

“The Carriage Way”



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Carriage Clock by Japy Freres, #236, circa 1860, with a sweep seconds hand (photo courtesy Leigh Extence).

President's Report



Stan Boyatzis

Welcome to the August newsletter for 2022 with a special welcome to our new members. If this is your first newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading the articles, and please don't hesitate to email me with any comments.

Chapter 195 will be organizing a carriage clock exhibition in July 2023, at the NAWCC Museum to celebrate the NAWCC 80th Anniversary, and as part of the 2023 NAWCC National in Lancaster. The last carriage clock exhibition organized by Chapter 195 at the Museum was in 2018 to celebrate the NAWCC 75 anniversary with an outstanding exhibition of French carriage clocks. This time we are hoping to exhibit rare and unusual carriage clocks from around the world. If any members have any rare or unusual carriage clocks they wish to display in the exhibition please contact me by email with a short description and 2 or 3 photos of their clocks.

Carl Sona has decided to step down as a Director of Chapter 195. Carl was an inaugural member of the Executive Committee and instrumental in the setup of Chapter 195. The EC has appointed Chris Maher from Sydney as the new director. Chris has a keen interest in miniature carriage clocks and has assisted with various displays on the subject. He has written various articles on his miniature carriage clock collection and I have published his latest article, "More Reflections on Miniature Carriage Clocks" in this newsletter.

This month's feature article is by Tom Wotruba on "Carriage Clocks With Seconds Hand and Dials". In addition to the standard time measures for hours and minutes, there is a third time measure, that for seconds, which is seen only in a small number of carriage clocks. Tom discusses the two main categories of seconds dials and explains these with numerous examples. The article was previously published in '*Clocks Magazine*' in April 2022 pp. 15-21 and permission to reprint this article is gratefully acknowledged. Both Tom and Chris welcome any comments or questions from the members.

The executive continues to work hard to promote the chapter and I again encourage current members to spread the word about Chapter 195 and invite friends with an interest in carriage clocks to join. Remember, this is your newsletter so if you have any helpful hints or unusual carriage clocks you own or have seen, please share these with the members. If you have any queries about a carriage clock, please do not hesitate to contact Doug or myself. Details are at the back of the newsletter.

Copies of previous newsletters, hints, and a question page are included on our website. There are also carriage clock articles from the Bulletin and carriage clock videos from the NAWCC library. You will need to be logged in as a NAWCC member to access these.

<https://new.nawcc.org/index.phpSEB195rosshogan@optusnet.com.aup/chapter-195-international-carriage-clock>

In this newsletter I have included a section on carriage clocks sold at the recent Schmitt Horan & Co Clocks, Watches and Antiques Online Auction with live close on Saturday 10th September 2022. This is reproduced from the Schmitt Horan & Co catalog which includes estimates, condition reports, and prices realized. Permission to reprint this is gratefully acknowledged. Although there were only a few carriage clocks in this auction I hope members find this useful and of interest.

A link to the 1stdibs website is included. This is a useful website to research retail prices of carriage clocks and what is currently for sale. The website is updated weekly. We are happy to include other websites that may be of interest to the membership.

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Carriage Clocks With Seconds Hands and Dials

By Thomas R. Wotruba (USA)

Typical time measures by carriage clocks are hours and minutes as indicated by corresponding hour and minute hands on the main dial. But a third time measure, that of seconds, is provided by only a relatively small number of carriage clocks. When present, the seconds hand simply displays the passage of seconds repeatedly within each minute of each hour of time as indicated by the minute and hour hands. The passage of seconds as indicated by this corresponding seconds hand is not meant to be set or adjusted to some “correct” time as are the hour and minute hands. Seconds dials and their hands are meant simply to reflect the pace of the passage of time.

Categories of Seconds Dials

We look first at the two main categories of seconds dials on carriage clocks. These are distinguished based on their location in relation to the clock main dial. The first category is the sweep seconds (also called the center seconds) dial. It involves a seconds hand that “sweeps” around the same (main) dial that also displays the passage of hours and minutes with corresponding hour and minute hands. Thus on clocks with sweep seconds dials their main dial involves three hands – hour, minute, and seconds hands. An example is the carriage clock by Japy Freres as shown in Figure 1. (Note that this clock also has an alarm dial below the main dial.) We will see more examples of this sweep seconds category later in this article.

The second category involves a carriage clock with a subsidiary dial (sometimes called a seconds bit or offset seconds) that is independent of the main dial and is placed in a separate location, often at or near the XII location of the main dial. Its single hand moves continuously, completing one revolution in 60 seconds just as does the sweep seconds hand. An example in this category is shown in Figure 2, a carriage clock by Richard & Cie, that has a silvered and engraved dial. Its subsidiary seconds dial with its accompanying seconds hand is located at the XII main dial location. (The dial also contains the words “Goldsmiths and Silversmiths” reflecting who was the retailer of this late 19th century clock). We will see more examples of this subsidiary dial category as well later in this article.



Figure 1. Carriage Clock by Japy Freres, #236, circa 1860, with a sweep seconds hand (photo courtesy Leigh Extence).



Figure 2. Carriage Clock by Richard & Cie, unnumbered, circa 1890, with a seconds bit at XII (photo courtesy www.kdclocks.co.uk).

How Prevalent Are Seconds Hands on Carriage Clocks?

Carriage clocks with seconds hands are definitely uncommon. The major books involving carriage clocks provide few examples and little direct discussion of the incidence of seconds hands and dials. The terms “seconds hands” or “seconds dials” do not appear in the otherwise detailed index in Allix.¹ Some idea of the prevalence of carriage clocks with seconds hands can be gained by looking at published collections or major offerings of carriage clocks in the past.

A major auction of 187 French carriage clocks was presented by Christie’s in 1997.² This was described as containing “clocks representative of the heyday of French carriage clock production.” Of the 134 clocks offered, only 2 contained sweep seconds hands and only 1 provided seconds hands with a subsidiary dial at the XII position on the main dial. Thus a total of three clocks out of 134, or 2.2%, occurred in this presentation. A subsequent auction by Christie’s of a major collection of carriage clocks was described as “unprecedented in terms of quality, quantity, and variety, the finest pieces ... offers buyers to acquire the very best.”³ Seconds hands and dials occurred on 10 of the 187 clocks offered (5.3%), including 6 with sweep seconds hands and 4 with seconds hands involving subsidiary dials. A third source consulted involved the book of carriage clocks described by its author Joseph Fanelli as “examples of the best”.⁴ Of the 100 clocks pictured and described including those of French, English, Swiss, and Austrian origin, 21 (6 sweep and 15 subsidiary) contained seconds dials and hands. This 21% measure is greater than the incidence reported in the prior two sources, but it reflects the results of a highly selective process involving clocks which, as stated in the book’s introduction, are “particularly choice examples”. So based on all these three sources, we might conclude that seconds hands and dials are likely to be a relatively rare feature among carriage clocks in any typical collection or offering, and are more likely to occur within groups of very high quality and those comprising clocks with sophisticated complications.

Some Further Examples and Explanations

Sweep Seconds. The Japy Freres clock in Figure 1 offers a typical example of the presence of the sweep seconds function in a carriage clock. Another example appears in Figure 3, a 19th century carriage clock by Bovet Freres numbered 3409, with a musical movement in the base striking on three bells. This clock also contains a subsidiary alarm-setting dial, like that in Figure 1, and strikes the hours and half-hour on a bell.

¹ Charles Allix, *Carriage Clocks: Their History and Development*, Antique Collectors’ Club. Ltd., 1974.

² “French Carriage Clocks From an Important Private Collection, Christie’s South Kensington, 3 July 1997.

³ “The Dr. Eugene and Rose Antelis Collection of Important French Carriage Clocks,” Christie’s South Kensington, 26 November 1998.

⁴ Joseph Fanelli, *A Century of Fine Carriage Clocks*, Bronxville, NY. Clock Trade Enterprises, 1987. The images in Figures 11, 12, and 13 come from this source.



Figure 3. Carriage Clock by Bovet Freres, circa 1850, numbered 3409, with sweep seconds hand (photo courtesy Leigh Extence).



Figure 4. Carriage Clock by Margaine circa 1880, numbered 6863, with sweep seconds hand, moon phase, and calendar work (photo courtesy Bonhams).

A further example appears in Figure 4, a carriage clock by Margaine, circa 1880 and relatively large in size (10 ½ inches high including the handle) which also contains a subsidiary alarm-setting dial as well as a moon phase and day and date indicator dials. As already noted, complications such as these were included in many carriage clocks made with seconds dials.

Including a sweep seconds hand requires some additional components in the overall clock movement. Seconds hands are not directly connected to the motion works that drive the hour and minute hands. And seconds hands are not able to be manually “set” by the clock owner as are hour and minute hands. Without getting too technical, some additional explanation about the working of sweep seconds hands might prove instructive.

The motion for all three hands is derived from the contrate wheel, the wheel that transmits the motion originating from the balance wheel through the movement and on to the arbors carrying the hands. Unlike the hour and minute hands, however, the seconds hand is not driven directly from the contrate wheel. The contrate wheel does not rotate exactly once per minute as desired for one revolution of the seconds hand. Instead a sequence of extra wheels is employed that acts to “re-gear” the motion of the contrate wheel to produce the proper pattern of rotation necessary for the seconds hand. This process can be illustrated with the Bovet Freres clock (Figure 3).

The backplate of this clock, where the location of these extra wheels can be found, is shown in Figure 5, though in that image the three wheels are not visible because they are covered by the



Figure 5. Backplate of Bovet Freres clock in Figure 3 (photo courtesy Leigh Extence)



Figure 6. Three wheels under the bells on the backplate of the Bovet Freres clock in Figure 5 (photo courtesy Leigh Extence)

bell. When the bell is removed, the three wheels become apparent, and appear as seen in Figure 6. The clockwise motion of the contrate wheel is transferred to the first (or top) wheel of this sequence. This in turn drives the second or middle wheel in an anti-clockwise direction which then drives the third or lower wheel in a clockwise direction. The gearing of the three wheels is calculated so that the third wheel (which drives the seconds hand) will produce the required sixty beats per minute. The resulting proper motion is then transmitted through to the frontplate (shown in Figure 7) to a very thin arbor located within the center of the main arbor which carries the hour and minute hands. The seconds hand is attached to this very thin center arbor, which allows it to move independently from the hour and minute hands. A close look at this assemblage of arbors is provided in Figure 8 as it exists through the main dial of the Bovet Freres and to which the hour, minute, and seconds hands are to be attached.



Figure 7. Frontplate of Bovet Freres clock in Figure 3 (photo courtesy Leigh Extence)



Figure 8. Close-up of the set of arbors on the in Figure 7 that carry the hour, minute, and hands (photo courtesy Leigh Extence).

Subsidiary Dials. Further examples of carriage clocks with subsidiary dials which include corresponding seconds hands appear in Figures 9 and 10. Both are large, measuring approximately 10 inches high with handle up. A giant grande-sonnerie by Drocourt is pictured in Figure 9. The seconds dial at the XII position contains Arabic numerals stated in 10-second intervals while the main dial has gilt fleur-de-lys hands with black Roman numerals for each of the hours and Arabic numerals for the five-minute marks. There are additional subsidiary dials below the main dial for an alarm setting as well as calendar measures for day and date. The backplate is stamped and numbered by the maker “Drocourt, 12411”. It strikes on two large coiled gongs and has a three-position lever on the case bottom for selecting silence, striking, or full striking.

Figure 10 pictures a large grande-sonnerie carriage clock by Bourdin that strikes the quarters and hours at each quarter on two bells. Its seconds dial is also at the XII position which is the typical location of auxiliary seconds dials. Its overall design is similar to that of the Drocourt with Arabic numerals in 10-second intervals, while its main dial likewise contains black Roman numerals for the hours. It differs somewhat in having blued steel moon hands and no Arabic numerals for the five-minute marks. The subsidiary dials are similar to those in the Drocourt. The dial is signed *Bourdin, Hger Brevete, R de la Paix, 28, Paris*, as is the backplate. The address is that of Bourdin’s business location at the time the clock was made. Its corniche case also differs from that of the Drocourt, which involves a gorge style case, and the Bourdin case contains a distinctively-styled handle rarely found on other carriage clocks.



Figure 9. Carriage clock by Drocourt, circa 1895, numbered 12411, with subsidiary dial for seconds at main dial top and subsidiary dials below the main dial for alarm, day, and date (photo courtesy Sundial Farm)



Figure 10. Carriage clock by Bourdin, circa 1850, numbered 4469, with subsidiary dial for seconds at main dial top and subsidiary dials below the main dial for alarm, day, and date (photo courtesy Leigh Extence)

Figure 11 presents an additional and most unusual example of a carriage clock with a subsidiary seconds dial⁵. Its distinction is that its main dial is digital, so that a subsidiary seconds dial is most likely to occur outside the confines of the main dial. In this example it is located within its beautifully engraved dial mask just above the main dial space. This clock is unsigned but estimated to have been made circa 1900 by an unnamed Swiss maker. It is further unusual because it is only 2 7/8 inches tall (excluding the handle) but contains a striking and repeating movement with a jeweled lever escapement. Its strike train mainspring is located in its base. Overall, it contains a collection of features rarely found among carriage clocks.

Figures 12 and 13 present yet another example of interest regarding a carriage clock and its subsidiary seconds dial in a most unusual location.⁶ This clock was made by Samuel Bartholomew Gaze and exhibited in the Great Exhibition of 1851. The maker's name is stamped on the movement backplate (S.B.Gaze/London/1850) and the name of the retailer (Payne & Co. New Bond St.) appears on the dial. It was described in the exhibition catalogue as an "Astronomical clock with chronometer escapement, perpetual day of month, moons age, noon

⁵ Fanelli, footnote 4, pp. 202-203

⁶ Fanelli, footnote 4, pp. 180-181. Further discussion of this clock is found in J. B. Hawkins, *Thomas Cole & Victorian Clockmaking*, Sydney, Australia, Macarthur Press, 1975, pp. 28 and 155-157.



Figure 11. Unnumbered carriage clock by an unnamed Swiss maker with subsidiary seconds dial above the digital main dial (photo courtesy David Nimon)



Figure 12. Unnumbered carriage clock by S.B. Gaze with day, date, day-of-month, Zodiac signs, and moon phase (photo Courtesy David Nimon)

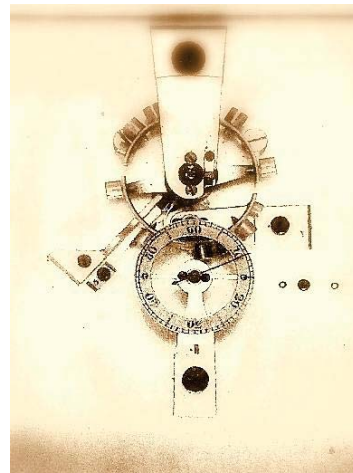


Figure 13. Escapement platform of the clock in Figure 12 showing the seconds dial and hand (photo Courtesy David Nimon)

and night, day of week, repeats hours and quarters, zodiacal signs, in engraved gilt case,” all components visible on the front of this 10 ½ inch tall clock as can be seen in Figure 12.

Curiously, that description did not mention a seconds-measuring component, perhaps because it did not occur directly on the dial or anywhere on the dial plate. Instead, as seen in Figure 13, the seconds measuring component exists directly on the escapement platform and can be viewed only through the escapement viewing glass at the top of the case.

Seconds hands in subsidiary dials involve a simpler method of producing proper motion than described above with regard to sweep seconds hands. The arbor carrying the seconds hand is independently geared to be driven directly from the motion of the contrate wheel (or from the escapement itself as in Figure 13). It does not need to be “re-geared” to separate its pattern of motion from that needed for the hour or minute hands. While most subsidiary seconds dials are found in the XII position on the main dial, there are rare exceptions such as seen in Figure 11. There may be still other exceptions but no others were found in the research for this article.

Conclusion

Carriage clocks with seconds dials and hands are rare, and when they do occur they are often not precisely accurate since that is somewhat dependent on the motion of the contrate wheel. So one might ask exactly what value do they provide in the overall function of the clock. Of course to collectors they provide one more element of complexity that increases the intrigue of the clock by reflecting uniqueness and sophistication, and thus resulting in a perceived added worth and pride of ownership. But it is interesting to ask of what practical contribution they add to the timekeeping function of these clocks. A seconds hand can sometimes be useful for timing certain activities. For example, if accurate timing of a small task is important such as a strict 45 or 90 seconds time for a cooking operation, the capability of achieving this is available with some accuracy. Thus, as noted by one observer, a seconds hand is more for specialized personal timekeeping.⁷ But people don't schedule most events in their lives to the second. Perhaps the most commonly noted practical benefit of seconds hands in motion is to show that the timepiece is still running, keeping time, and does not require rewinding or some other type of servicing.

The investigation of this topic has been of great interest to this writer. Please let me hear from anyone with your comments or additional observations on any aspect covered in this article. Contact me at twotruba@sdsu.edu.

⁷ Stephen Foksett, “Did You Ever Ponder the History and Purpose of the Seconds Hand on a Clock or Watch?” <https://grail-watch.com>, April 13, 2017.

Acknowledgements

Considerable interest as well as assistance was provided me over the period of writing this article. I give special thanks to Leigh Extence for his many communications, ideas, and examples of interest such as those noted in the Figures in this article. Thanks also to Mike Dale, and Stan Boyatzis for their communications and ideas as this article was coming together. And I gratefully acknowledge Bonhams, Kembery Antique Clocks (kdclocks), Sundial Farms, and David Nimon of The Horolovar Company for their permissions to present the images as acknowledged in those Figures.

More Reflections on Miniature Carriage Clocks

Chris Maher (Sydney) Australia



This article is an update of the one I wrote in 2020 for the Chapter #195 newsletter. Because I have few technical skills my interest is mainly in how my clocks look and trying to work out who made each one. Often identities remain a complete mystery, as is the case with these five clocks I own. I think they are all attractive, and if I was the maker, I would have certainly signed them. On the following pages are some of my other clocks where identities have been revealed and I conclude with two that still need some more research to reveal their maker.



CONTREAU: MINIATURE CANNELEE TIMEPIECE (#12376)

Maker: Contreau; **Serial No:** 12376; **Case:** Cannelee; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Black roman numerals with outer red arabic numerals ; **Hands:** Bistaff/serpentine; **Backplate:** CONTREAU B^D DES ITALIENS 36 PARIS engraved on side of plate, Pierre Millot Paris trademark lower right corner, Serial number lower left corner, 'AIGUILLES' below winding arbor. **Key:** nil. **Height:** 98mm; **Other:** Cover plate has number 77861.



I bought this clock as I had never heard of Contreau (NB there is no “i” as there is for the orange liquer); and I had never seen a miniature carriage clock with the maker’s name and address engraved on the side of the back plate. I have seen full size carriage clocks by Oudin, Sandoz and LeRoy that were signed in this manner, but not miniatures.

Brian Loomes’ book (Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World) has an entry for CONTREAU L Paris (Boulevard des Italiens) late 19C.



DROCOURT: MINIATURE ANGLAISE TIMEPIECE (#17313)

Maker: Drocourt; **Serial No:** 17313 (backplate, base plate, base); **Movement No:** 3785 (inside back & front plate); **Date:** ; **Case:** Anglaise **Movement:** Timepiece; **Dial:** Black Roman numerals with silver engine turned dial surround; **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** Serial Number, Drocourt stamp; **Front plate:** Drocourt Paris stamp on inside. **Height:** 102mm .



My clock is the one on the left. Years earlier I saw the one on the right at an auction (#16951) but missed out, and then in 2022 bought my one (#17313). I think mine was originally gold and silver, but at some point someone regilded it poorly. When you look inside the clock you can see areas that have retained the original silver finish. I think the colour scheme of #17313 was originally the reverse of #16951. In the Drocourt Catalogue there is a giant clock (17468) and standard clock (15723) with a similar case style.



DROCOURT: MINIATURE PORCELAIN (#20262)

Maker: Drocourt; **Serial No:** 20262; **Movement Number:** 724; **Date:** ??; **Case:** Mignonnette #1, Corniche;
Movement: Timepiece; **Dial:** Porcelain with dashes with black Roman numerals; **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** Serial Number, has JWB (J W Benson) stamped in an oval instead of Drocourt stamp, 'Drocourt Paris' stamp on inside of backplate. **Front plate:** Serial number (20262) and movement number (724) on inside near base. **Height:** 95mm;



This Drocourt miniature is interesting because the usual DC with clock oval trademark on the backplate has been over-stamped with the letters JWB for JW Benson (upper left panel). The 'Drocourt Paris' stamp remains unaltered on the dial side of the backplate (upper middle panel).

The clock was discussed on NAWCC Forum Jan 2022. Leigh Extence suggested the movement number is incomplete, perhaps should be 6724 rather than 724. Another Forum member showed a very similar Drocourt miniature (#2166) shown in the picture to the right.



GORHAM: MINIATURE GILDED SILVER TIMEPIECE (#??)

Maker: Gorham ; **Serial No:** ?; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ~1893; **Retailer:** ?; **Case:** Gilded silver case with Gorham hallmark on base; entwined dolphins for handle. **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Diamond and dots with black Arabic hours. **Hands:** Serpentine; **Backplate:** arrow above winding arbor, Aguilles below; R ?? . **Key:** engraved 'made in France'. **Height:** 89mm



This clock is a bit of a mystery as it seems to have a movement you might find in a French carriage clock; but it appears to have the hallmark of a US company (Gorham). It looks to have originally been gilded silver. It comes with a travel case with the key neatly stored in the back panel. It is engraved on the base 'LJ 1868 1893' presumably pointing to a sale date of ~1893.

It has this hallmark (to the right) on the base. The lion is facing the wrong direction to be the lion passant signifying sterling silver and there would be no need to write STERLING if it was the lion passant.

This site https://www.9251000.com/Gorham_Date_Code.html would suggest it may be the be the hallmark of The Gorham Manufacturing Company who make silverware.



JACOT: MINIATURE CANNELEE (#2064)

Maker: Jacot; **Serial No:** 2064; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** 1878/79 ; **Retailer:** Paul Garnier; **Case:** Cannelee;
Movement: timepiece; **Dial:** Roman hours, Arabic Minutes, signed for Paul Garnier; **Hands:** Spade; **Key:** Stamped
2064 **Height:** 99mm;.



This clock has the Jacot trademark between the plates and is signed on the dial for Paul Garnier. There is no Jacot (parrot) trademark on the rear side of the backplate, no characteristic winding arrow or inscription for hands/aguilles or inner circle on the dial (see Jacot on next page). Intrigued I asked Leigh Extence for advice and he replied:

“This one is just before the first Jacot clocks appeared with the HJ parrot mark. The first I have recorded with this mark is 2378 made in circa 1880, just as the poincon changed to show the 1878 silver medal award. So your 2064 is quite probably made circa 1878/79.”

(Jean)-Paul Garnier was born in 1801 and died in 1869 so it seems unlikely he touched this clock.

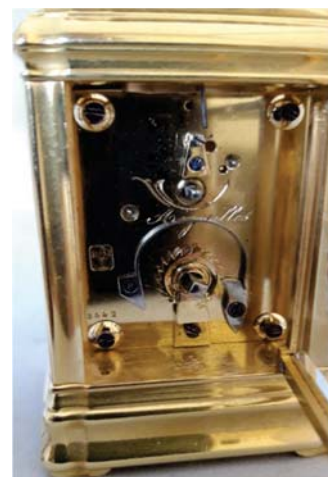
JACOT: MINIATURE GORGE TIMEPIECE (#5442)

Maker: Jacot; **Serial No:** 5442; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ~1886; **Retailer:** ?; **Case:** Mignonnette # 1 Gorge;
Movement: Time; **Dial:** Diamond and dots with black Roman numerals and black Arabic minutes; inner ring.
Hands: Spade; **Backplate:** Jacot trademark; serial no in lower left corner, Jacot arrow and 'Hands' script near winding arbor. **Key:** #0, 49mm long, engraved 0 & 2614 (not matching serial number). **Height:** 97mm



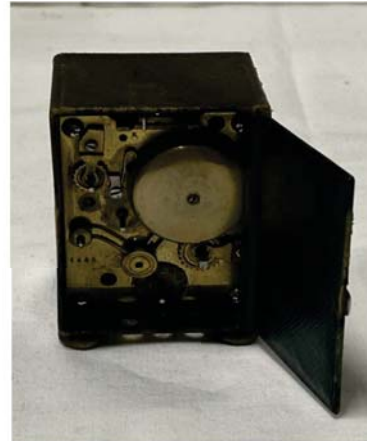
This miniature Jacot has "Mai 1886" etched into the rear glass, giving some guidance on when it may have been first sold. It was the first miniature Gorge cased clock that I bought.

Whereas the Jacot on the previous page seems to break the normal rules; this one seems to follow all the rules: it has the HJ parrot on a stand trademark, the characteristic winding arrow with Aiguilles under the arrow and the inner circle on the dial.



KELLER: MINIATURE LEATHER COVERED TIMEPIECE WITH ALARM (#1445)

Maker: Gustave Keller; **Serial No:** 1445; **Movement No:** ?; **Date:** ??; **Retailer:** Gustave Keller; **Case:** Leather-covered brass case; **Movement:** Time & strike with alarm; **Dial:** Triangles and dashes with black Arabic numerals. **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** Alarm setting dial, serial number. **Key:** nil **Height:** 70mm.



KELLER: SILVER CASED TIMEPIECE (#35876)

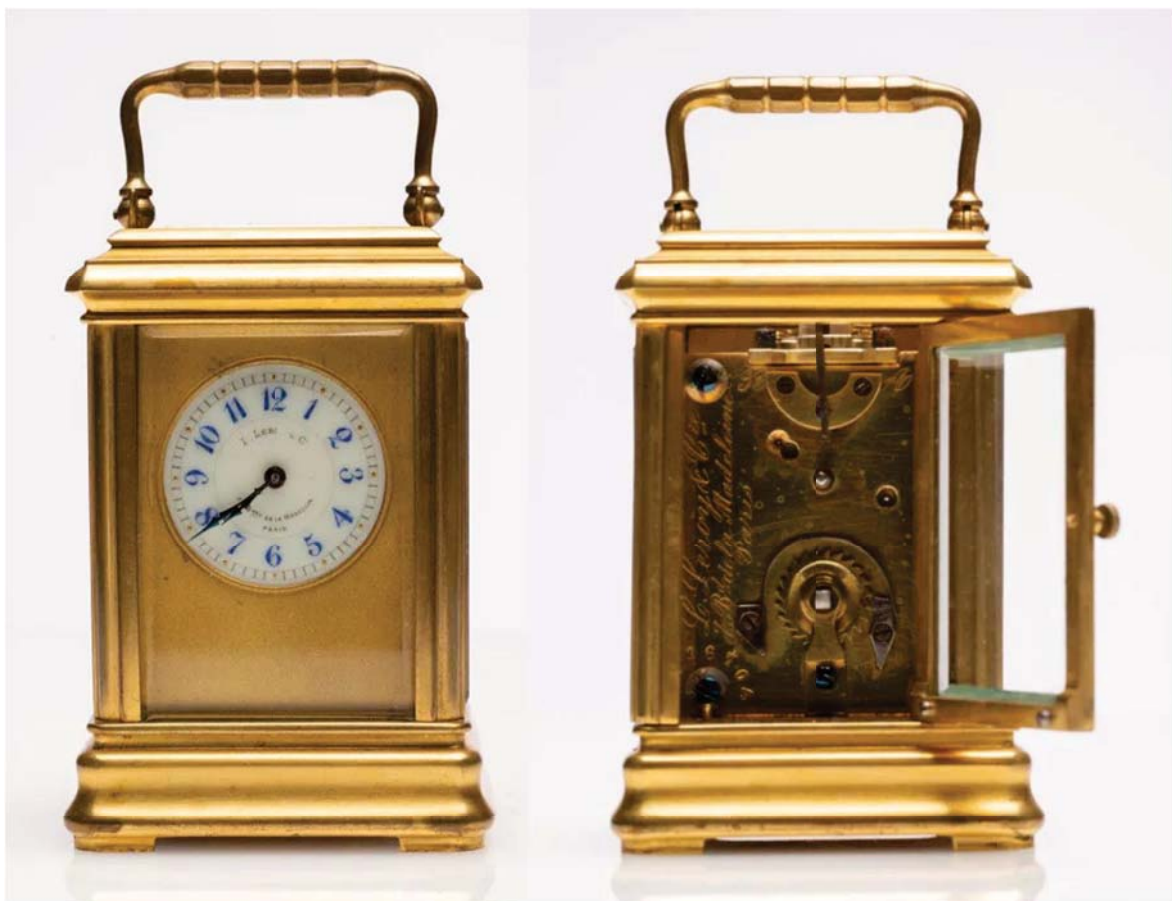
Maker: Gustave Keller; **Serial No:** 35876; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ??; **Retailer:** Gustave Keller; **Case:** Silver **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Gold dots with black Arabic numerals. **Hands:** Serpentine; **Backplate:** **Key:** nil, **Height:** 55mm, **Other:** 'Keller' on back door, knob on hand setting arbor and handle on winding arbor, inside of case is gilded, engraved with initials on top of case



These two little travel clocks were made by Gustave Keller, a French firm that made quality travel goods and silverware. The top one has an alarm with the alarm setting dial on the back plate. The bottom clock is inscribed Keller on back door, has a knob on hand setting arbor and handle on winding arbor so no key is required, The inside of case is gilded, engraved with initials on top of case. (The key does not belong to the clock; it is just a convenient way to prop door open for photo).

L. LE ROY ET CIE: MINIATURE CANNELEE TIMEPIECE (#16704)

Maker: L. LeRoy et Cie; **Serial No:** 16704 **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ? **Retailer:** ?; **Case:** Mignonnette #1, Cannelee; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Dashes and dots with blue Roman numerals; **Hands:** Distaff; **Backplate:** L. Leroy & Cie Bde de la Madeleine Paris et Cie Paris, serial number above lower left post; **Height:** 98mm



Well the identity of this one was easy to discern. Signed on the dial and on the back plate for L. Le Roy et Cie. I like the blue numbers on the dial as it is unusual and seems to lift the dial.

The handle is also unusual as it seems half-way between the style for a gorge case and corniche case. The Jacot/Garnier on the earlier page has the same style of handle.

LE ROY ET FILS: MINIATURE BAMBU TIMEPIECE (#13110)

Maker: LeRoy et Fils; **Serial No:** LeRoy-13110 (Backplate), Drocourt: 21239 (Backplate, baseplate); **Movement Number:** 7526 (inside of backplate) **Date:** ?? **Retailer:** ?? **Case:** Mignonnette #2 Bambu; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Engraved silver dial, black Roman numerals and griffins. **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** Engraved LE ROY ET FILS PARIS left side of back plate; Drocourt serial number 21239 above left bottom pillar, Drocourt trademark right side of plate, LeRoy serial number slightly obscured by click spring. **Key:** nil. **Height:** 101 mm;



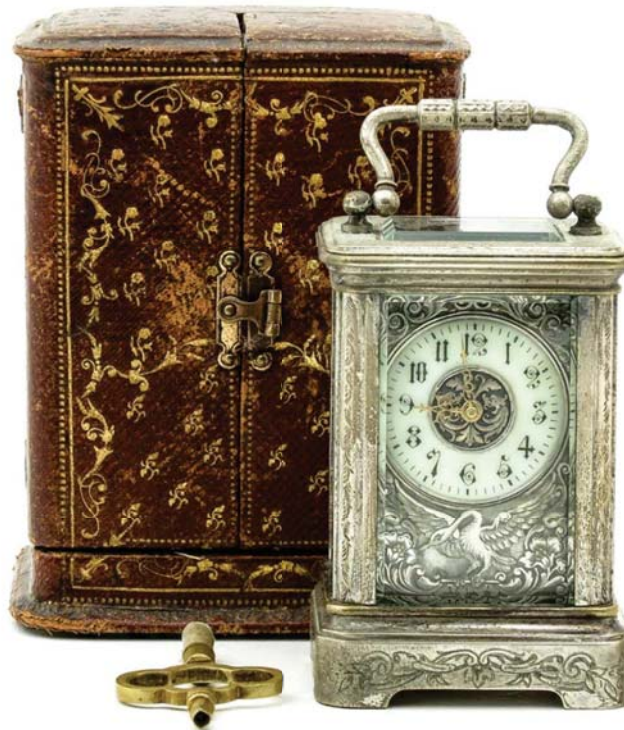
This miniature was made by LeRoy et Fils (serial #13110) and has a Drocourt movement (serial # 21239). It has the Drocourt DC Clock in oval trademark on the back plate and the Drocourt stamp between the plates. It is engraved for Le Roy et Fils on the left side of the backplate and has the Le Roy et Fils serial number (13110) below the click spring.

My clock is similar to LeRoy et Fils (serial #13276) shown to the right.

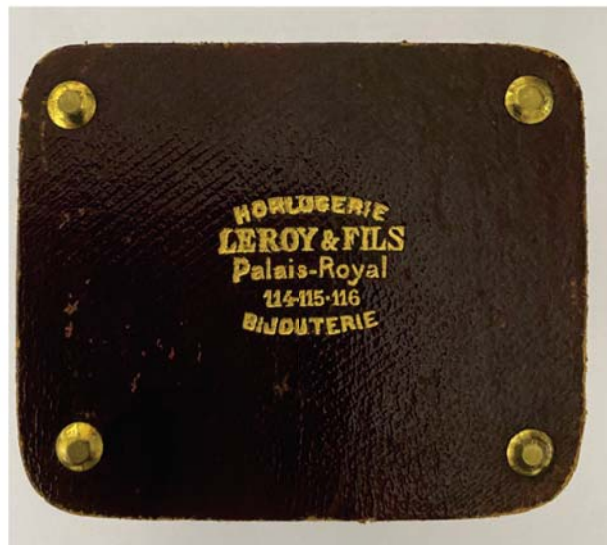


LEROY ET FILS: MINIATURE SILVER TIMEPIECE (# 6837)

Maker: LeRoy et Fils; **Serial No:** 6837; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ? **Retailer:** ? **Case:** Mignonnette #1, Corniche; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Black Arabic numerals with silver engraved dial centre and dial surround; **Hands:** Serpentine; **Backplate:** Aiguilles and arrow under winding arbour; pillars screwed. **Key:** 50mm long, engraved '1'. **Height:** 96mm.



This clock came with a travel case & key, with the key stored in a recess in the base of the travel case. Written on the base of travel case are the words: 'HORLOGERIE LEROY & FILS Palais-Royal 114-115-116 BIJOUTERIE'. Google translate tells me that 'Bijouterie' means a Jewellery store.



MARGAINE: MINIATURE GORGE (2127)

Maker: Margaine; **Serial No:** 2127; **Movement Number:** Nil; **Date:** Retailer: Nil **Case:** Gorge; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Back Roman numerals; **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** , **Height:** 98mm. **Key:** Came with numbered matching key and travelling case.



Miniature carriage clocks in a gorge case are a little unusual. When this clock was for sale the only picture was of it in the carrying box, but if you looked carefully you could see the curves in the clock body suggestive of the gorge case style.

The purchase of this clock initiated a discussion with Leigh Extence on whether there is such a thing as an unsigned Margaine. It has some of the characteristic Margaine features marks but is missing the trademark beehive trademark and the lines under the escarpment (see another of my Margaines to the right). Leigh said there is such a thing as an unsigned Margaine.



MARGAINE: MINIATURE (#18831)

Maker: Margaine; **Serial No:** 18831; **Date:** ~1900 (according to Thomas Wotruba), **Case:** Rectangular with strap handle; **Movement:** Timepiece; **Dial:** White enamel dial Roman Numerals; **Hands:** spade; **Backplate:** Margaine trademark, Serial Number; **Height:** 74mm; **Other:** Similar to Margaine #18832 except mine is silver. Serial number engraved on base. Came with travel box and key, but key was numbered 18873



I have two miniature Margaines in silver cases; (#10986) and (#18831). #10986 is in a case hallmarked for Charles Dimier 1891 and looks like a typical English silver cased miniature.

#18331 (shown above) is an unusual case style for a Margaine miniature. I have seen one other similar Margaine (#18832, below left) but it appears to be gilded brass. There is a borne style (eg #19450) that has similar styling cues but is borne-shaped not rectangular.



UNKNOWN: MINIATURE BAKELITE ART DECO

Maker: ?; **Serial No:** ?; **Case:** Mignonnette #1, bakelite art deco; **Movement:** Timepiece; **Dial:** Diamonds & dashes with black Roman numerals; **Hands:** Squared art deco style; **Backplate:**; **Height:** 87mm; **Other:** Arrived missing back door, not running. Has Perspex not glass.



This clock was for sale on Ebay but no-one wanted to buy it. I thought it was interesting as it had art deco styling and a bakelite case. It had no door so I made one from perspex and a knob I found (the side panels are perspex, not glass).

When I looked closely at the clock it has scribe marks on the case to guide drilling holes for attachment of feet and movement screws suggesting it was a one-off not a mass-produced item. I am not sure if it is home-made; but if it is, the person did a good job.



UNKNOWN: SUB-MINIATURE CAST CHASED ENAMEL

Maker: ?; **Serial No:** 559; **Movement Number:** ?; **Date:** ? **Retailer:** ?; **Case:** cast chased. **Movement:** time. **Dial:** Gold Arabic hours and minutes **Hands:** Serpentine. **Height:** 77mm; **Backplate:** no makers marks.



This clock came from an online Monaco auction and I cannot find any maker's marks on the clock or travel box. When I purchased it I did not realise how small it was: it is only 77mm tall including handle. I think I was thrown because the pictures on the enamel panels are very detailed and I was presuming it would have to be larger to include so much detail in each of the four scenes.

The backplate looks similar to that on the silver Gorham miniature.

If you have any additional information on the clocks I am happy to hear from you.

Email: christophermaher1@bigpon

Carriage Clocks sold at the recent Schmitt Horan & Co Clocks Watches and Antiques Online Auction with Live Close on Saturday 10th September 2022. This is reproduced from the Schmitt Horan & Co Catalog. The sale prices do not include the 20% buyer's premium.

Lot 322. A French Early 20th Century Brass Desk Compendium





Description:

France, an early 20th century brass desk compendium, double width carriage clock style case with beveled glasses and folding handle, at right an 8 day timepiece with arabic numeral white enamel dial and lever platform, the left with aneroid barometer, and central Fahrenheit thermometer, also with white enamel dial, case top with engraved monogram, compass and aperture for viewing the escapement, and the back with two beveled glass doors

Condition:

Case with minor staining and tarnish, thermometer broken, rear glasses with a few minor corner chips, clock dial with losses to retailer signature, movement dirty, running, barometer rear plate with fingerprint stain\

Dimensions: 6.375in x 6in x 2.625in

Circa: 1910

Sale Price: \$200

High Estimate: \$400 **Low Estimate:** \$300

Lot 332. A Lot of Three Small Carriage Clocks





Description:

Three small carriage clocks, the first with turtle shell case and sterling silver mounts, arabic numeral white enamel dial with floral festoons and blued steel hands, and 8 day timepiece movement with lever platform, the next also in turtle shell, with 9 karat gold handle, feet, and monogram, roman numeral white enamel dial and 8 day timepiece movement with lever platform, and the last signed "Matthew Norman", brass case with beveled glasses, roman numeral dial, and 8 day timepiece movement with lever platform, Norman dimensions listed

Condition:

Turtle shell cases with cracks and minor losses, precious metal content marked, all running, multiple lots sold as is, no returns.

Dimensions: 1.75in x 3in x 1.5in

Circa: 20th C

Sale Price: \$600

High Estimate: \$700 **Low Estimate:** \$500

Lot 333. A Good Early 20th Century French Mignonette #2 Carriage Clock



Description:

France, a good early 20th century Mignonette #2 carriage clock, the gilt, Anglaise variant case on turned feet, the base with matted ground and renaissance revival ornament, corners with fluted columns, and cushion top with ornament similar to the base, four finials and folding handle, gilt dial mask with matte, gilt, cast floral and foliate fret, arabic numeral white enamel dial with spade and whip hands, 8 day timepiece movement with lever platform and cut bimetallic balance

Condition:

Case a bit dirty, gilding with minor losses, front finials with plier marks, front glass broken, rear glass with chip at upper right, dial with chip at edge, 3:00, hands with minor oxide, movement ticks, low amplitude, balance needs truing.

Dimensions: 2.25in x 4in x 2in

Circa: 1900

Sale Price: \$375

High Estimate: \$700 **Low Estimate:** \$50

Lot 335: A Late 19th Century Wooden Case Carriage Clock by Pierret



Description:

Pierret, Paris, a late 19th century carriage timepiece, the rectilinear case with mahogany and rosewood veneers, the base with presentation plaque from a Rev. Howell to Susan Elkins, and dated 1887, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet style hands, and 8 day timepiece movement marked "V.A.P.", with lever escapement, and steel balance mounted on the back plate

Condition:

Case with minor veneer losses and lifting, a few bumps and dings, case with some wear at door catch, dial and hands good, movement with tarnish and staining, running

Dimensions: 5in x 7.25in x 3.25in

Circa: 1890

Sale Price: \$125

High Estimate: \$300 **Low Estimate:** \$200

Do you own a carriage clock?

If so, you may have questions about your clock. Such as,

1. When was it made and by whom if it is not signed by a maker?

Many carriage clocks are marked by retailers, such as “Tiffany”. Many times, the maker is not identified. However, the maker can often be identified by the construction style and other tell-tell signs found on the movement.

2. Should I clean the case, or not?
3. And the greatest question of all, what is its value.

This is the hardest question to answer because of the many variables, such as the condition of movement and case, the name and standing of the clockmaker, & the quality and rarity of the clock. We are not licensed, appraisers. We can only advise you where to look for comparable clocks so you can make your own "best guess" as to the actual value, always remembering the oldest approach to a value is "Willing Buyer, Willing Seller".

Members of our chapter have many years of experience collecting, researching and restoring carriage clocks. Many are willing to help you answer some of these questions.

This free service is for NAWCC members only.

Email questions and pictures of your carriage clock (one clock at a time, please) to:

Tom Wotruba: (USA) twotruba@sdsu.edu

Doug Minty: (Australia) dminty@optusnet.com.au

Ken Hogwood: (USA) kenhogwood@aol.com

Leigh Extence: (UK) leigh@extence.co.uk

Greg Cook (USA) gcookie16@yahoo.com

Link to the 1stdibs website:

<https://www.1stdibs.com/search/?q=carriage%20clocks>