

“The Carriage Way”



International Carriage Clock Chapter #195
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The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

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**Carriage Clock #876, Breguet Neveu &
and Louis-Clément Breguet.**

President's Report



Stan Boyatzis

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2019 with a special welcome to our new members. If this is your first newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading it, and please don't hesitate to email me with any comments you may have.

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 membership. 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.

This month's feature article is by Tom Wotruba (USA.) on "A Carriage Clock by Breguet Neveu & Cie and The Story of Louis-Clément Breguet". Tom discusses his research on a carriage clock signed *Breguet Neveu & Cie* No. 876 and then explores the horological attainments of Louis-Clément Breguet and his new interests and achievements.

Leigh Extence has written an article on Early Carriage Clock Cases: One-piece and Multi-piece. The multi-piece case of the earlier period of carriage clock manufacture changed form in the 1850s onwards with the more standard form developing into what is now known as the '*corniche*'.

Both Tom and Leigh welcome any questions or comments on their articles.

Remember 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.php/chapter-195-international-carriage-clock>

Please note this is a new link to the website.

A link to the Online Galleries website is again 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.

I have again included a section on carriage clocks sold at the recent R.O. Schmitt Fall 2019 Auction. I have included estimates, condition reports, and prices realized and hope members find this useful and of interest. Most prices were again below the minimum estimate.

Members of the Executive Committee:

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A Carriage Clock by Breguet Neveu & Cie and The Story of Louis-Clément Breguet

By Thomas R. Wotruba (USA)

Introduction

The name Breguet represents extraordinary achievement in the horological world, especially with regard to watches. But carriage clocks identified by with this name are among the most prized possessions of carriage clock enthusiasts. Allix declared that “the Breguet clocks evince an innate superiority in conception, design and execution which is difficult to convey in words... It is not surprising that his *pendules de voyage* were both the first and best ever made in France.”¹ The focus of this praise was, of course, Abraham-Louis Breguet (1747-1823), the great horologist who has been the subject of many books and articles identifying and praising his work.² His technical and aesthetic creativity made him, his ideas, and his work legendary.

The Breguet story was destined to continue. A.L. Breguet had a son, Antoine-Louis (1776-1858), who, after completing an apprenticeship with John Arnold in London coupled with training by his father, became his partner in about 1807. The name of the business, as reflected in signatures on the timepieces, changed to become *Breguet et Fils*. From that time on, father and son worked together and, in the words of Emmanuel Breguet, “it became extremely difficult to divide the honors for any particular technical or aesthetic development between father and son.”³ But after A.L.Breguet’s passing in 1823, Antoine-Louis’ interests began to wander away from the business challenges associated with making and selling of timepieces. He acquired a large estate in the countryside outside of Paris and added an electrical laboratory to the house so that he could pursue his interest in electricity, an interest subsequently taken up in earnest by his son. He moved there after transferring the business to his son, Louis-Clément (1804-1883), the third generation Breguet, who had returned to France after a three-year apprenticeship with the Swiss watchmaker Barral. Also involved in this new business operation were Jonas Louis Lassieur (1785-1850), the nephew of Abraham-Louis who had already been part of the earlier business operation since 1808, and an accountant named Trédos who was considered a close family colleague. As a result of these changes, which occurred in May 1833, the name of the firm evolved to become *Breguet Neveu & Cie*.

Breguet Neveu & Cie and Clock #876

Louis-Clément Breguet continued the distinguished output of his namesake predecessors and further expanded into new interests and achievements. We look first at an example of his horological attainments and will return later to his expanded interests. He continued to produce watches and clocks of remarkable quality, and we focus on a carriage clock signed *Breguet Neveu & Cie* as an example of this work. It is clock #876 and is pictured in Figure 1.

¹ Charles Allix, *Carriage Clocks: Their History and Development*, (Antique Collectors’ Club, 1974), p. 37.

² For examples, see Claude Breguet, *A.L.Breguet, Horologer*, translated by W.A.H. Brown (E.L.Lee, 1962); Emmanuel Breguet, *Breguet: Watchmakers Since 1775: The Life and Legacy of Abraham-Louis Breguet* (France: Alain de Gourcuff Editor, 1997); George Daniels, *The Art of Breguet* (London: Sotheby Parke Bernet, 1974).

³ Emmanuel Breguet, noted in footnote 2, p. 165.



Figure 1. Carriage Clock #876, Breguet Neveu & Cie and Louis-Clément Breguet.

The specifics of this clock are as follows. It is contained in a one-piece gilt bronze case with a deeply chased and engraved design. It contains a duplex platform escapement, somewhat unusual for any Breguet clock, with a bimetallic balance. The escapement is numbered 328. Its twin-barrel movement powers grande sonnerie striking and repeating activated by a push repeat at the top front of the case. A third small barrel powers the alarm. Figure 2 displays the back plate of the clock showing the two nested bells and their striking hammers, while Figure 3 is a view of the back plate with the bells removed and a clearer view of the striking hammers. Note the two hand setting arbors in the bottom section of the back plate, the higher one for setting the hands and the lower one for setting the alarm. Under the hand-setting arbor is the French word *aiguilles* in block letters which means *hands*.

A closer view of the dial appears in Figure 4. The enamel dial is signed *Breguet* in block letters and contains Roman chapters in blue and gold beetle hands which are also unusual for a Breguet clock. The subsidiary alarm dial is engraved on the gilt mask below the main enamel dial. Just below the alarm dial is the name *Breguet* that is engraved but barely visible as it is nearly covered by the frame of the front glass. A close-up view of this signature is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 2. Back of #876 showing nested bells.



Figure 3. Back of #876 with case and bells removed.



Figure 4. Close-up of the dial and dial plate of #876.



Figure 5. The Breguet signature engraved beneath the alarm dial.

The more complete signature of *Breguet Neveu & Cie* appears near the bottom of the back plate but is difficult to discern in Figures 2 or 3 so a close-up is presented in Figure 6. Immediately above the engraving of this signature appears the No. 876.



Figure 6. The signature of Breguet Neveu & Cie with the number 876 on the back plate.

Two additional views complete the total picture of this clock. Figure 7 shows the top of the clock looking down onto the platform. The rectangular beveled glass window at the top is of the maximum width possible as it extends to the edges of the top frame of the case. Large size windows usually indicate that the clock is of a relatively early date and are sometimes considered to add to its value and decorative appeal. Figure 8 provides a side view of this clock. It is of interest because it shows the location and size of the small barrel near the top of the case that houses the small spring that drives the alarm. For comparison, the one of the two large barrels that powers the timekeeping is seen nearer the bottom of the case in this view. Not seen, but directly alongside this large barrel is a comparable-size barrel on the other side of the clock that powers and drives the striking mechanism.



Figure 7. View through the top window of #876.

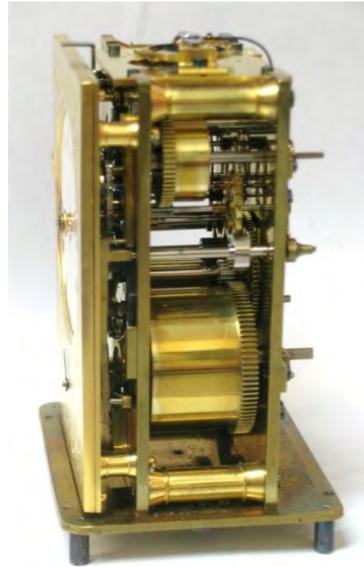


Figure 8. The side view of #876.

Our final look at this clock involves the certificate of authenticity that can be provided by the House of Breguet to certify that the clock in question is genuine and not a fake, copy, or somehow misrepresented. These certificates can be obtained for all the timepieces in the Breguet records, and such a certificate has been obtained for #876 as shown in Figure 9.

This document contains some interesting information. For example, it provides a date the clock was first sold as 11 January 1847. It describes the case as being gilt bronze (*bronze doré*) with an enamel circular dial and a duplex escapement number 328. It was sold to Count de Lembrocke for 1,500 francs. This document is certificate numbered 3530 based on the records in the books of Breguet at 12 Place Vendôme in Paris and issued on October 25, 1977.

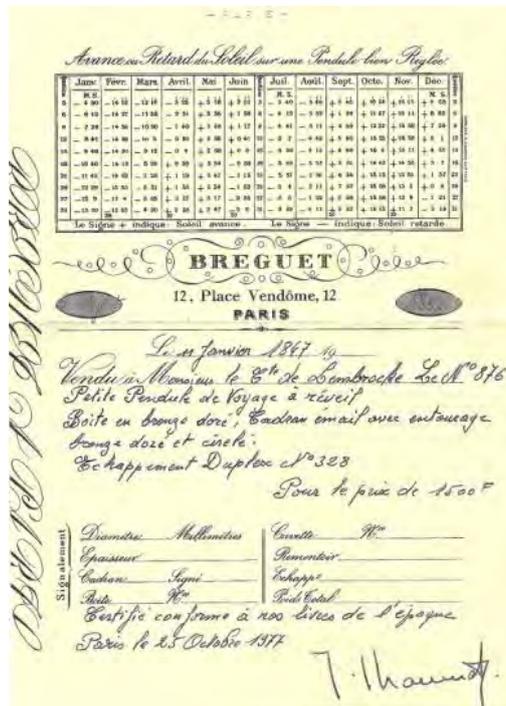


Figure 9. Certificate of Authenticity for #876.

Other Carriage Clocks by Breguet Neveu & Cie

An exploration of websites available on the internet revealed four other carriage clocks signed *Breguet Neveu & Cie*. The first is #920 as shown in Figure 10. It has a grande sonnerie movement with three barrels for the going train, striking, and alarm, and contains a duplex escapement, all similar to #876.



Figure 10. Breguet Neveu & Cie carriage clock #920 as shown on the auction website of Dr. Crott for November 18, 2017.

The gilt bronze case and dial mask has likewise a very similar florally engraved design including the engraved alarm dial below six o'clock. The dial is signed *Breguet* above six o'clock and the movement is signed *Breguet Neveu & Cie* on the back plate. The top escapement viewing glass is rectangular and extends to the edge of the frame. It differs from #876 primarily in having blued steel moon hands rather than gold beetle in style. The clock is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity number 4462 stating that it was sold to Count Gudowitsch on 14 July 1842 for 1,200 francs, though it was probably made some years earlier.

Another carriage clock of largely similar design by *Breguet Neveu & Cie* is #1143 as shown in Figure 11. The case design and its dial mask and engraving also resemble those of #876.



Figure 11. Breguet Neveu & Cie carriage clock #1143 as shown in the website of Richard Redding Antiques, summer 2018.

It differs in having a chronometer escapement and no separate barrel for the alarm. In addition, it is signed Breguet at the bottom of the dial below six o'clock and has blued steel trefoil hands. Its oval top viewing glass is accompanied by a lever for adjusting the striking options (*grande sonnerie*, *petite sonnerie*, *silence*) and two plungers to activate the alarm and the *remontoire*, which is quite unusual in a carriage clock. It is signed *Breguet Neveu & Cie* on the back plate and is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity number 4342 noting that the clock was sold on 25 May 1844 to Count Kiseleff for 1,600 francs.

A third carriage clock uncovered in the internet search is #1217, offered in a Christie's London auction in July 2005. It is shown in Figure 12. Its case design and dial mask engraving resemble those already presented, but the dial itself has an additional feature, a calendar hand indicating the day of the month. The glazed top panel aperture is accompanied by a lever for selecting striking options (*grande sonnerie*, *silence*), adjusting the calendar hand, a push repeat button, and a larger button engraved *remontoire*, again an unusual feature. It has a space for a button (lacking) to set the alarm. The dial is signed *Breguet* above six o'clock and inside the calendar ring. The blued steel trefoil hands complete the dial. Accompanying the clock is a certificate of authenticity stating that the clock was sold on 3 September 1844 to Count J. de Montalvo for 2,200 francs. In the Christie's auction it sold for £38,400.



**Figure 12. Breguet Neveu & Cie carriage clock # 1217 offered
In Christie's London auction, July 2005, Lot 40.**

A final example of a carriage clock made by *Breguet Neveu & Cie* is shown in Figure 13. It is clock # 5017 and was included in the 2017 Catalogue of Richard Redding Antiques on page 21. As shown, it was joined by a red Moroccan leather travel box and its original key, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity number 4029 stating that the clock was sold on 11 June 1853 to Comte Wladimir Komar for 4000 francs. The catalogue noted, however, that this clock was made between 1831 and 1832, its dial was replaced in 1841, and the clock was overhauled in 1853 shortly after its sale. It is signed and numbered on the movement *Breguet Neveu & Compagnie, No.5017* and signed in two other places – on the dial above 6 o'clock and on the lower area of the dial mask with *Breguet* on the left below the VII and *No. 5017* on the right below the V. It has a grande and petite sonnerie striking movement with a large single double-ended going barrel driving the going and striking trains and two bells mounted within the base. Its oval glazed aperture at the top has pull-wind alarm and repeating button. Petite/grande sonnerie and sonnerie/silence levers occur at two locations at the top edge of the dial. The escapement is a lateral lever accompanied by a three-arm bimetallic compensation balance with temperature adjustment screws. The white enamel dial (made by Droz) contains three subsidiary dials for the seconds (at the top), days of the month (lower left), and alarm (lower right). The engraving pattern on this clock is again quite similar to the previous three as well as to #876.



Figure 13. Breguet Neveu & Cie carriage clock #5017 as shown in 2017 Catalogue of Richard Redding Antiques on page 21.

Louis-Clément Breguet

As already noted, Louis-Clément Breguet was born in December 1804. His parents were Jeanne-Françoise Venture de Paradis and Antoine-Louis Breguet, though they were not to be married for about another four years. His understanding of the watchmaking process was first nurtured through his apprenticeship at Perrelet in Versailles, a firm with which his grandfather worked many years earlier.⁴ He also obtained a lengthy apprenticeship with the Swiss watchmaker Barral in Geneva, as already noted, to gain the experience of Swiss production methods. Upon his return to France he joined the family business then under the leadership of his father Antoine-Louis. Soon, he became aware of the difficulties the firm was experiencing, leading to disagreement and conflict with his father. Antoine-Louis likewise was feeling anxious and increasingly longing to change his life to country living at the estate he acquired. So, in May 1833 a company called Breguet Neveu & Compagnie (abbreviated Cie) was set up to buy out the old firm and Antoine-Louis transferred the business to Louis-Clément as described at the start of this article.

Under this new leadership changes in the business were on the horizon. Louis-Clément decided to adopt standardized production techniques for the majority of watches, though they would remain aimed at the luxury end of the market. He opened a separate facility for that purpose at a new location while retaining the traditional practice in the ongoing facility of making individual pieces for the most prestigious clientele. He made some significant improvements in other products. For example, he devised a system for improving the sympathique clock which his grandfather had developed.

⁴ www.timeandwatches.com

It was originally created as a clock adapted to receive a watch which, when inserted, would be adjusted to match the time on the clock without requiring that the watch be opened. It had never been patented, however, so Louis-Clément obtained a patent and then improved it so that the clock could wind the watch in addition to setting the time. As a result he sold approximately 50 sympathique clocks whereas his grandfather had sold fewer than ten. He continued producing marine chronometers, supplying many to the royal navy and the merchant navy. And of course, he produced carriage clocks as evidenced by those in this article. In fact, it has been noted that at least 150 carriage clocks were sold during the Breguet Neveu & Cie era.⁵

But Louis-Clément's interests were expanding (as did his father's as stated earlier) to include electricity, engineering, and physics.⁶ He became prominent in regard to the development of the electrical telegraph as well as a series of synchronized electrical clocks. His workshops produced telegraphs as well as aneroid barometers, laboratory instruments, and other electrical apparatus. He obtained a patent for a tuning fork for the regulation of speed and ultimately the regulation of machines. For instance, he devised an automatic control mechanism in 1849 for the speed and stopping of trains. Some of this work would ultimately lead to the invention of the quartz watch. His scientific work gained him an appointment to the Bureau of Longitude in 1843. He was awarded the Legion of Honor in 1845 and was elevated to become an officer in 1877. His continual work with other scientists eventually gained him membership in the French Academy of Sciences in 1874. He was awarded gold medals at the Paris Exhibitions of 1844, 1856, and 1867 as well as at other exhibitions in London, Lisbon, and Philadelphia. He is one of the seventy-two French scientists whose names appear on the base of the Eiffel tower. His is the eighth name on the west side. As noted, some years later by a Breguet family member, Louis-Clément would have clearly fulfilled the high hopes that would have been founded on him by his grandfather.⁷

What Happened to Breguet Neveu & Cie?

Louis-Clément Breguet married Caroline Lassieur in 1833 and they had three children during the years 1847 to 1853. The middle child and the only son was Antoine, born in 1857. He entered the École Polytechnique in 1872 and emerged with profound interests in electricity and telecommunications to parallel those of his father. Antoine would be the last of the Breguet lineage to continue this distinguished business. But because of their changing interests this father and son shifted their attention away from watchmaking and the traditional products of prior Breguet generations. Into the picture came Edward Brown, an English-born watchmaker who had entered the firm in 1845 and had become head of its watchmaking workshop. Louis-Clément decided to separate the watchmaking business into a distinct operation and transferred it with a contract of sale in May 1870 to Edward Brown who became its proprietor. This allowed the Breguet team of father and son to concentrate their interests and efforts on the telegraph and related aspects of telecommunication. Antoine Breguet died unexpectedly in July 1882 and Louis-Clément died a little over a year later in October 1883.

The watchmaking business remained in the Brown family until it was sold to Chaumet in 1970. The company had become known as Maison Breguet and the name Breguet continued to identify its distinctive products. Today it is a subsidiary of the Swiss Swatch Group.

Comments or questions from readers are welcome. Please send your messages to twotruba@sdsu.edu.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are offered to Philip Poniz for his suggestions and comments on earlier drafts of this article. Thanks also to Stan Boyatzis for his interest and reaction to earlier drafts, and to Emmanuel Breguet for his excellent written history of the generations of Breguet, as noted in footnotes above, that served as the source of much information and inspiration for writing this article.

⁵ Personal correspondence, Philip Poniz, February 12, 2019.

⁶ For more detail see Emmanuel Breguet, noted in footnote 2, on pp. 309-315,

⁷ Claude Breguet, noted in footnote 2, on p.10.

Early Carriage Clock Cases: One-piece and Multi-piece.

by Leigh Extence (UK)



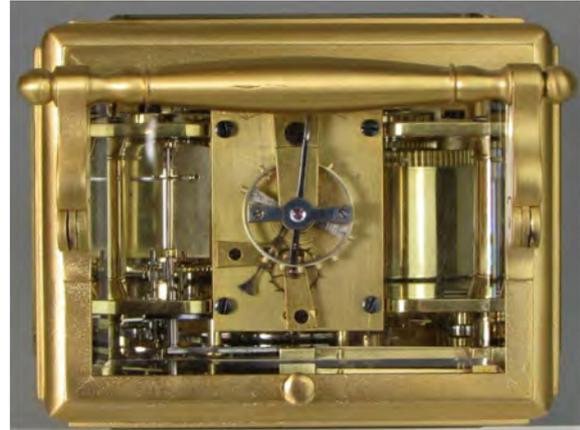
In a previous article for the newsletter I made comparisons between the gorge and cannelée cases which came into fashion in the 1850s and the mix-up between the two that has since ensued.

Prior to this date the majority of cases used for carriage clocks were of the one-piece design or a multi-piece style of simple pleasing lines, with the latter turning into the corniche case to become the most popular style of carriage clock case in future years.

The titles of both these case types are self-explanatory in that the body of the multi-piece case is made up of several parts; base, pillars, top plus handle whereas the one-piece was basically a complete body, plus a separate base and handle.

For the sake of simplicity, this article dismisses some of the more flamboyant styles of the time, including the Empire style that Breguet favoured and concentrates on these two more common examples.

It was circa 1830 that the one-piece case was introduced to the wider clock buying public by Paul Garnier who utilised it for his series 0, I and II clocks and was a design that would last for a number of decades. Interestingly this identical case style, quite probably from the same case maker's mould, was used by a number of other makers of *pendules de voyage* one example being serial number 297, as seen below, that came from the Henri Jacot workshops in the small horological town of Saint Nicolas d'Alhiermont near Dieppe on the French northern coast in circa 1855 and which was retailed by Dent in London. That the case style and proportions are identical to those housing Garnier movements may come as less of a surprise now that my research shows that a fair proportion of the *blancs roulants* being made for Garnier at this time were manufactured in the Saint-Nicolas d'Alhiermont workshops of Holvingue frères, including those fitted with the *Garnier* chaff-cutter escapement, and that Holvingue and Jacot had workshops literally a few hundred yards from each other and would have access to the same case makers. Note the mid-period form of *trefoil* hand



Jacot 297 retailed by C.J. Dent, London with a typical Garnier style case.

Below is shown a finely engraved carriage clock in a one-piece case and signed by Moïse Bolviller along with the serial number 407 LM. This clock was most likely made for Bolviller in the Japy frères workshops near the French/Swiss border at Beaucourt in circa 1845. It is complete with a finely worked platform to the escapement and a sweep seconds hand, both features typical of Japy's work and also seen on carriage clock movements they made for others including Bovet frères of Fleurier in Switzerland,



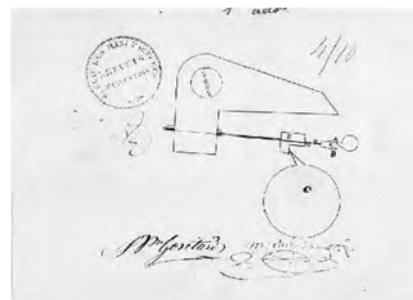
Bolviller 407 LM

A further engraved one-piece example from the Bolviller workshops in Paris is shown below, stamped with the serial number W433. This clock is signed on the dial *Gontard & Bolviller, Paris* and therefore dates from the period that Celestine Phillippe Gontard and Moïse Bolviller were in partnership. The platform lever escapement on this clock is particularly fine with a helical spring and finely engraved decoration. Gontard was a maker of superb escapements which he most often attached to movements from Henri Jacot, with one version of his chronometer escapement being particularly noteworthy, although he did manufacture and patent others of various designs. One patent for a detent escapement registered in 1848 had both Gontard and Bolviller's names given as patentees with the registered address for both being that of Gontard's workshops at 12, rue St Hyacinthe St. Honoré although at this time Bolviller's main address was rue Vendome, 12. I have on my database quite a number of carriage clocks that are signed for *Gontard & Bolviller* on the dial although all only have the *Bolviller, Paris* oval trademark on the backplate, with no mention on the movement of Gontard. The clocks signed for the partnership can be dated fairly accurately as the archives show they joined forces in 1847 but had parted company by 1851.



Gontard & Bolviller No. W433.

Article premier.
 Il est délivré aux (M^{rs} Gontard (Célestine-Philippe) & Bolviller, (Moïse) Horlogers à Paris, rue St Hyacinthe, St Honoré, 12.
 à leurs requêtes et prières, sans examen préalable, et sans garantie, soit de la réalité, de la nouveauté ou du mérite de l'invention, soit de la fidélité ou de l'exactitude de la description, un brevet d'Invention de quinze années, qui ont commencé à courir le 20 Juin 1848
 pour un perfectionnement fait à l'échappement à bras à ressort applicable aux pendules & aux montres.



Gontard & Bolviller patent 1848.

The one-piece engraved carriage clock signed for Japy frères, as below, is interesting in that it has the sweep seconds hand as seen on Bolviller 407 LM, along with the same fine moon *Breguet* hands that are typical of this maker. The platform is also decorated in a method similar to the Bolviller but has 'bat wing' attachments to the balance rather than the normal timing screws; the bat wing being an Oriental sign of good luck, this clock having been produced for the Chinese market.

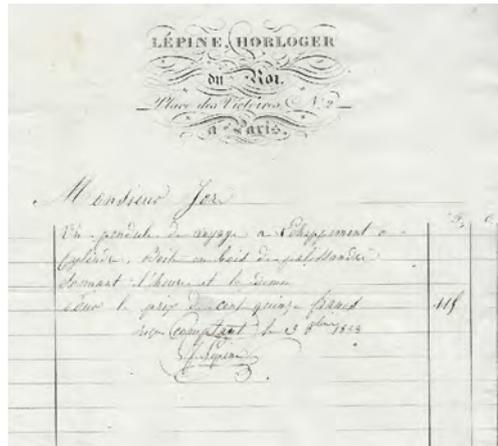


Japy frères with unusual platform escapement.

The multi-piece case was in use from the early period of domestic carriage clock manufacture and was used by makers both in Paris and the provinces including Pierre-Louis Stevenard of Boulogne-Sur-Mer as shown in the example below; with excellent floral engraving to the well-proportioned case. The movement has bell striking with an outside countwheel and a relatively early form of lever escapement. The handle to the case, with the slightly bulbous centre and scroll brackets to the sides, is fairly typical of a style used by the earlier makers and can be seen on both one-piece and multi-piece cases. Stevenard, born in 1810, was a fascinating maker and well-known for his wonderful automata and moving dolls. Between 1833 and 1842 he produced three most important pieces, each incorporating a miniature musician. At the Paris Exposition of 1878 he showed two automata, *The Physician* and *The Singing Lesson* with the latter signed in a similar style to this carriage clock. Stevenard, who died in 1883, can be considered the equal of Robert-Houdin, another magician and maker of mystery automata who was also a clockmaker.



Stevenard à Boulogne-Sur-Mer.



In my archive collection of horological paperwork, I have a fascinating invoice from *Lépine, Horloger du Roi, Place des Victoires, No.2, à Paris* issued for the sale of a carriage clock, with a hand-written detailed description of the clock. This must be one of the earliest such invoices known as it is dated 1833, not that many years after the advent of the domestic carriage clock itself. The translation reads: *A carriage clock, with cylinder escapement, a wooden case in rosewood, sounding the hours and half hours, for the price of 115 francs, paid cash, 3rd October 1833.*



A Lépine carriage clock in a multi-piece case is shown above and can be dated to circa 1835-40. It also has the *Breguet* hands as seen on other clocks, along with the fine Roman numerals to the dial being a sign of the *émailleur* Etienne Valat who made dials for other high-profile carriage clock makers including Henri Jacot, Le Roy, Garnier and Hologue frères.

The mention of an *échappement à cylindre* in the Lépine invoice is interesting as many excellent carriage clocks around this period were fitted with this type of escapement, as opposed to the more substantial lever, although within a few years the latter was the preferred choice on the majority of better clocks. A one-piece carriage clock utilising a beautifully constructed and engraved cylinder platform is shown below. This substantial French-made piece is signed for *A. Pittar Lattey et Cie, Calcutta* being Arthur Pittar and John Lattey who were only recorded working together at 10 Government Square, Calcutta for a short time, forming the partnership in 1835 and dissolving it in 1842 when it reverted to Lattey Brothers. It is therefore possible to date the clock to this relatively early period of manufacture.



The *Le Roy et Fils à Paris* carriage clock shown below is another unusual example of an early multi-piece case made prior to 1840 by Basile-Charles Le Roy and his son Charles-Louis who joined his father as a partner in 1828 at which time the business became known as *Le Roy et Fils*. In 1835 Charles-Louis was appointed both *Horloger du Roi* and *Horloger du Ministère de la Marine*. Basile-Charles died in 1839 having founded *La Maison de Le Roy* in circa 1785 with premises in the Palais-Royal gardens following their opening to the public and its buildings to the trade by Philippe Egalité, the duc d'Orléans. After the French Revolution Basile-Charles Le Roy moved his business to Galerie Montpensier, 13-15 Palais-Royal and was appointed a clockmaker to the Emperor Napoleon.

This example shows how carriage clocks at this time were still fairly transitional in their workings with the movement in this clock striking the quarters with two blows for each quarter, but only on one bell and not two as became the norm. It has a lever escapement but with a plain gold balance without timing screws and set on an unusual skeletonised platform, whereas the later platforms, manufactured from circa 1855 and generally bought-in from Switzerland, would be, with some exceptions, of a standard design.



Le Roy et Fils à Paris.

The multi-piece case of the earlier period of carriage clock manufacture changed form in the 1850s onwards with the more standard morphing into the *corniche*. A transitional example made by Pierre Drocourt in circa 1858 is shown below. The case still has the softer corners and rounded edges of the earlier multi-piece case rather than the sharper corners and moulded edge that was to come within the next few years, whilst the movement has earlier features such as a countwheel to the bell strike, a plain gold balance to the lever escapement and trefoil hands.





There is some belief that a one-piece carriage clock case is always a sign of an early clock, pre-circa 1860. But this is not correct as there are a number of carriage clocks made after this date, and certainly until at least the 1890's, which are housed in one-piece cases, albeit the majority are a slightly more simplified version of the earlier style. Below is shown a typical example of a Drocourt one-piece carriage clock, serial number 15374 and with an Hologingue frères movement, that can be dated to circa 1878.



The use of multi-piece construction to manufacture cases became much more the norm after circa 1860 with most cases constructed in this manner; the *gorge*, the *cannelée*, the *bambu* and the *anglaise* all utilising separate pieces for the top, sides and base.

For more information go to www.extence.co.uk

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**Carriage Clocks sold at the recent R.O. Schmitt Spring 2019 Auction on
Saturday/Sunday 18th and 19th May.**

This is reproduced from the R.O.Schmitt Spring 2019 Catalog.

Lot#: 694

DESCRIPTION: Jules Dejardin, Paris, France, carriage clock, 8 day, time and petite sonnerie strike with repeat and alarm, spring driven jeweled lever escapement in a glazed gilt and silvered brass Anglaise Riche cased with stepped, molded base, the corners with Corinthian columns, supporting a stepped cornice and hinged handle, matte silver dial mask, roman numeral white enamel dial with small subsidiary dial for the alarm, blued steel hands.

CONDITION: impressive case style with some elements in polished brass, others in oxidized silver, and some in gold plate. A selector in the base allows your choice of silent or quarters. Original silvered platform is intact. Enamel dials are excellent. There is some very slight oxidation to the finish. The hands on the main dial do not match. The rear plate bears the "JD" and centrifugal governor trademark of Dejardin.

ESTIMATE: \$2000 - \$2500

CIRCA: 1890

DIMENSIONS: 8in x 4in x 3.5in

PRICE SOLD: \$1600



Lot#: 695

DESCRIPTION: England, a very decorative hour repeating carriage clock with unusual balance, the gilt case with tapered, knurled feet, rectangular base with foliate engraved reserves and plain borders, the front and top also with engraving matching the base, straight line engine turned sides, and back with shuttered winding and setting apertures, case top with engraved cornice, fixed carrying handle, repeat button, and round viewing aperture displaying the three arm, rimless balance, each arm with a polished steel disc at the end, roman numeral gilt dial with engraved center, blued steel hands, one day brass movement striking the hours on a gong, passing strike on the half hour on a second gong, and repeating the last hour on demand

CONDITION: case good, and with minimal wear to gilding, dial with minor losses to numerals, minute hand replaced, movement ticks, strikes, and repeats, strike train does not lock reliably, service recommended

ESTIMATE: \$1800 - \$2500

CIRCA: 1840

DIMENSIONS: 5.25in x 3.375in x 2.5in

PRICE SOLD: \$1700



Lot#: 696

DESCRIPTION: Charles Hour, Paris, France, for Tiffany & Co., New York, NY, carriage clock, 8 day, time and grand sonnerie strike with alarm and repeat, spring driven jeweled lever escapement in a Corniche case with beveled glasses, arabic numeral white enamel dial, and blued steel hands.

CONDITION: case with brightly polished brass. Excellent porcelain dial reads "Tiffany & Co." and "FRANCE". All five beveled glasses are intact. The original lever platform is ticking well. Hours and quarters all sound correctly and the top repeat button responds correctly as well. Three-position strike selector switch on the bottom of the case. Movement signed "Ch. Hour, France" and "19887". A well made French carriage clock

ESTIMATE: \$1400 - \$1800

CIRCA: 1895

DIMENSIONS: 6in x 3in x 3in

PRICE SOLD: \$1000



Lot#: 697

DESCRIPTION: Drocourt, for Henry Capt, Geneva, a decorative, hour repeating carriage clock with alarm and travel case, the gilt, engraved gorge case with three beveled glasses, the sides with panels decorated with full length portraits of young women, each with a narrow blue, gilt accented border, the signed, roman numeral dial with blue sky, clouds, and border matching the sides, the lower corners with flowers and foliage flanking the alarm chapter, blued steel spade and whip hands, 8 day, three train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour on a gong, the back plate with Drocourt's mark, in an associated, velvet lined, leather covered travel case, with key, serial #22247

CONDITION: case dirty, retains much of its gilding, glasses good, side panels with minor losses to gilding, repeat button replaced, dial and hands good, movement oily and dirty, running, striking and repeating correctly, alarm functional, movement would benefit from service, travel case with wear and losses, glass missing, lid lining with tears, lid will not close completely with clock inside

ESTIMATE: \$1800 - \$2500

DIMENSIONS: 6.5in x 3.25in x 3in

PRICE SOLD: \$2200



Lot#: 698

DESCRIPTION: Possibly by Couaillet family, Saint-Nicolas-d'Aliermont, carriage clock, 8 day, time and grande sonnerie strike with repeat and alarm, spring driven movement with jeweled lever escapement in a glazed Cannelee case, gilt matte dial mask, gilt dial with roman numerals and cast dial center with small subsidiary dial for the alarm, blued steel hands.

CONDITION: This case has been brightly polished and re-gilded. Original silvered platform is intact. There is a selector switch in the base for Grand Sonnerie, Petite Sonnerie, or Silence. The original gilt dial with wear to some of the painted numerals. Strikes hours and quarters. The clock is running at the time of our brief test.

ESTIMATE: \$2000 - \$2500

CIRCA: 1885

DIMENSIONS: 7.25 in x 3.75in x 3.25in

PRICE SOLD: \$1500



Lot#: 699

DESCRIPTION: Frederic L'Epée & Cie., France, carriage clock, 8 day, time and strike with repeat, alarm, moon phase, and calendar functions, spring driven jeweled lever escapement in a glazed Anglaise rich style case with stepped base, Corinthian columns on the corners supporting a molded cornice, engraved gold dial surround, roman numeral white enamel dial with three smaller subsidiary dials, blued steel Breguet hands.

CONDITION: the clock is in very nice condition. Original platform is intact and it ticks and strikes. L'Epée was founded in 1839, however this re-issue was made around 1980 at a time of renewed interest in carriage clocks. The three small dials below the main one are for days of the week, alarm, and date. A Halifax style rolling moon turns above the 6:00 on the dial.

ESTIMATE: \$900 - \$1200

CIRCA: 1980

DIMENSIONS: 8in x 4in x 3.75in

PRICE SOLD: \$1200



Lot#: 700

DESCRIPTION: France, for J. E. Caldwell & Co., Philadelphia, Penn., carriage clock, 8 day, time and strike with repeat, spring driven movement with lever escapement in an oval variant case with curved side glasses, molded base, beaded molding on the corners, arabic numeral white enamel dial with blued steel distaff hands.
CONDITION: this clock was restored around 20 years ago, and the protective lacquer has oxidized slightly. The signed enamel dial is good. The ampersand portion of the Caldwell company name has faded on the dial. All of the beveled glasses are good. The platform is original and intact. The clock ticks and strikes when prompted. A hard to find model in good condition.

ESTIMATE: \$600 - \$900

CIRCA: 1890

DIMENSIONS: 7.25in x 4.5in x 3.5in

PRICE SOLD: \$325



Lot#: 701

DESCRIPTION: Matthew Norman, London, modern carriage clock, 8 day, time and strike with repeat, spring driven movement with jeweled lever escapement in a glazed, Anglaise riche variant case with stepped base below a fluted band, the corners with fluted columns supporting an entablature echoing the base with a simple molded cornice, the top with folding Anglaise variant handle, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet hands.

CONDITION: this clock is in excellent condition as one might expect of one that is approximately 40 years old. The case has a bright finish and the signed dial is perfect. High quality Swiss-made movement is in good running order.

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$500

CIRCA: 1975

DIMENSIONS: 7.5 in x 4in x 3.5in

PRICE SOLD: \$425



Lot#: 702

DESCRIPTION: France, hour repeating carriage clock with alarm, Anglaise variant case with molded top and base, each with a narrow fluted band, and with folding carrying handle, arabic numeral white enamel dial with blued steel hands, matte gilt fretted and engraved mask, featuring foliage and birds, and backed with a polished gilt plate, the sides also with fretted, gilt panels matching the mask, 8 day, three train movement with lever platform, striking the hours in passing, and repeating the last hour on demand, the strike and alarm sounding on separate gongs

CONDITION: case with heavy tarnish, a few traces of the original gilding in recessed areas, right side glass with unpolished bevel, front glass replaced, dial good, hands with a few specks of oxide, masks and backing plates good, runs and strikes, star wheel advancing at 3 minutes past the hour, so will need adjustment, striking currently one hour behind, alarm functional, movement oily, gongs with spots of oxide

ESTIMATE: \$400 - \$600

PRICE SOLD: \$550



Lot#: 703

DESCRIPTION: France, for Edward & Sons, Glasgow, hour repeating carriage clock with leather travel case, gilt, Anglaise case with five beveled glasses, signed, roman numeral white enamel dial, blued steel Breguet style hands, two train movement with lever platform, sounding the hours and half hour on a gong, and repeating the last hour on demand, contained in a velvet lined, leather covered travel case, with key

CONDITION: case with polish residue, tarnish and minor staining, right side glass with small chip, lower right, rear glass with small chip, upper right, dial and hands very good, movement polished, striking and repeating correctly, not running, good balance staff, needs service, box very good, with minor wear, handle with splits

ESTIMATE: \$350 - \$500

DIMENSIONS: 6.25in x 4.5in x 4.25in

PRICE SOLD: \$300



Lot#: 704

DESCRIPTION: F. Erlenwein, Vienna, Austria, diminutive carriage clock, 30 hour, time only with repeat, spring driven watch movement with simple balance in a gilt case with molded base and cornice, roman numeral white enamel dial, and pierced brass hands.

CONDITION: The white enamel dial is signed "F. Erlenwein / IN WEIN". It has been repaired between the center arbor and winding arbor holes. The case retains much of its gilding. The clock has its original watch movement probably with a cylinder escapement. The time train is not currently running, probably because the cap jewel is quite loose. At least one of the two cap jewel screws is incorrect. Mistreated screw heads are evident from the back plate. The plunger style quarter repeat works well. The hands vibrated off the clock in transit, but are included with the lot.

ESTIMATE: \$250 - \$350

CIRCA: 1800

DIMENSIONS: 5in x 3in x 1.75in

PRICE SOLD: \$475



Lot#: 705

DESCRIPTION: France, an hour repeating carriage clock with champleve enamel case, the polychrome foliate ornament executed on a turquoise ground, top and base with simple moldings, top with ornate carrying handle, roman numeral white enamel dial, 8 day, two train movement with lever platform, striking and repeating on a gong

CONDITION: enamel with minor losses, left side glass with chip at lower left, door pull replaced, cover plate on case bottom lacking screw, dial with significant losses to enamel, upper left and right, hands missing, movement very dirty and with strong whale oil odor, runs, strikes and repeats, needs service

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$500

DIMENSIONS: 6.25in x 3.25in x 2.75in

PRICE SOLD: \$1000



Lot#: 706

DESCRIPTION: France, carriage clock, 8day, time and quarter strike with repeat and alarm, spring driven movement with lever escapement in an brass Anglaise case with stepped and molded base, glazed on five sides with beveled glass, arabic numeral white enamel dial, blued steel hands.

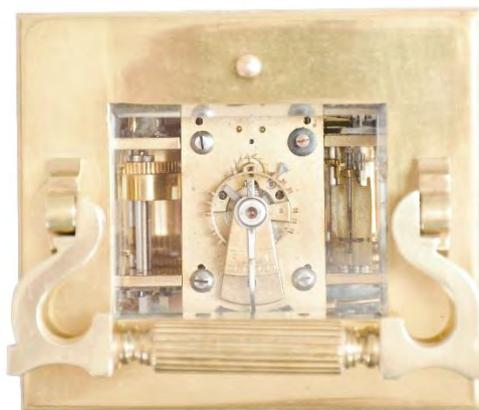
CONDITION: the gilding is now absent from the case which has been polished and lacquered. Cream-colored porcelain dial is excellent. There is a selector switch for strike / silent in the base. The movement tries to strike when prompted, but the mainspring is broken or unhooked from the barrel. The balance is gummed up, so the movement will need cleaning.

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$400

CIRCA: 1900

DIMENSIONS: 7.25in x 3.75in x 3.25in

PRICE SOLD: \$550



Lot#: 707

DESCRIPTION: France, carriage clock, 8 day, time only, spring driven movement with lever platform escapement in an pillared case with pierced base and cornice molding, the corners with fluted columns with turned capitals and bases, and the top with carrying handle, arabic numeral white enamel chapter surrounded by pierced gilt floral mask, blued steel spade hands, all in a velvet lined leather case

CONDITION: brass case with some tarnish, enamel dial good, hands excellent. chips to edge of beveled glass over platform, movement dirty, running, carrying case missing strap.

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$400

CIRCA: 1900

DIMENSIONS: 6.75in x 3.25in x 2.75in

PRICE SOLD: \$225



Lot#: 708

DESCRIPTION: Hologue Freres, St. Nicolas d'Alhiermont, for Moser, a Paris, an early repeating carriage clock, the gilt, one piece case with five beveled glasses and top with decorative, folding handle, roman numeral white enamel dial with subsidiary arabic alarm chapter, blued steel trefoil hands, three train brass movement with cylinder platform, striking on a bell, repeating the last hour on demand, and signed "Moser a Paris", the front plate with the initials "H.L." and the number 4999, back plate numbered 5214

CONDITION: gilding worn, exposed surfaces with tarnish, right side glass with chip at upper left, dial with hairlines and minor loss at top, hands replaced, movement very oily, runs, strikes, and repeats correctly, alarm functional, mainspring broken, platform tarnished, would benefit from service

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$500

CIRCA: 1850

DIMENSIONS: 6.25in x 3.25in x 3in

PRICE SOLD: \$400



Lot#: 709

DESCRIPTION: Clocks- 3 (Three), all carriage clocks, the first a miniature timepiece, brass case with polychrome porcelain panels at front and sides depicting figures in landscapes, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel hands, the next a small oval timepiece with alarm, brass case with beveled glass panels, arabic numeral white enamel dial with blued steel hands, two train movement with cylinder platform, and the last with brass case, bevelled glasses, roman numeral white enamel dial, blued steel hands, and single train movement with lever platform, with its leather covered travel case and key

CONDITION: miniature with tarnish, losses and hairlines in enamels, running, the oval with chipped glasses and dial, running, alarm functional, and the last with tarnish, dial with hairline, running, travel case with wear and staining, multiple lots sold as is, no returns

ESTIMATE: \$300 - \$400

PRICE SOLD: \$400



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 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

Link to the Online Galleries website:

www.onlinegalleries.com/art-and-antiques/antique-clocks/carriage-clocks

Link to the 1stdibs website: <https://www.1stdibs.com/furniture/more-furniture-collectibles/clocks/?q=carriage+clock>

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<http://www.invaluable.com/catalog/searchLots.cfm?scp=u&wa=carriage%20clock&shw=50&houseletter=A&ord=0&ad=ASC&img=1&ns=1&olf=1&row=51>