

“The Carriage Way”



International Carriage Clock Chapter #195 Founded 2013

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Volume 2023 No. 2



Athanase Bourdin's Carriage Clock No.7

President's Report



Stan Boyatzis

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2023. The NAWCC 80th Anniversary National Convention in Lancaster is just over a week away. Chapter 195 will be involved in the anniversary celebrations at the NAWCC museum on Thursday 13th of July. Leigh Extence from the UK will give a presentation on Carriage Clocks and this will be at 10.30 am in the auditorium. This will be followed by a walk through the special Carriage Clock exhibit at the museum. Chapter 195 members will be present to highlight some of the special carriage clocks on display.

Chapter 195 will also have a table display at the mart with chapter members manning the table. Please visit us when you are at the mart.

Our face-to-face meeting has been confirmed for 9.00 am Saturday 15th. The Executive Committee would like to see and meet our many members, so if you are attending the National, please mark the date in your diaries. The meeting will be for approximately 90 minutes including a 45-minute lecture by Leigh Extence on 'Pierre and Alfred Drocourt. Carriage Clock Makers'. A special door prize of a French carriage will be given away to a lucky member attending the face-to-face meeting.

This month's feature article is by Leigh Extence on 'Athanasie Bourdin. Carriage Clock No.7'. Despite the extensive interest in Bourdin, very little was previously known of his history or his clocks. Leigh has researched and discusses the history of Bourdin using the earliest recorded clock signed for Bourdin and made in 1838.

The second article is by Lindsay Bramall on 'The Repair and Restoration of a Carriage Clock Carry Case'.

The outer, wooden, paper/leather-covered carry-case was essential to protect the valuable clock whilst travelling. This has resulted in many of the old cases being in a worn and damaged condition requiring restoration. Lindsay describes his restoration process for repairing the outer travelling cases.

Both

Leigh and Lindsay welcome any 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 last Schmitt Horan & Co Clocks, Watches and Antiques Auction held on Saturday/Sunday 6th and 7th May. This includes estimates, condition reports, and prices realized. 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.

Members of the Executive Committee:

Stan Boyatzis: President (Aust.) Email: carriageclocks@optusnet.com.au

Ken Hogwood: Vice President (USA.) Email: kenhogwood@aol.com

Doug Minty: Secretary (Aust.) Email: dminty@optusnet.com.au

Chris Maher: Director (Aust.)

Tom Wotruba: Director (USA)

Leigh Extence: Director (UK)

Greg Cook: Director (USA)

Email: carriageclocks195@gmail.co

Athanase Bourdin

Carriage Clock No.7

Leigh Extence (UK)

Athanase Eliséé Bourdin, born 1811 in Crecy Sur Serre, is a well-known name to collectors of carriage clocks, with clocks bearing his name always of the highest quality and often with distinctive design features. He not only made and sold carriage clocks but decorative ormolu clocks and other fine pieces including chronometers and exceptional watches. He was also a jeweller of high repute.

Despite the high level of interest in Bourdin, very little was previously known of his history or that of the clocks themselves, indeed his first name was unknown and not recorded in any reference material. Through my research into Holingue frères of Saint Nicolas d'Aliermont, makers of the rough movements, *blancs roulants*, as supplied to many of the top makers, I came to realise that most clocks finished and retailed by Bourdin came from the Holingue workshops, although not in the very early years.

As I delved deeper into the research, I found a fascinating history emerge, one that I am still working on.

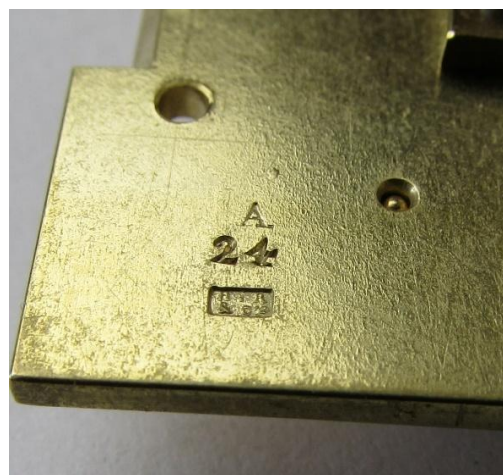
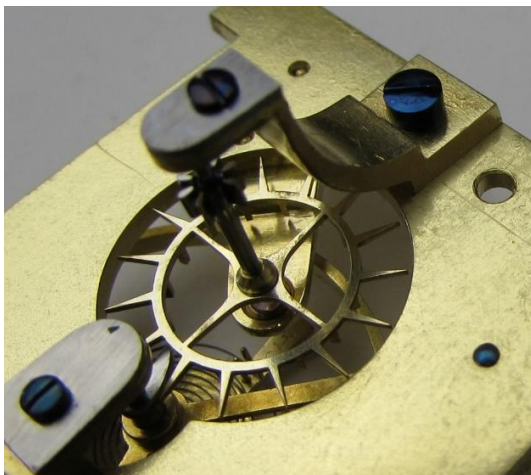
I was fortunate enough to acquire a wonderful example of an early Bourdin clock that is the basis of this article and being numbered 7 is the earliest known recorded clock signed for Bourdin having been made in circa 1838.



Interestingly, it has the name of the maker of the *blanc roulant* (blank movement) BECHOT stamped to the lower left-hand corner of the backplate. My research shows Bechot is known to have been working from at least 1823 as an *horloger* with an address at Quincampoix 59, moving within two years to Rue Montmorency 14. By the 1850s he was working alongside his son with a *specialement de pendules de voyage* at Pont-Louis-Phillipe, 3. The movement plates are tapered with fins to one end as seen on other movements made by Bechot for Bourdin, including number 72. Bourdin used movements supplied by Bechot until at least clock number 125 made circa 1840.



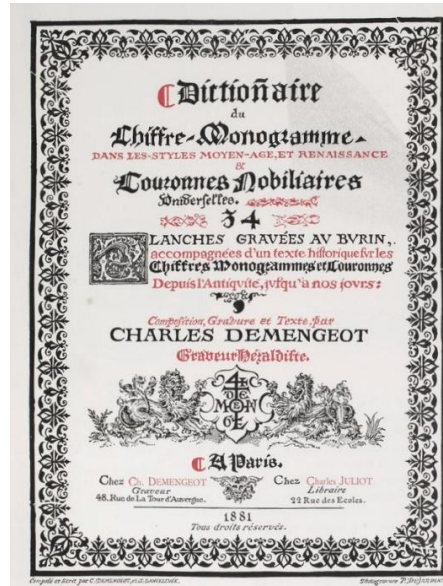
The movement is fitted with a duplex platform escapement, favoured by Bourdin in the early years, as opposed to the more normal lever escapement. The underside of the platform is stamped within a rectangular box, H. R & Cie, with additional stamps, A 24. This is in all probability the mark of the fine chronometer maker Julien-Hilaire Rodanet, more commonly known as Hilaire Rodanet. His son, the well know horologist Auguste-Hilaire Rodanet, is reported in the *Revue Chronometrique* of 1898 as having presented the *Musee-Bibliotheque de la Chambre Syndicale de l'Horlogerie de Paris* with an *Echappement Duplex pour pendule de voyage, construit par M. Rodanet père, de Rochefort-sur-mer, 1836*. Translated as: A duplex escapement for a carriage clock, constructed by my father Monsieur Rodanet, of Rochefort-sur-Mer, 1836. This being within months of Bourdin number 7 being made and quite possibly a similar example.



The backplate has two levers, one above the bells to the left for *Sonne/Silence* (Strike/Silent) and another below the bells to the right for *Gde Srie/Pte Srie* (Grande/Petite-sonnerie). This allows the clock to strike the hours and quarters on the two bells at each quarter, or just the quarters on two bells at each quarter and the hour on the hour.



The enamel dial has fine Roman numerals and is signed *Bourdin, Sr de Souriau, Hr du Roi, Rue de la Paix 24, a Paris*. Translated as: *Bourdin, Successor to Souriau, Clockmaker to the King, Rue de la Paix 24, Paris* and has gilded brass spade style hands. The subsidiary alarm dial is interesting as it has Roman numerals rather than the more normal Arabic.



The case is of an early Corniche design with shaped corners, all engraved in a style that suggests having been executed by the well-known engraver Charles Demengeot. I have examined another similarly engraved Bourdin clock which is stamped on the case *Demengeot, Graveur*. Other makers such as Raingo and Paul Garnier from this earlier period would appear to have cases engraved by him which is not surprising as this small group of carriage clock makers were working closely together, being supplied movements from the same *blanc roulant* makers such as the Hologue family of Saint-Nicolas-d'Aliermont. Demengeot's entry in the Almanach of 1852 describes him as an engraver of numerous articles including *pendules de voyage* (carriage clocks) with premises at Sainte-Anne, 57 pres la passage.

The engraved designs used on the clock cases are reminiscent of those seen in the Demengeot manual of engraving, the *Dictionnaire du Chiffre Monogramme dans les Styles Moyen âge et renaissance, et Couronnes Nobiliaires Universelles*.

In more modern times, his design was utilised for the descriptive shield of Beauxbaton House at Hogwarts school in the Harry Potter films.

The rear glass rear door has a most unusual feature not seen before being a circular concave 'cut-out' to facilitate the siting of the bells.



Rue de la Paix is the most prestigious shopping street in Paris and home to many well-known high-end brands including Breguet and Cartier amongst others. It was here that Athanase Bourdin is first recorded as having retail premises.



Bourdin's shop being under the fifth blind from the left, under the arch

Number 8 was the Paris premises of the Geneva carriage clock makers J.F. Bautre et Cie, as seen on an invoice dated 1837 and who in the 1850s were known to be retailing clocks under their own name but supplied by the Henri Jacot workshops in Saint Nicolas d'Aliermont.

Next door at number 10 was the original premises of the horologist and jeweller Souriau who Athanase Bourdin succeeded in 1837 being recorded here for a few months prior to his move to number 24.

Interestingly, in 1847 number 10 was renumbered 12 and in 1880 became the retail premises of Breguet. At this time the Breguet concern was in the hands of the former workshop manager, the Englishman Edward Brown. This provides a link between the names in this article as his son Edouard, who took on the ownership of Breguet, purchased the country house of Alfred Drocourt in Rangiport in 1904 to where he retired. And it was Drocourt who took over the workshops of Hologingue frères who had supplied Bourdin with his clocks from circa 1840.

Note the Vendôme Column in the distance that stands in Place Vendôme and where the present Breguet boutique is now situated.

With the street renumbering in 1847 Bourdin's premises at number 24 became 28. Given that nearly all Bourdin clocks have both a serial number and the address on the dial and cases, this gives a starting point to date clocks signed for him, with number 3940 the first recorded with 28 as the address.

In 1868 a new boulevard was constructed leading away from the opera house, the Avenue de l'Opera being situated on the site of the Boulevard des Italiens. As such the top end of Rue de la Paix was demolished including the Bourdin showrooms.



I came across this Ibumen print by Louis-Émile Durandelle showing the demolition of Rue de la Paix and to my delight when I enlarged the image and cleaned it up, I was able to make out the name Bourdin across the top of the showroom window at number 28, the nearest of the three arched shops.



Following the demolition of his Rue de la Paix premises, Bourdin moved his showroom to 5, Rue Castiglione recorded in the Figaro newspaper dated July 1868. Note Breguet now at number 16.

con-
père
— si

l'as-
gués.

l.

e ré-

dans
place
rtant

néro
dit,
raire

it, je
t du

il.
ouru
avait
non

l'Honneur et l'Argent.

Jules Prével.

INDUSTRIES PARISIENNES

MAISONS EXPROPRIÉES PAR L'OUVERTURE DE LA
RUE DE L'IMPÉRATRICE.
(Adresses définitives ou provisoires.)

BOURDIN. — Ancienne maison de la rue de la Paix, 28, par suite d'expropriation transférée provisoirement rue de Castiglione, 5.
Montres de luxe, de précision, pendules d'art, objets de bijouterie, accessoires des montres.

TAHAN. — Fantaisies parisiennes; coffrets, petits meubles, objets d'étagères. Médaille d'or 1867. *Installation provisoire, rue Richelieu, 79, au coin de la rue de Ménars.*

ART INDUSTRIEL

ROUVENAT ✱, Joaillier fabricant.

FÉLIX SAMPER et C^e. Haute Joaillerie, Bijouterie d'art. — Rue de la Paix, 16.

BREGUET. Horlogerie de luxe et de précision, rue de la Paix, 16. Ateliers quai de l'Horloge, 39. Télégraphie, baromètres anéroïdes.

DONNINGER. Pipes écume de mer et ambre, sculptures et armoiries, 21, boulevard Montmartre.

à adj
cham
DEAT
Rev

PR
S'a
ris, c

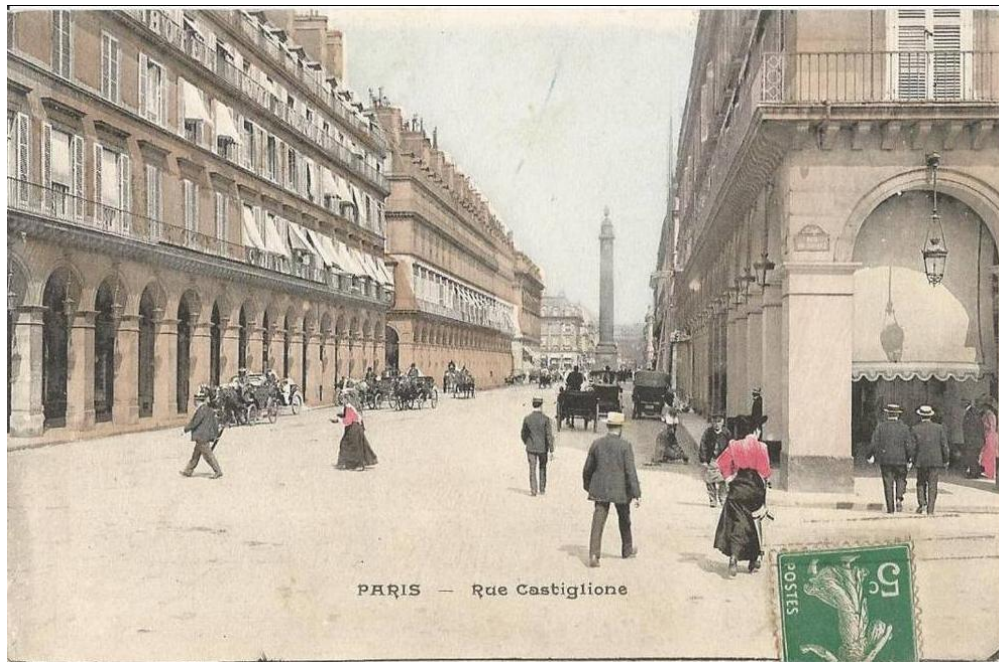
MA
Ay
même
de Pa
Rev.
S'a

BEI
vaste

pet
maisc

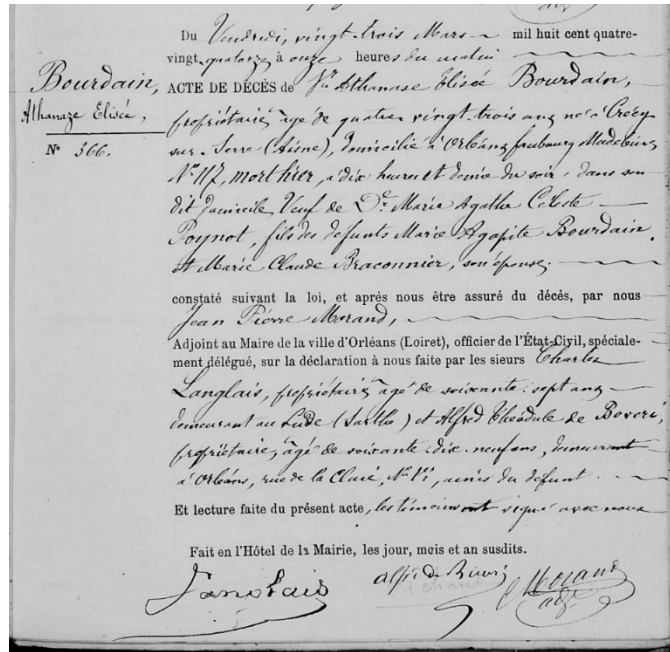
A v
des n
m^e

Cet
centri
velé,



5, Rue Castiglione behind the arches on the left

From at least 1870 Bourdin and his wife Marie Céleste, whom he married in 1834, were living a few hundred yards away in Rue Sèze where Marie died in 1876. He soon retired to be with his son Eliséé in the town of Orléans, where Athanase Bourdin died in 1894.



He was buried in Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris alongside his wife and children.



© Leigh Extence 2023

www.extence.co.uk

The Repair and Restoration of a Carriage Clock Carry Case

Lindsay Bramall (Aust.)

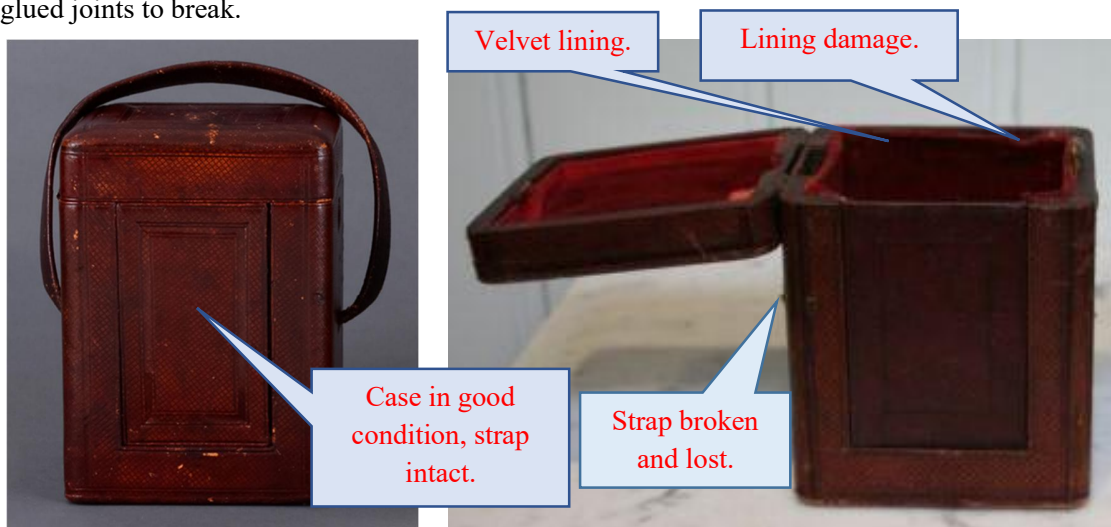
The outer, wooden, paper/skin-covered, carry-case for French carriage clocks was essential to protect the valuable clock whilst travelling.

This has resulted in most examples of the +100-year-old cases being in sad, or bad condition, so obviously, they did their job admirably.

Typically, the strap handle, which had to be folded backwards, or forwards, to allow for the lid to be opened, was the first to break off as the constant flexing at the point of entry to the case sidled led to failure.

The wooden box carcass was made of small, light, pine wood panels, glued together with animal glue (hides or hooves), then covered with a very light, textured animal skin, and the whole was lined with velvet.

The animal glue becomes dry and brittle over the years, and any shock or drop to the case generally causes glued joints to break.

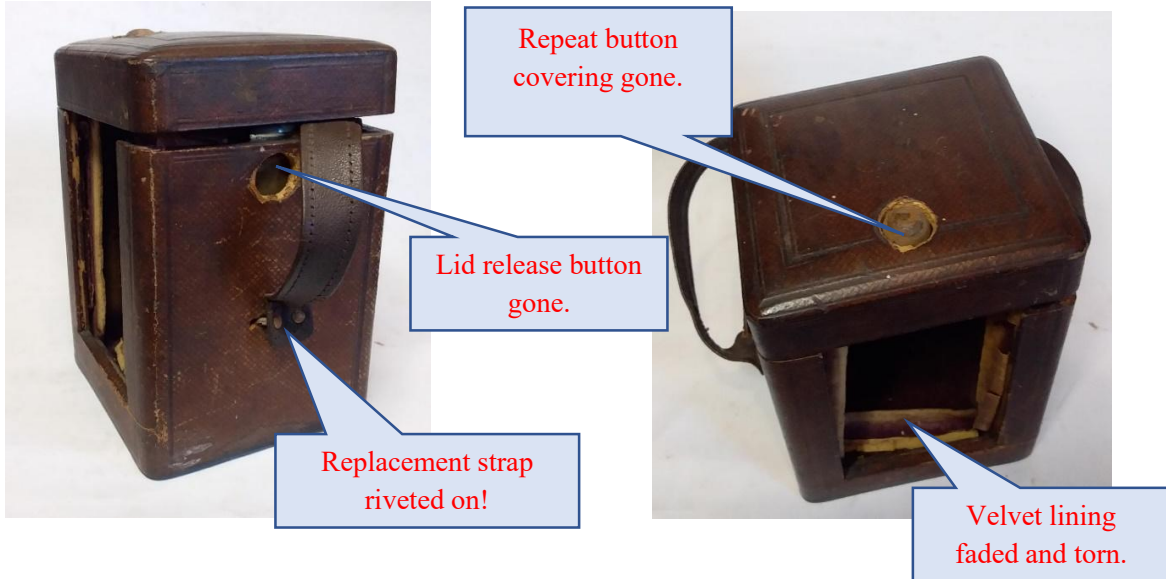


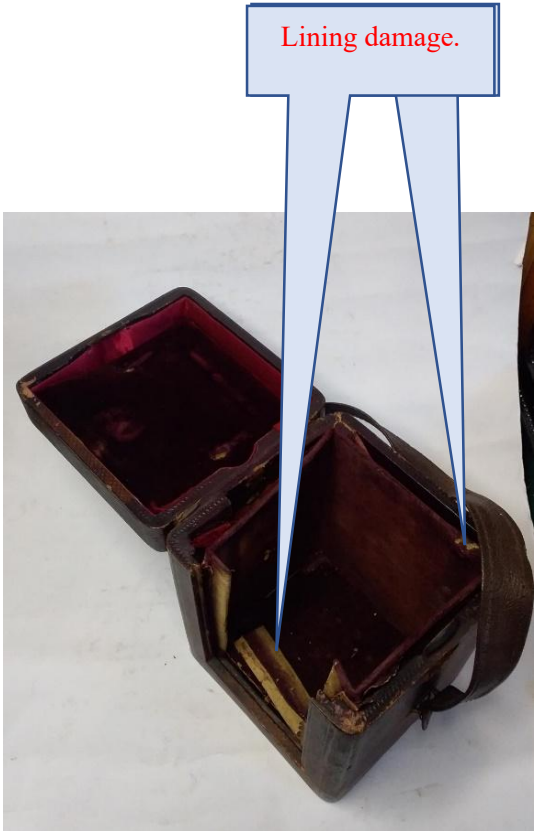
Also, typically, the velvet lining is fixed to cardboard panels, and these suffer with the regular removal and replacement of the clock, to and from the case.

The case outer covering fades over time and also becomes chipped and torn. The front sliding protective panels become lost, as does the original glass panel and the key.

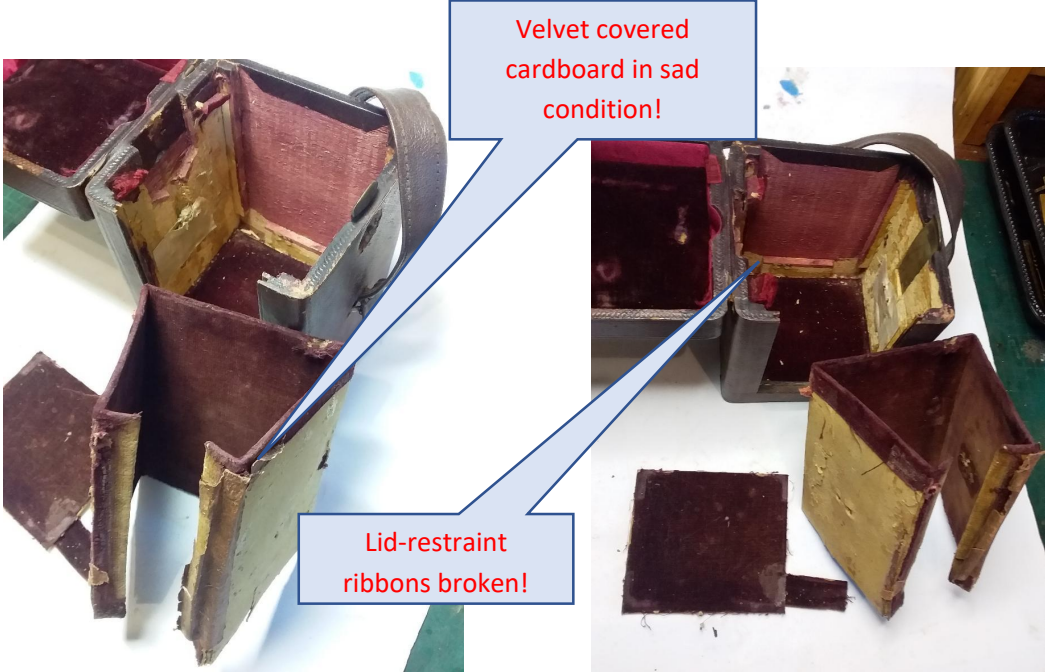
One such case accompanied a recent clock that was in for restoration, and required much attention.

First, an assessment of the work required was done.





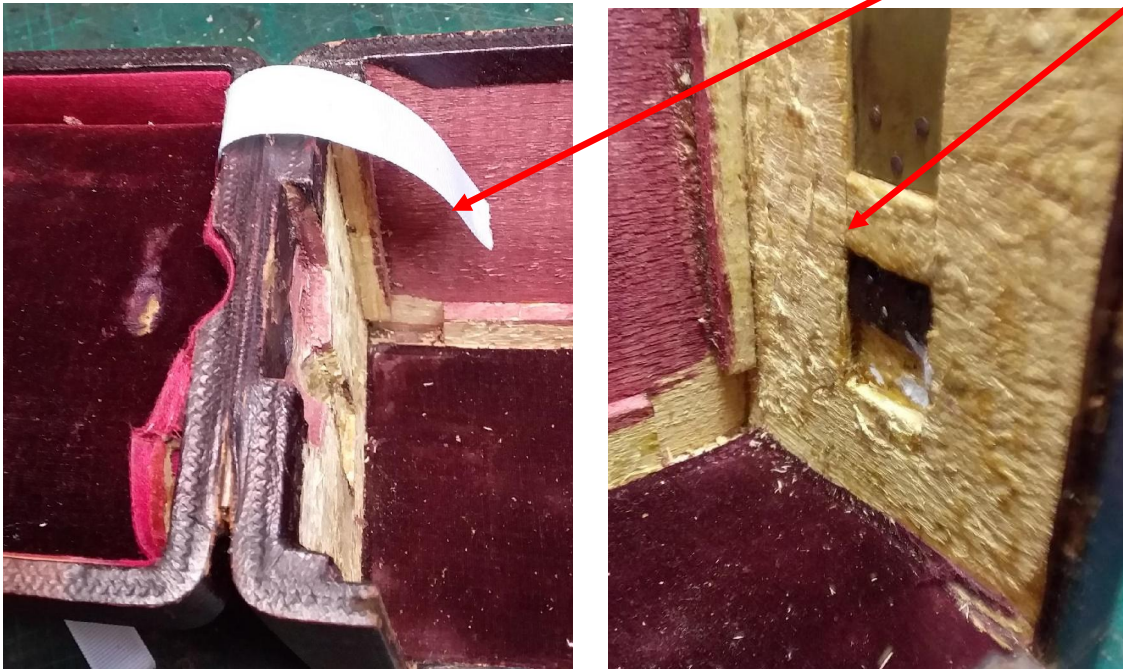
The interior lining was removed. The old animal glue cracked away from the wooden case with a long knife.



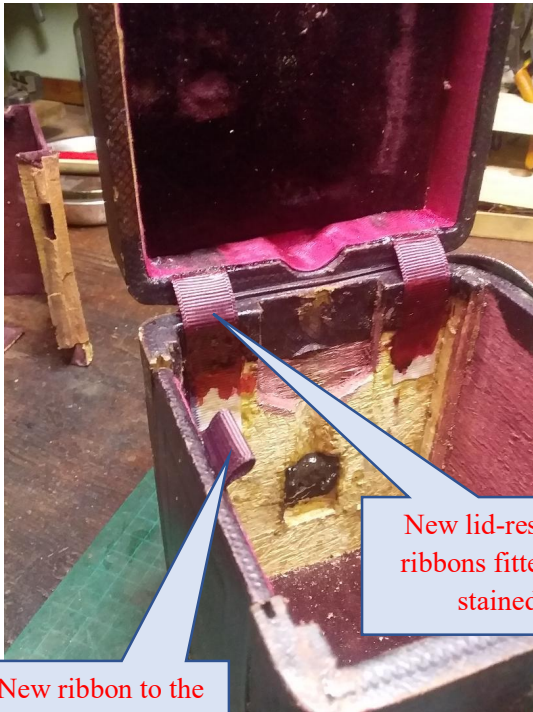
Old glue was scraped from loose corner blocks and the entire inner faces of the box.



Having cleaned out all the old glue, reconstruction began with the fitting of new lid-restraining ribbons and re-fixing the strap handle as per the original, **without** rivets.



I may be a “philistine” with regard to adhesives, but modern epoxy resin adhesives have a great affinity for wood and are extremely strong when cured. In order to carry out this reconstruction in a reasonable time, I prefer to do many small repairs with 5-minute epoxy. Basically, a small repair will be set very quickly, and another component can be started.



New ribbon to the front panel.

New lid-restraint ribbons fitted and stained.



Strap back as per original!

After repairs to the lining, it was glued back onto the case. Note that the old glue scrapings and rivets were removed during the cleanout.



Once again, 5-minute epoxy was used to repair the broken corners of the wooden case and to re-fix the lining in place.

The old velvet had long faded from the original plum colour, still evident in the lid lining. **Feast Watson** spirit stains, in this case, **Mahogany**, are perfect for the restoration of the colour.

Not only for the velvet but for the entire case, inside and out!





Once the stain had dried, ie. no more solvent fumes, the outside of the case was given several good waxings with quality beeswax, then dry buffed to a low sheen.





Lid release button replaced and covered in velvet.

Case waxed and buffed all over.



Original glass re-fitted.





The Completed Carry Case

**Carriage Clocks sold at the recent Schmitt Horan & Co
Clocks Watches and Antiques on Line Auction on
Saturday/Sunday 6th & 7th May.**

This is kindly reproduced from the Schmitt Horan & Co February 2022 Catalog

Lot 351: An exceptional late 19th century French hour repeating carriage clock with Limoges panels.



Description:

France, an exceptional hour repeating carriage clock with Limoges panels and dial, the Anglaise case with bombe molded, stepped base, the corners with fluted columns having Corinthian capitals, and supporting a molded top with turned carrying handle and thick beveled glass, the case sides with polychrome opaque and transparent enamel scenes on a dark plum colored ground, featuring hunters in colorful Elizabethan costume and with hounds at their feet, the roman numeral dial with landscape, castle, and male figure with spear and blowing a horn, and rinceau spandrels above the chapter ring, 8 day, three train movement with lever platform, sounding the hours and half hour on a gong, and repeating the last hour on demand

Condition:

Case good, with minor spotting on sides, glasses good, panels and dial very good, movement clean, running, striking and repeating correctly, alarm functional

Dimensions: 4in x 7.75in x 3.5in

Circa: 1880 **Accessories:** Winding Key

Low Estimate: \$4,000 **High Estimate:** \$6,000

Sale Price: \$4,000

Lot 352: A very attractive 19th century French carriage clock with polychrome porcelain panels.



Description:

France, a very attractive 19th century carriage clock with polychrome porcelain panels, polished Gorge case with beveled glasses at front and back, the sides and top with polychrome painted porcelain panels depicting couples in antique dress strolling through landscapes, the top featuring colorful, flying birds, and the dial with birds, roses, and a landscape with cottage, all panels with gilt borders highlighted with translucent red enamel beads on a turquoise ground, roman numeral chapter ring with roses and blued steel Breguet style hands, 8 day, two train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour on a bell, and repeating the last hour on demand.

Condition:

Case with evidence of very shallow pitting, glasses and decorated panels very good, top panel lacking one red bead, and with numerous red orange beads, dial also very good, hands now painted black, minute replaced, movement running, low balance amplitude, striking and repeating correctly.

Dimensions: 4in x 5.5in x 3.5in

Circa: 1870

Low estimate: \$3,000 **High Estimate:** \$4,000

Sale Price: \$2,600

Lot 353: A good late 19th Century carriage clock with petit sonnerie striking on four gongs by Alfred Baveaux.



Description:

A. Baveux, St. Nicholas d'Aliermont, for Harrison & Son, Darlington, a good, late 19th century, four gong petit sonnerie carriage clock, polished Anglais style case with five bevelled glasses and quarters/ silent lever in the base, matte silver mask with roman numeral white enamel dial signed "Harrison & Son Darlington", blued steel hands, and subsidiary arabic alarm chapter, 8 day, three train movement with lever platform, sounding petit sonnerie quarters on four gongs, and striking ting tang hours, repeating the last hour and quarter on demand, the back plate marked at lower left, within an oval, "Brevete A.O S.G.D.G.", possibly for Adolphe Ollier

Condition:

Case with minor tarnish, front glass with tiny chip at upper left, left glass with scratch, rear glass with tiny loss at lower left, dial mask with minor tarnish, dial with faint hairline and losses to blue enamel on numerals, alarm chapter with hairlines and minor losses, minute hand replaced, hour hand needs alignment, movement oily, dirty, running, low balance amplitude, quarter striking functional, repeating functional, hour striking incorrectly, rack hook may be sticking, movement without outward appearance of abuse, needs service.

Dimensions: 4.125in x 6.5in x 3.625in

Circa: 1900

Low estimate: \$2,500 **High Estimate:** \$3,500

Sale Price: \$2,000

Lot 355: A fine mignonette # 1 carriage clock with portrait panels and travel case.



Description:

France, a fine mignonette #1 carriage clock with travel case, gilt Gorge variant case with beveled glasses, the sides with engraved masks enframing oval portraits of young women, engraved dial mask with roman numeral white enamel dial and blued distaff hands, 8 day timepiece movement with lever platform and cut bimetallic balance, with outer, red velvet lined travel case

Condition:

Clock case, portraits, masks, dial, and hands very good, movement clean, running, outer case also **very good**

Dimensions: 2.125in x 3.25in x 1.875in

Circa: 1900

Accessories: Travel Case

Low estimate: \$2,000 **High Estimate:** \$3,000

Sale Price: \$1,400

Lot: 356: A good later 19th Century French striking carriage clock with polychrome porcelain panels.



Description:

France, a good striking carriage clock with polychrome enamel panels, gilt Cannelee variant case with foliate engraving, beveled glasses, and sides with enamel panels having red bead ornament and gilding on a turquoise ground framing young couples in landscape scenes, the roman numeral dial ornamented in the same fashion as the panels, and featuring two putti in the center, and a seated couple below, 8 day two train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour on a gong

Condition:

Case regilded, glasses good, panels and dial very good, hands good, movement oily, running, striking correctly.

Dimensions: 3.75in x 6in x 3.25in

Circa: 1870

Low estimate: \$2,000 **High Estimate:** \$3,000

Sale Price: \$1,600

Lot 358: A good 19th-century grand sonnerie carriage clock by Auguste Pontaux.



Description:

Auguste Pointaux, Paris, a good 19th century grand sonnerie carriage clock, Cannelee case with five beveled glasses, the base with sonnerie/ silence lever, roman numeral white enamel dial with constant seconds at 12:00, roman numeral alarm chapter below 6:00, and blued steel Breguet style hands, 8 day, three train movement with lever platform and cut bimetallic balance, striking grand sonnerie quarters on two bells, and sounding the last hour and quarter on demand, signed on dial and edge of back plate, serial #6698

Condition:

Case dirty, with minor tarnish and polish residue, right side glass with minor chip at upper right, dial with cracks and minor losses at upper right and left corners, hands good, movement fairly clean, platform with tarnish, running, striking and repeating correctly, rack hook sticks occasionally allowing for extra striking

Dimensions: 3.625in x 5.5in x 3.25in

Circa: 1870

Low estimate: \$1,500 **High Estimate:** \$2,000

Sale Price: \$1,1000

LOT 359: An unusual decorative late 19th-century French hour repeating carriage clock by Brunelot.



Description:

Brunelot, for J.W. Benson, London, an unusual and very decorative late 19th century hour repeating carriage clock, gilt Cannelee case with decorative metal panels behind all beveled glasses but the rear, each panel with a silvered, hammered and matted ground with gilt floral and foliate ornament in low relief, the dial similarly ornamented and with signed roman numeral chapter ring and gilt and blued steel spade hands, 8 day, two train movement with lever platform, striking the hours and half hour on a gong, and repeating the last hour on demand, back plate with the letter B in a circle at lower left

Condition:

Gilding restored, corners of top with rounding, likely to smooth minor damage, glasses good, some decorated panels with minor darkening to silver, dial with minor losses to numerals and more substantial losses to signature, hands good, movement a bit dirty, running, striking, and repeating correctly

Dimensions: 3.5in x 5.5in x 3in

Circa: 1880

Low estimate: \$1,000 **High Estimate:** \$1,500

Sale Price: \$ 950

Lot 360: An attractive late 19th century hour repeating French carriage clock with Limoges dial.



Description:

France, an attractive late 19th century hour repeating carriage clock, gilt Anglaise Riche style case with bowed sides, five beveled glasses, the top glass with convex ends and incurved corners, matte silver mask with black enamel Limoges dial having faux white enamel cartouches with red roman numerals, the scheme repeated in the alarm chapter, but with arabic numerals, gilt distaff hands, and 8 day, three train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour on a gong, and repeating the last hour on demand

Condition:

Case and glasses very good, minor losses to gilding, top glass with scratches, some losses to gilt ornament on dial, two very faint hairlines at 5 & 6:00, hands good, running, low balance amplitude, striking and repeating correctly, would benefit from service

Dimensions: 5.125in x 7in x 3.75in

Circa: 1890

Low estimate: \$1,000 **High Estimate:** \$1,500

Sale Price: \$1,850

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>