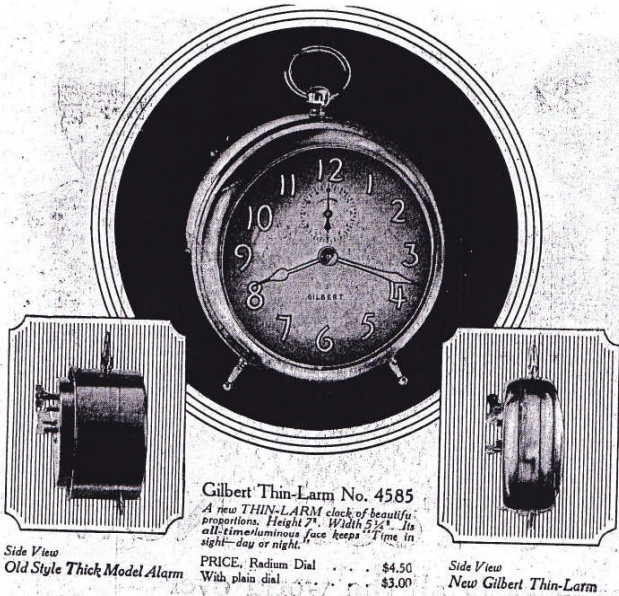


O. D. Leidal Jeweler and Optometrist, Fergus Falls, Minn. Big Ben, mfg. 1918, courtesy Dennis Sagvold.



Herman Idzal Equitable Bldg. Des Moines, Ia. Big Ben, mfg 1914, courtesy of Dennis Sagvold

Gilbert Magazine Advertisements courtesy of Dennis Sagvold



Gilbert Thin-Larm No. 4585
A new THIN-LARM clock of beautiful proportions. Height 7". Width 5 1/4". Its all-time luminous face keeps time in sight—day or night.

Side View
 Old Style Thick Model Alarm

PRICE, Radium Dial . . . \$4.50
 With plain dial . . . \$3.00

Side View
 New Gilbert Thin-Larm

Something New! The Gilbert Thin-larm

JUST as the old-fashioned "Turnip" of our grandfather's day has given way to the modern thin model watch, so is the clumsy, ponderous, thick-set Alarm Clock of yesterday fast giving away before the graceful slenderness and beauty of the Gilbert THIN-LARM.

It has remained for Gilbert of Winsted, "Makers of Good Clocks since 1807", to produce, perfect and introduce the first thin model alarm clock ever made.

See the new Gilbert THIN-LARM Clock at the best dealers everywhere, in a variety of styles and sizes—with plain or luminous dials.

William L. Gilbert Clock Co.
 Winsted, Conn.

"Makers of good clocks since 1807"

The Gilbert Thin-larm

The Only Thin Model
 Alarm Clock Made

A real achievement in clockmaking! Gilbert of Winsted has successfully applied the modern principle of the thin model watch to an alarm clock.

Note the graceful, slender streamlines—the smoothly-rounded curves—the general air of smartness and efficiency. Inside and out, the new Gilbert Thin-larm is a triumph of art and precision. Its reliable Gilbert movement ensures long life, accurate timekeeping and faithful, dependable service.

For over a century, Gilbert initiative has been ever alert, ever active, ever striving for expression through improvement. Its latest development, the Gilbert Thin-larm, is the greatest value ever offered in an alarm clock at popular prices.

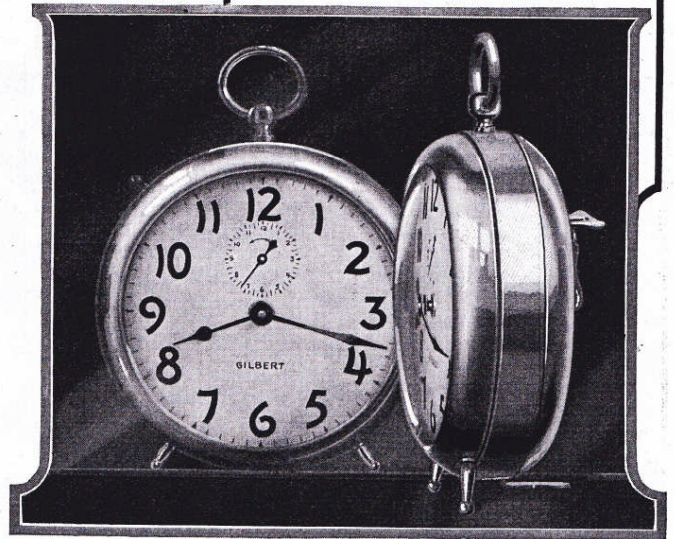
If not sold by your dealer, write us

William L. Gilbert Clock Co.
 Winsted, Conn.

"Makers of good clocks since 1807"

Model 4583—illustrated—height 7", width 5 1/4", Thin-larm model with convex glass and matless dial. Price . . . \$3.25

Model 4585—same design with Radium Dial. Price . . . \$4.50



Gilbert Clocks

52 The Literary Digest for December 13, 1919



Lighted windows framing holly wreaths say "Christmas time" in the same plain way that the radium signs of

GILBERT Night and Day Radium Dial Clocks

tell the time of night.

Their supreme utility—glowing the hour by night, showing it plainly by day—makes them the most helpful and most welcome of all timepieces.

Their clearer, longer-range readability is a scientific achievement. Gilbert Radium Clocks have maximum visibility. The design and harmonious coloring of the dials are both practical and artistic; the material, shape and position of the luminous signs *opposite numerals*: "make night time plain as day."

Give Gilbert Radium Clocks to family and friends this Christmas—ideal gifts. And have one yourself for real time-telling service, the day 'round, year in and year out.

Select from the several models your dealer will gladly show you

William L. Gilbert Clock Co.

DEPT. L. D.

Good Clockmakers Since 1807 at

Winsted

Connecticut



TWILITE—RADIUM DIAL
One day alarm clock

DEALERS—Handle Gilberts—the perfected Radium Clocks. Your customers are relying on your progressiveness. Write for paying proposition.



GILBERT NINE—RADIUM DIAL
Nine day clock with automatic alarm, 7 inches high



WINLITE—RADIUM DIAL
Intermittent alarm—one day movement, 6 1/2 inches high

Clock your Home with Gilberts



DEALERS—Handle Gilberts—the perfected Radium Clocks. Your customers are relying on your progressiveness. Write for paying proposition.

ASK your dealer to show you these dual purpose clocks with the exclusively Gilbert radium dials. They are the answer to your quest for a clock that will tell the time distinctly and unmistakably in the dark of the night.

The clear visibility of Gilbert radium dials is a unique Gilbert achievement attained through concentrating radium upon the hands and upon the compact markings placed inside of numerals. This means intensified radiance where light is wanted—instead of a blurred circle of diffused light resulting from radium spread thinly all over hands and numerals.

The effectiveness of the radium is guaranteed for at least five years.

GILBERT

Night and Day Radium Dial Clocks

WILLIAM L. GILBERT CLOCK COMPANY

DEPT. L. D.

Makers of Good Clocks Since 1807 at

Winsted

Connecticut



WINLITE—RADIUM DIAL
Intermittent alarm. One-day movement. 6 1/2 inches high.



No. 1143—GRACEFUL
Mahogany. Hand rubbed finish. 20 1/2 inches wide, 9 1/4 inches high.



GILBERT NINE—RADIUM DIAL
Nine day clock with automatic alarm. 7 inches high.

Gilbert alarm clock, similar to No. 1143, Graceful, purchased in Bismarck, ND. From the collection of Kevin Knauss



Mid-century modern Westclox Big Ben Repeater made in Scotland. Purple dial and case on plastic chrome pedestal. From the collection of Kevin Knauss. I am always in the market for mid-century modern mechanical clocks. If you have any for sale contact: kevin@insuremekevin.com



For Sale

**New Haven
“Brownie”
Intermittent Alarm
2-1/4” dial**

**\$50.00
Plus \$10 Shipping**

**Contact
Vince Angell
916-952-4961
or**

phylathome@hotmail.com



For Sale

**Waterbury
“NOSLEEP”
Ca. 1920**

**\$22.00
Plus \$10 shipping**

**Contact
Vince Angell
916-952-4961
or**

phylathome@hotmail.com



I Love Those Boxes By Vince Angell

I have collected clocks for over 30 years but my passion has been alarm clocks. I have hundreds of alarm clocks in the collection and now they are becoming harder to find at a price that is not within my means.

We all have watched the Antique Roadshow and you always hear them say that sometimes the box is more important than the actual item. This is because the boxes were normally thrown away or not cared for like what was in the box.

About 20 years ago I started collecting the original boxes. Whether I had the alarm clock or not I still bought them. I love the graphics and even if I did not have the clock that would give me more reason to look for the clock. I would immediately buy the first clock I found but eventually, as all collectors do, I continued to buy the clocks in order to find the best one that I could put in the box.

I will be at the National Convention in Pasadena in June looking for the clocks and boxes that are even harder to find to add to my over 100 original boxes.

The following are 3 examples of alarm clocks with original boxes.

The first is a wooden box from the late 1880's for the very popular Ansonia Bee Alarm. Love the box and love the label.

The next is the original box and clock for "The National Call" made for the Sears, Roebuck and Company by the Ingraham Clock Co.

The last is a Gilbert Alarm Clock from the 1950's with its original tin can that to most of us is very reminiscent of the 1 pound coffee can that we know from that era.

If you are looking to enhance your collection it might not be a bad idea to start collecting the boxes or containers of the alarm clocks.

But remember, I will be looking too.

