

“The Carriage Way”



International Carriage Clock Chapter #195 Founded 2013

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

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An exceptional Margaine carriage clock with Lucien Simonnet Panels
and a wonderful provenance

President's Report



Stan Boyatzis

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2024. As the year draws to a close, I wish all members the joy of being with family and friends during the holidays and peace and good health as we enter 2025.

These few years have again taught us that these are precious aspects of our lives that we greatly value and cherish.

A special welcome to all our new members. 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 Ken. Details are at the back of the newsletter.

This month's feature article is by Leigh Extence on 'An exceptional Arsène Margaine Carriage Clock with Lucien Simonnet Panels and a wonderful provenance'. It is not often that a carriage clock comes along that has such a superb history and provenance with all the detail that makes it such an interesting piece.

The second article is by Greg Cook. Greg discusses his recent purchase of a rare giant Breguet carriage clock and the problems encountered shipping the clock to the US.

Both Leigh and Greg welcome any questions from the members.

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://chapter195.nawcc.org>

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 and Sunday 2nd and 3rd November. 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.

On behalf of the Executive of Chapter 195 I would like to wish all our members Seasons Greetings and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2025.

Members of the Executive Committee:

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Arsène Margaine

with Lucien Simonnet Panels

An exceptional carriage clock with a wonderful provenance

Leigh Extence (UK)



It is not often that a carriage clock comes along that has such a superb history and provenance with all the detail that makes it such an interesting piece.

The eight-day duration movement is stamped with the serial number 1258 to the backplate strikes the hours and half-hours on a gong, with push button repeat of the last hour at will and a subsidiary alarm.

The dial incorporates delicate black Roman numerals against the silvered surround below which there is a depiction of a young man offering a bouquet of flowers to a girl, whilst above various insects are seen flying.

On one side panel a girl is featured wearing a pink dress with hollyhocks around her whilst on the other side a girl dressed in yellow, green and purple is writing on a tree.

The case is of an Anglaise/Cannelée design but with more depth to the mouldings and has a matching handle.

Height: 8¾ inches (22.3cms): including plinth: 7 inches (18cms): handle up.



One of the panels is based on the original by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, *Le Chiffre d'Amour (The Souvenir)* which is in the Wallace Collection. But whereas it is believed Fragonard signed his depiction on the panel with his initial on the tree trunk, on the clock panel we see this replaced by L.S. for the renowned painter of Sèvres porcelain *Lucien Simonnet*. The Simonnet attribution becomes more apparent when comparing the clock movement with those seen in other carriage clocks bearing Simonnet panels, all of which are near-identical and obviously originate from the same workshop, suggesting that Simonnet used the same clockmaker or the same clockmaker used Simonnet panels.

The arrow as stamped on the backplate to show the direction of moving the hands is near-identical to those used for a short period by the well-known carriage clock maker *Arsène Margaine* and is the same as seen on most movements using Simonnet panels.

This hand-setting arrow appears on early serial numbered movements 118 – 794, with the same script for the word *Hands* as on this example and with the distinctive Margaine regulation index stamped to the backplate. From recorded serial numbers 2571 until 4746 this arrow then appears on movements actually stamped with the Margaine beehive trademark whilst still having the similar script for the word *Hands*. The arrow mark most associated with Margaine, that with three tails, doesn't appear until recorded serial number 5428 with the wording *Hands* now in a block script. Therefore, it can be assumed that the early clocks stamped with this distinctive arrow are all from the same workshop and can therefore be attributed to Arsène Margaine.



A porcelain panelled carriage clock with the same hand-setting arrow as this example has been seen with the side panels signed in full for Simonnet whilst the dial is signed with the initials L.S. in the same form as seen here. That example was sold by Dreweatt's Auctioneers, Berkshire in May 2020.

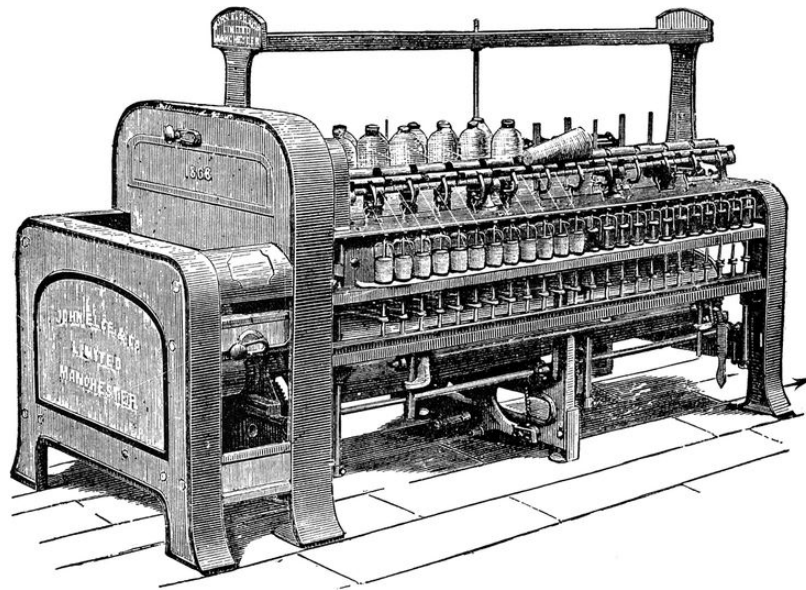
A further clock having definite Simonnet panels and signed with the same L.S. initials was offered at Bonham's auctioneers, London in June 2019.

The clock discussed here rests on an ebony base which bears a silver presentation plaque on which is engraved: *Presented to L.H Simpson Esq. as a token of respect by the work people of Park Mills, Preston on the occasion of his marriage on April 24th, 1880.*



According to Grace's Guide referring to The Cotton Mills in Preston 1891, Park Mills was home to *The Park Lane Twist Company, Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers*, situated in North Road, Preston, Lancashire. This is within an area dominated by the cotton industry at this time being in such close proximity to the great trading ports of Liverpool and Manchester. *The Park Lane Twist Company* were one of the larger concerns operating at the time with 48,760 spindles producing 448/608 throstle. A Throstle machine, for spinning cotton, was so named as whilst running it made the soft sound of a throstle singing. The numbers 448 and 608 represent two types of machines, with each number indicating the number of spindles that continuously spin onto individual *Pirns* or *Bobbins*.

The managing director in 1891 is noted to be A. Simpson, who was obviously related to the Simpson presented with this clock, who in turn were quite probably related to the other Simpson family members involved in the industry at the time. A half-century or so earlier, a John Simpson, along with Samuel Simpson, was involved in the first cotton mill in Manchester, *Simpson's Mill*, built in partnership with the famous industrialist Richard Arkwright in 1782 who invented the water frame was a descendant. The Throstle used the same principles but was better engineered and driven by steam rather than water wheel. Arkwright's son, also Richard, married Mary Simpson in 1780.



Park Mills, Map of Preston 1890



Park Mills today

This clock was formerly in the collection of famed horological dealer and author Derek Roberts, whose book *Carriage and Other Travelling Clocks* was published by Schiffer Publishing Ltd in 1993. Derek's own notes on this clock stated: *The dial and side panels, which are silvered, are probably some of the finest I have seen.*

For a comprehensive history of Margaine, his clocks and working practices see *Antiquarian Horology*, the journal of the Antiquarian Horological Society, June 2014, pages 807 to 826 inclusive; *The Horological World of Francois Arsène Margaine* by Tom Wotruba.

A Giant Breguet Carriage Clock.

G Cook (US)

For carriage clock collectors, it is unusual to find a giant carriage clock, but to find the Breguet name associated with a giant carriage clock is extraordinary! My thanks to Eric Chastant, a renowned Horologist in Paris, France for finding this clock!



According to the Breguet records, this clock was sold on the 30th November 1915 and would have been retailed by them when the company was owned by the Brown family. Considering the peak of the carriage clock industry to be in the 1880s, when tens of thousands of carriage clocks were produced and sold, then this clock is quite stunning if it was originally sold in the later declining years of the industry. But there-in lies an interesting story, as the movement to this clock is stamped on the frontplate with the AB scroll trademark of the maker Alfred Baveux, and this is a mark that he only used for a short period in the early-1880s being some years prior to his death in 1891 when the business was taken over by his two sons as Baveux Freres. So how is it to be found on a clock sold some years later? There are two possible explanations.

Firstly, the clocks produced by Baveux with this mark tended to be those of special manufacture; giant movements or those with petite or grande-sonnerie or other complications. But to keep costs down more would be produced within a run than needed at any one time. Therefore these 'special' movements, of which this is undoubtably one, were often held back over a few years and used when needed, often with a higher serial number stamped on it. This may well explain why a clock of typical Baveux/Jacot design from this earlier period is to be found sold in the 1900s.

Secondly, it is known that Breguet bought back clocks originally retailed by them and would sell on again, adding the new owners' details to their records. Is it possible that this example, No. 3991, was first sold in the early 1880s? When compared to other clocks engraved with serial numbers as retailed by Breguet there is this possibility. At the end of this article is shown another Breguet carriage clock, serial number 4975, that is known sold by them in December 1886. This being a clock whose serial number is a thousand later than the clock we are discussing. That would certainly date 3991 to circa 1880/83, the window in which Alfred Baveux was using the AB mark on his movements.

Case, Dimensions, and Roulant

Breguet's early carriage clocks leaned toward the Empire and Humpback styles. In later years they retailed clocks with the popular styles of the time. This clock is of an angled Anglaise case design with fluted columns, a style popular in the period between 1870 and 1890 and has a dial of typical Baveux/Jacot form. A similar giant clock, retailed by Tiffany, is illustrated and discussed in Fannelli and Terwilliger's book *A Century of Fine Carriage Clocks*. The example we are discussing is quite large, being 6 1/4 inches wide and ten-inches high with the handle up, and very heavy coming in at 14lbs. The dial shows, in faded printing, *Breguet No. 3991*.

The grande-sonnerie *blanc roulant* was produced, as mentioned, by Alfred Baveux of Saint-Nicolas-d'Aliermont in northern France, a horological town near Dieppe. Baveux and his family were known makers of complicated movements having supplied the Jacot family from the mid-1850s until circa 1914.

Illustrated below is his trademark, the initials AB in script, which is to be found on the movement, alongside a listing from Tardy's *Dictionnaire des Horologers Francais*. Leigh Extence verified this trademark with his research when producing his extensive article on Henri Jacot and his family.

https://www.extence.co.uk/files/ugd/401715_97ee0905bf0248a38c0b6552540fce37.pdf

Note that the Alfred Baveux shown in Tardy as working in 1919 was the son Alfred-Raoul and not Alfred Baveux the maker of this clock.



BAVEUX frères. Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont.
Exposit en 1889. Cités en 1908-14.
— Vve Alfred. Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont,
1895.
— Alfred. Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont, 1919.
— Dieppe. Pendulettes de voyage, 1922.

Breguet Company Ownership.

Much is written about Abraham-Louis Breguet in both *Carriage Clocks Their History & Development* by Charles Allix and Peter Bonnert and *Carriage and Other Travelling Clocks* by Derek Roberts.

Upon the death of Abraham-Louis in 1823 it was his son Louis-Antoine who succeeded him followed in 1833 by Louis-Clement, great-grandson of Abraham-Louis.

From 1870 until 1970 Breguet were owned by the Brown family from England, with Edward Brown having originally been the workshop manager in the late Victorian period.

During the quartz crisis of the 1970s and 80s the ownership of Breguet changed several times. In 1999 Nicolas G. Hayek took control of the company and infused funds to modernise Breguet with the company becoming a part of the Swatch group.

For a detailed year-by-year history of the Breguet company click on the link below.

<https://www.thenakedwatchmaker.com/blog/2020/12/11/a-breguet-history>

Today Breguet makes about 18,000-25,000 watches a year, the number is low, compared to other watch makers but they use in-house movements and components.

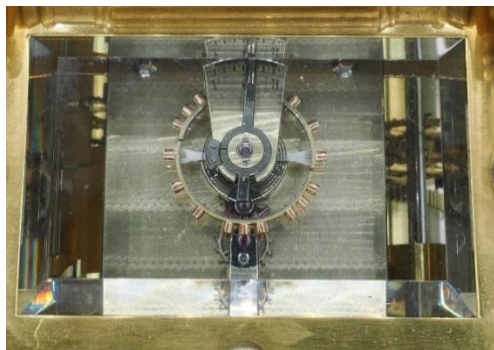
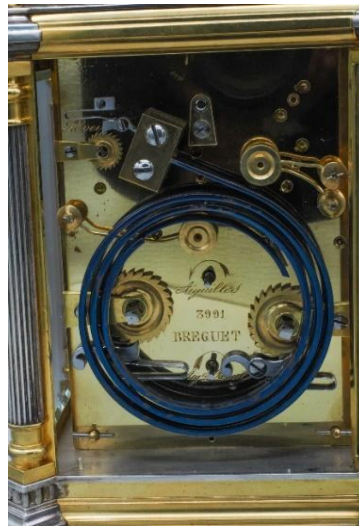
Breguet's Numbering System.

According to Derek Roberts, Breguet's clocks had three issues with their clock numbering system.

1. The numbering system used by Abraham-Louis Breguet was stopped in 1834.
2. Breguet appears to have made clocks in batches and completed them when sold.
3. Breguet appears to have repurchased some of his clocks and then renumbered them.

These issues help explain why a lower number does not reflect an earlier clock. One redeeming feature of the Breguet Company is that they keep accurate records of clocks and watches sold and provide a copy of the original sales information on request.

Breguet No.3991 Movement,



Comparison of 3 Breguet Carriage Clocks.

Below are 3 Breguet carriage clocks. The center Breguet, No.1195, with a Gorge case is a standard size (5-1/2inches with handle down). It was bought in 1868 for 800 Francs. The one on the lower right, No. 4975, is a silver mignonette (3 inches with handle down). It was sold on 17 December 1886 for 250 Francs. The Giant on the lower left, No.3391, is the clock discussed in this article and is about 8-½ inches high with the handle down.



Below is a Jacot and the Giant Breguet with a similar Anglaise case.

This Anglaise style seems to have been popular with the top tier makers. Page 169 in Charles Allix's book shows Margaine No. 6697. I also have a Drocourt No.17990 calendar with Grand Sonnerie that is exactly like the Margaine with bamboo columns.

A side note. The Jacot below right, No. 7096 has Jacot's name and business address as 31 Rue de Montmorency on the dial but does not have Jacot's trademark (with Parrot) on the back plate. This falls in-line with Leigh Extence's research where the "Parrot" was missing between numbers 5216 & 8204.



Problems accounted with shipping.

I think all of us who have shipped clocks from overseas have had horror stories of shipping antique clocks.

When shipping the Giant carriage clock to America at one point we thought the clock was lost! Between French Customs and the Carrier, it took approximately 7 weeks to arrive from Paris France to my home in Texas. Having used the 3 major shipping carriers in the past, I found only one instant where the shipment was flawless. In the United States, bringing in items over 100 years old are supposed to be duty free. One carrier completely ignored the fact that the Gorge Breguet clock above was over 100 years old (antique) and charged customs fees as if the item was a new clock or watch. Another shipper that shipped the Giant carriage clock was unable to tell us where the clock was. Only after filing a claim did the clock begin to show in the system. I also had to pay added “administrative charges” to include customs duties.

Recently, I received a clock through FEDEX with very few problems. What I have learned from these overseas shipments is :

Even if you have a certificate of Antiquity on the outside of the box many times it is not even looked at. What you have is someone in an office looking at a computer, seeing the tracking Number, and showing the item on the computer screen. The shipper should contact the sender for a Certificate of Antiquity. With one shipper an email would not work, but an official looking separate document was needed.

I have now found that if shippers do an extra transaction, like processing a customs form, they charge you for the transaction as an administrative charge. For the FEDEX shipment I got a \$44 dollar charge after the package arrived.

I recommend that if you buy a clock and ship it overseas you need a document showing its age. Either a certificate of antiquity or a sales receipt clearly showing the age of the clock is required.

Thanks to Eric Chastant for finding and repairing this clock: horloger.chastant@gmail.com

Thanks also to Leigh Extence for his help with this article and allowing use of his extensive research: leighextence@gmail.com

Carriage Clocks sold at the recent Schmitt Horan & Co. auction featuring an important collection of precision regulators, complicated pocket watches, wristwatches, clocks and antiques, Saturday & Sunday November 2nd & 3rd 2024

This is reproduced from Schmitt Horan & Co catalog, Saturday & Sunday November 2 & 3 2024.

Lot 432: A fine and rare French hour repeating carriage clock with perpetual calendar signed Ellis a Paris.



Description:

Ellis, Paris, a fine and rare large carriage clock with perpetual calendar and hour repeating, the unusual gilt case on flattened ball feet and with four beveled glasses, diaper and foliate engraving, the corners with columns having octagonal bases and capitals, the design carried through to the projecting corners of the base, the top with ball finials and ornate handle, and case back with engraved door, signed, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel trefoil hands, gilt, engraved mask, and subsidiary dials for alarm, day, date and month, eight day, three train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour on a bell, and repeating the last hour on demand, and calendar work at the base of the back plate.

Condition:

Very good overall, gilding restored, glasses good, dial good, hour and minute hands replaced, movement polished, oil sinks dirty and with minor oil creep, not running, escapement gummy, striking does not release at the hour and half hour, repeating functions but is two hours behind the time shown, calendar work appears to be complete but very gummy and not functioning as intended, alarm functional. Purchased by the consignor from Derek Roberts.

Dimensions: 4.75in x 8.25in x 4.25in. **Circa:**1880

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

Lot 433: A late 19th century engraved carriage clock by Drocourt for Dent.



Description:

Drocourt, Paris, for Dent, London, a very good cannelée cased carriage clock, the gilt case with five beveled glasses and beautifully engraved with flowers and scrolling foliage on a matted ground, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet style hands, subsidiary arabic alarm chapter, and signed "Dent 33 Cockspur Street London", eight day, three train movement with lever platform, striking the hours and half hour in passing, and repeating the last hour on demand, the back plate with Drocourt's mark, and an owner's name and address engraved on the case bottom behind the movement.

Condition:

Very good overall, gilding restored, glasses good, dial and hands very good, movement with dirty oil sinks and a bit of oil creep, not running, balance and escapement gummy, striking and repeating correctly, alarm functional. Purchased by the consignor from Derek Roberts.

Dimensions: 3.75in x 7.25in x 3.375in **Circa:**1880

Sale Price: \$1,700 **High Estimate:** \$2,500 **Low Estimate:** \$2,000

Lot 434: A very attractive 19th century French hour repeating carriage clock with limoges panels.



Description:

France, a very attractive 19th century hour repeating carriage clock with Limoges panels, polished gilt Anglais case with glazed front, the sides, back and top with decorative panels featuring ethereal winged female figures in landscapes and rendered en grisaille on a red ground, roman numeral dial with Louis XIV hands and arabic subsidiary alarm chapter flanked by two putti beneath trees, one with a sand glass, the other with a scythe, also rendered en grisaille and on a red ground, eight day, three train movement with lever platform, sounding ting tang hours and half hours, and repeating the last hour on demand.

Condition:

Case polished and regilded, all panels with some hairlines at edges, minor chips at bottom edge of right side panel, back with spider hairline to left of figure, right side with spider hairline at upper left, and top with small chip at right edge, dial very good, minute hand repaired, running, the movement appears to have originally struck grand sonnerie quarters, now lacking the quarter rack and striking ting tang hours and half hour, alarm not functioning.

Dimensions: 4in x 7.5in x 3.5in **Circa:**1880

Sale Price: \$1,200 **High Estimate:** \$3,000 **Low Estimate:** \$2,000

Lot 435: An unusual fourth quarter 19th century French hour repeating engraved oval carriage clock.



Description:

France, an unusual fourth quarter 19th century hour repeating oval carriage clock, the gilt case with five beveled glasses and engraved with flowers and foliage on a matted ground, the base also adorned with four snakes, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet style hands, subsidiary Arabic alarm chapter, and unusual, engraved, gilt convex mask conforming to the curve of the case front, eight day, three train movement with lever platform, counting the hours and half hour on a bell, and repeating the last hour on demand, the back plate marked "P.q.", and with the numbers 886 and 1126.

Condition:

Very good overall, gilding restored and now with minor losses, rear glass with minor chip at lower left, movement polished and with reblued screws, oil sinks dirty and with gummy lubricant, not running, escapement gummy, striking and repeating correctly, alarm functional.

Dimensions: 4.375in x 6.75in x 3.5in **Circa:** 1875

Sale Price: \$800 **High Estimate:** \$3,000 **Low Estimate:** \$2,000

Lot 436: A very decorative French late 19th century repeating carriage clock with polychrome porcelain panels.



Description:

France, for Jas. Foord, Hastings, a very decorative gorge cased hour repeating carriage clock with polychrome porcelain panels, the gilt case with beveled glasses to the front, top, and back, the sides with porcelain panels featuring children at play, the scenes with gilt borders decorated with white hemispheres and framed in cobalt blue, the roman numeral porcelain dial above a vignette with a child reclining in a boat, and another pulling it along, the dial and scene with gilt border on cobalt as on the sides, eight day, two train movement striking the hours and half hour in passing and repeating the last hour on demand

Condition:

Very good overall, gilding with minor losses, case with minor dings, front glass with minor chip at lower left, dial and side panels very good, hands good, movement polished, oil sinks with dirt and minor oil creep, runs briefly, escapement gummy, striking and repeating correctly. Purchased by the consignor from Derek Roberts.

Dimensions: 3.5in x 6.5in x 3.25in **Circa:** 1880

Sale Price: \$1,400 **High Estimate:** \$3,000 **Low Estimate:** \$2,000

Lot 437: Louis Achille Brocot carriage clock with decorative Japonisme influenced porcelaine panels.



Description:

Louis Achille Brocot, Paris, an hour repeating carriage clock with Japonism influenced porcelain panels, gilt case with beveled glasses at front, top, and back, the sides with colorful painted porcelain panels with scenes featuring birds and butterflies surrounded by flowers and foliage on a dark brown background, roman numeral dial surrounded by ornament matching the sides, gilt, polished distaff hands, and eight day, two train movement with lever platform, striking the hour and half hour in passing, and repeating the last hour on demand

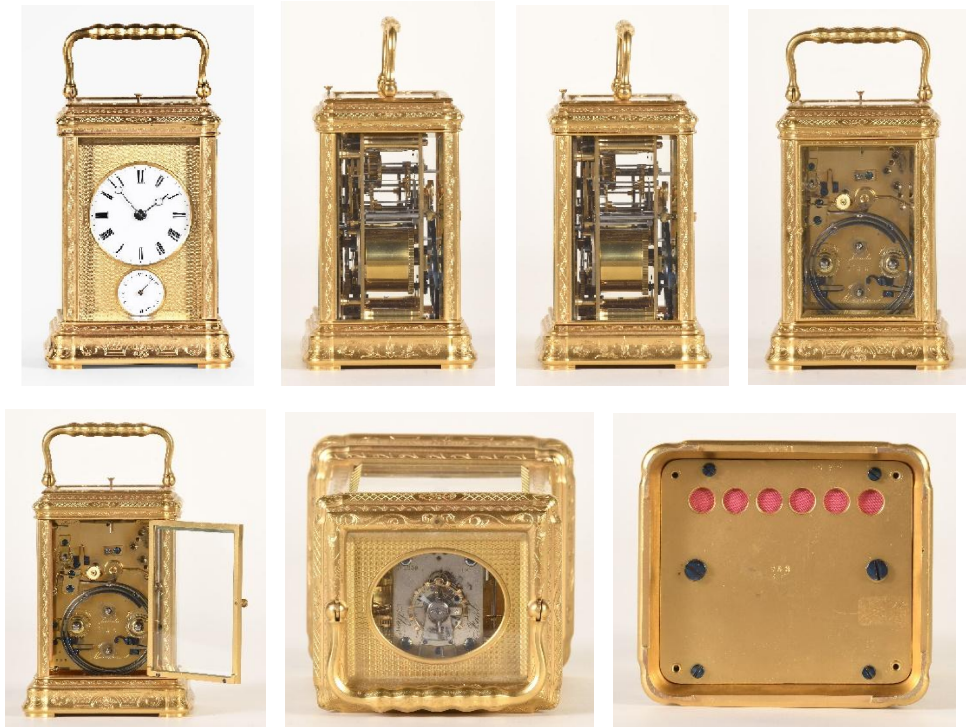
Condition:

Brass case regilded, minor losses to gilding, beveled glasses all good, porcelain panels also in very good condition, running and striking, low balance amplitude, repeating functional, movement back plate with Achille Brocot mark.

Dimensions: 3.75in x 7in x 3.25in **Circa:** 1880

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

Lot 438: A good third quarter 19th century hour repeating carriage clock by Hologue Freres for J. Soldano.



Description:

Hologue Freres, St. Nicholas d' Aliermont, for J. Soldano, London, a good third quarter 19th century gorge cased hour repeating carriage clock, the gilt case with beveled glasses and engraved with foliage, baskets, egg and dart, paterae, and diapering, the top glass over an engine turned mask with oval aperture for viewing the escapement, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet hands, subsidiary Arabic alarm chapter, and with engine turned mask, eight day three train movement with lever platform marked "JS" and "N. 759", striking the hour and half hour in passing and repeating the last hour on demand, the back plate also marked "759", the front plate with "HL" mark and Hologue serial number 4535

Condition:

Very good, gilding restored, glasses good, dials with minor dirt but otherwise very good, minute hand with minor oxide, movement with dirty oil sinks and a bit of oil creep, polished and with reblued screws, running, striking and repeating correctly, balance out of beat and with low amplitude, alarm functional. Purchased by the consignor from Derek Roberts.

Dimensions: 3.625in x 6.5in x 3.25in **Circa:**1870

Sale Price: \$1,100 **High Estimate:** \$2,200 **Low Estimate:** \$1,800

Lot 439: A good 19th century grand Sonnerie striking cannelee cased French carriage clock with calendar.



Description:

France, a good 19th century grand sonnerie striking cannelee cased carriage clock with calendar, the gilt case with molded base and cornice, and with five beveled glasses, roman numeral white enamel dial with blued steel Breguet style hands and subsidiary dials for the day, alarm, and date, eight day, three train movement with gilt and silvered lever platform and cut bimetallic balance, striking grand or petit sonnerie quarters on a bell, and repeating the last hour and quarter on demand, with strike selection lever located under the base

Condition:

Very good overall, gilding restored, glasses good, scattered dings, dial with losses at upper right and left, concealed by case, otherwise very good, hands good, movement polished and with reblued screws, oil sinks with dirt and a bit of oil creep, clicks and click springs with minor gouging around screws, will run briefly, escapement gummy, striking grand sonnerie with lever in grand or petit positions, alarm and calendar functional.

Dimensions: 3.875in x 6.75in x 3.25in **Circa:** 1875

Sale Price: \$1,500 **High Estimate:** \$2,200 **Low Estimate:** \$1,600

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>