

“The Carriage Way”



International Carriage Clock Chapter #195 Founded 2013

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Volume 2024 No. 1



Is this clock made by Jacot or Henry Marc?

President's Report



Stan Boyatzis

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. How time flies. The first quarter of 2024 is nearly over and preparations for the 2024 National in Chattanooga are well under way. As you may be aware the theme for the 2024 National Convention Exhibit is “Horological Specialties” with a focus on the Specialty Chapters. Chapter 195 will be involved in the specialty exhibit with a display of miniature carriage clocks. Chapter members will be present to highlight some of the special miniature carriage clocks on display. Please make sure to visit the exhibit if you are attending the National.

Chapter 195 will also have a face-to-face meeting at the National and this has been confirmed for 8.30 am Saturday 15th June. 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. 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 Chris Maher. Chris mainly collects miniature carriage clocks and has previously written articles for the newsletter on some unusual miniatures in his collection. This article is about six of his full-size carriage clocks. It is based upon a talk he gave to Chapter 72 in Sydney in December 2023.

The second article is by Lindsay Bramall on the 'Restoration of a Sedan Cased Carriage Clock'. Lindsay describes his restoration process for the movement and case. What he found under various layers of 'varnish' on the case surprised even him.

Both Chris 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>

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.com

From Miniatures to Full Size Carriage Clocks

Chris Maher Sydney (Aust.)



I mainly collect miniature carriage clocks; and some of my recent acquisitions are shown here. But I have at times ventured into full size carriage clocks. This article is about six of my full-size carriage clocks. It is based upon a talk I gave to the Sydney NAWCC Chapter in late 2023. I am not very mechanically minded so my appreciation of carriage clocks is more around clock aesthetics than the technical aspects of a clock.



UNKNOWN: CAST CHASED PETITE SONNERIE (#169)

Serial No: 169; **Case:** Cast & chased decorative; **Movement:** Repeater with alarm and petite sonnerie on two bells. **Dial:** Black Roman numerals; diamonds and dots; **Hands:** Moon, **Height:** 150mm; **Other:** Resembles the two early Jacot clocks on page 21 of Leigh Extence's Jacot catalogue.



I bought this clock from an Italian auction house in late 2023. I was always a bit nervous about buying in Italy given the complex rules Italy has to export antiques. But to my pleasure it went through very easily. The auction house referred me to a shipper who arranged everything and the cost was quite reasonable. The packing was incredible; the clock was double boxed with the outer box being a wooden box. You could have jumped on the box and caused no damage to the clock inside.

I am still trying to work out who made the clock. It resembles the two early Jacots in Leigh Extence's Jacot Catalogue; and also, a Henry Marc clock that was for sale via the online auction house 'The Saleroom' in March 2023 (pictures overleaf). The auctioned clock was described as 17.5cm high so is 2.5cm taller than my one.



324: Grande-Sonnerie with Day & Date



489: Early Henri Jacot

Above: The two Jacot clocks in Leigh Extence's Jacot Catalogue.

Below: Photo of the Henry Marc clock from 2023 Saleroom auction.



L. LE ROY ET CIE : TIME/ALARM/REPEATER (#20437)

Maker: L. LeRoy et Cie; **Serial No:** 20437; **Movement Number:** 2657; **Movement:** Time/Alarm/Repeat. **Dial:** Dots with black Roman numerals; **Hands:** Spade; **Backplate:** 20437 L. LEROY ET CIE PARIS; **Height:** 185mm; **Other:** Dial Engine turned, signed L. LEORY & CIE HORLOGERS DE LA MARINE PARIS. Came with case and key; with case having serial number and key having movement number. Indexing under regulator reminiscent of Margaine markings.



I bought this clock in 2022 and it came with a case and key. It is a little odd as the case has the clock serial number on it but the key has the clock movement number on it. Under the regulator there is indexing and 'R' and 'A' as you find on a clock by Margaine, but there is no Margaine trademark on the back plate.

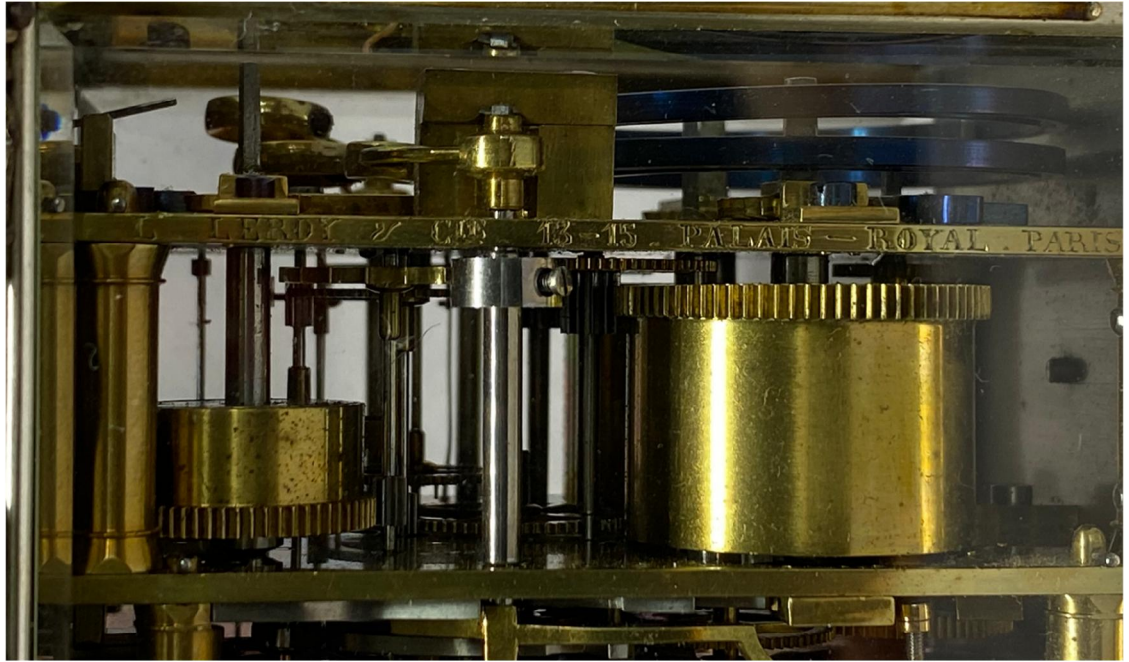
L. LEROY & CIE: CAST SILVERED PETITE SONNERIE (#14572)

Maker: L. LeRoy & Cie; **Serial No:** 14572; **Movement Number:?**; **Date: ??**; **Retailer: ???**; **Case:** Silvered Art Nouveau; **Movement:** Petite sonnerie with alarm; **Dial:** Arabic numerals on off white porcelain chapter ring.

Hands: Fleur-de-Lys; **Backplate: ;** **Height:** 170mm **Other:** Came with numbered key. Similar style described as art nouveau in Allix's book (Plate VII/34). That clock had similar feet, top corners, shield below alarm. Font of numerals is art nouveau style. Side of backplate inscribed: L. Leroy & Cie 13-13 Palais Royal Paris.

I had always been interested in carriage clocks with more elaborate cases and when this one came up at a French auction in 2022 I thought I should get it. The case is complex as it has decorative items screwed to the top four corners and the bottom four corners, plus the monogram on the front centre. Rather than have a top viewing glass it has a quite extravagant top plate and handle. And to complete the package the maker engraved their name and address on the side of the back plate. It is certainly quite different to the typical miniature carriage clocks in my collection.





DROCOURT: ENGRAVED GORGE REPEATER (#8519)

Maker: Drocourt. **Serial No:** 8519 (on lip of base, base plate & above left lower pillar). **Case:** Engraved Gorge with recessed arabesque side panels. **Movement:** Repeater, striking on gong. **Dial:** Black Arabic outer five-minute numerals, dots at each numeral, engraved gold dial surround. **Hands:** Moon. **Backplate stamped:** Regulation script to top of backplate: SLOW FAST, HANDS & arrow below winding arbor, Drocourt stamp. **Holding screws:** Single. **Gong block:** EA. **Height:** 15.5cm. **Other:** Similar to Fig 9-19 in Roberts' book which describes 'recessed arabesque panels'; and Fig 8/44 in Italian carriage clock book. Case similar to 11599 in Drocourt catalogue which has porcelain panels. Restored by Andrew Bliss July 2022.

I bought this clock from a French auction in 2021. What drew me to the clock was the engraving and the side panels. The clock is similar to Fig 9.19 in Derek Robert's book and he described the side panels as 'recessed arabesque'.

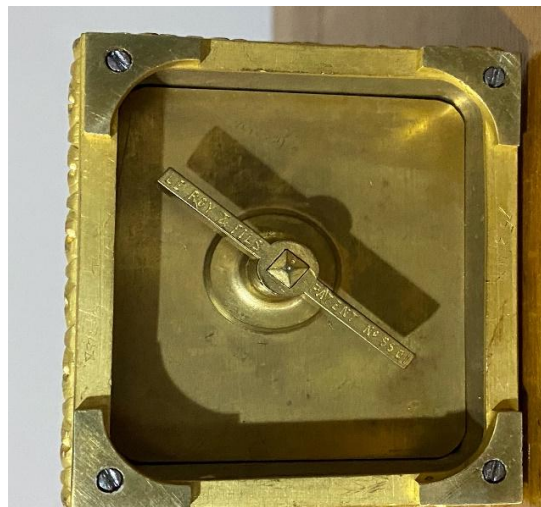
The clock is engraved but the side panels look to be embossed where some sections stand proud and others are recessed.



LEROY ET FILS: ANGLAISE RICHE TIMEPIECE (#8532)

Maker: LeRoy et Fils; **Serial No:** 8532. **Retailer:** LeRoy et Fils London. **Case:** Anglaise Riche with decorative moulded base, top and handle; **Movement:** Time; **Dial:** Black Roman numerals; signed 'Le Roy & Fils 37 Bond St London, Made in France, Palais Royale Paris. **Hands:** Spade; **Key:** N/A. **Height:** 146mm; **Other:** Bottom wind,

I bought this clock as I liked the style of the case and when it arrived, I discovered it has the LeRoy bottom wind feature to dispense with the need for a key.



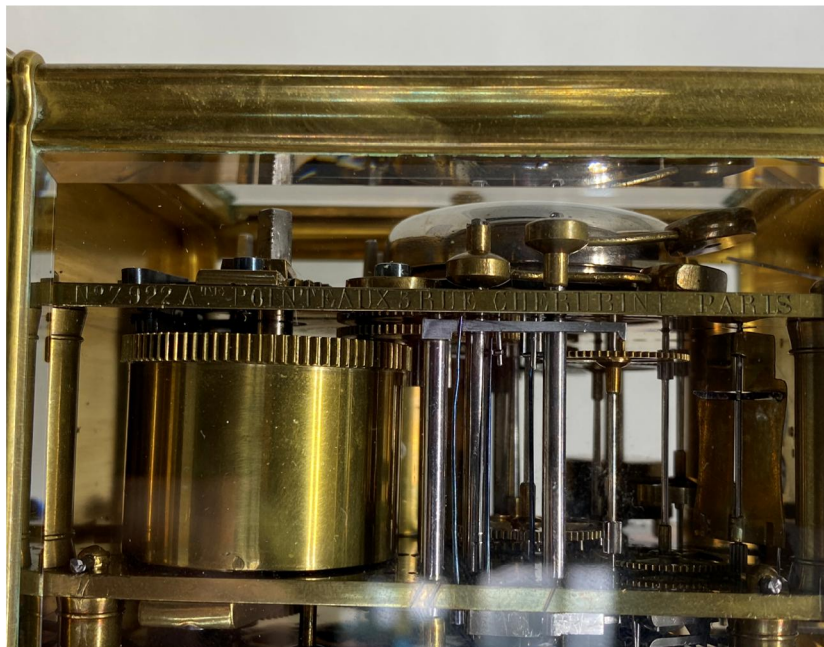
POINTAUX: GORGE PETITE SONNERIE WITH ALARM (#7922)

Maker: Auguste Pointaux; **Serial No:** Jacot serial number 3844 (backplate & base), Pointaux serial number 7922 on side of back plate; **Case:** Gorge; **Movement:** Quarter repeater with alarm; **Dial:** Roman hours, diamonds and dots, signed A^{TE} POINTAUX 3 RUE CHERUBINI PARIS (NB different spelling to dial). **Hands:** Spade; **Key:** nil. **Height:** 170 mm; **Other:** Signed on side of back plate No: 7922 A^{TE} POINTEAUX 3 RUE CHERUBINI PARIS (NB different spelling to dial). Jacot parrot trademark on backplate. Jacot arrow under winding arbor.



I bought this clock in 2023 as I wanted a petite sonnerie; and those are rare in miniatures.

When I saw the clock, it looked like a Jacot (handle, square top glass, inner circle on dial) but the dial was signed Pointaux. When it arrived home, I found it had the Jacot trademark on the back plate but was signed Pointaux on the side of the backplate. That is the Pointaux name was spelt differently on various parts of the clock.



Tardy's book (Dictionnaire des Horlogers Francais) lists E Louise-Auguste Pointaux working from Rue Cherubini from 1850-1880; so, I suspect Pointaux is the correct spelling.

Auguste Pointaux made clocks other than carriage clocks and I have pasted some examples below that I found on the web.



UNKNOWN: LEATHER COVERED HUMPBACK TRAVEL CLOCK

Maker: unknown; **Serial No:** A74; **Movement Number:**? **Case:** Leather-covered humpback with chain handle; **Movement:** Time & alarm striking on a gong; **Dial:** Black Roman hours; **Hands:** Spade; **Height:** 125mm (with chain up); **Other:** Came with case; not running.

This clock is a mystery. Having shown it to Doug Minty and Stan Boyatzis and disassembled it we could not find any clue to the maker. The clock has a chain instead of a handle and measured with the chain up it is 125mm high, so definitely too tall for a miniature. There is a shutter to stop dust getting in through the four setting/winding apertures in the back. The feet, fastening buttons and trim look to be silver, the clock case itself is brass. It is likely French as the word 'depose' (to signify a design patent) is stamped on several of the silver parts; it cannot be British as there are no hallmarks on the silver.



The humpback style dates to Breguet and has been emulated by subsequent clockmakers. I have bookended the travel clock with clocks by Breguet and Jump so you can see what I mean.



A Breguet Humpback



A Jump Humpback

Restoration of a Sedan Cased Carriage Clock

Lindsay Bramell (Aust.)

French carriage clocks cross my bench regularly in the various mechanical forms, ie. time, strike, repeat strike, alarm, petit and grande sonnerie striking.

99.9% of the time they are cased in a 5-glass, brass framed case.

Not this time. Sure, it is a typical rectangular brass, time, strike with repeat, movement but the case sets this one way out on its own.

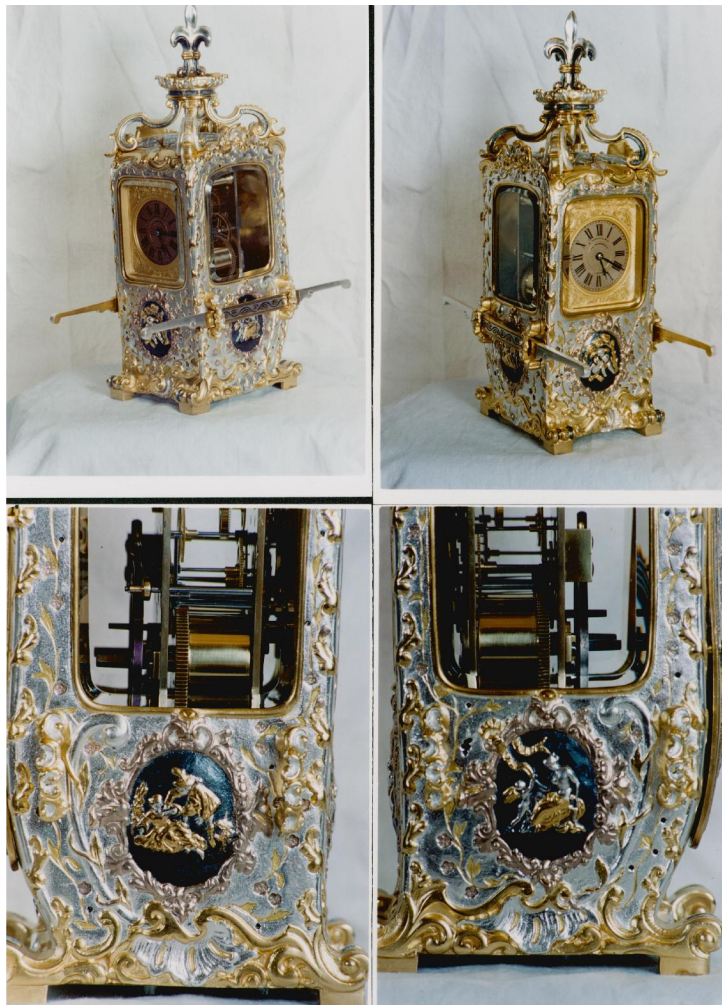
Here is the lock as received.





The owner requested that the case be re-coloured back to the original. The suggestion was that I could use Liquitex inks to achieve all the colours required.

I was given pictures of a very similar clock, in its original colours to work towards.



As may be seen the original colors were beautiful metallic gold, silver, blue oxidized silver, rose gold and ormolu. Colored metals to produce the contrast and detail.

No paints, inks or lacquers were used on this beautiful work by a master metal craftsman!

However, the clock presented for restoration appeared to have lost all of the beautiful metallic colors so I started experimenting with Liquitex inks.

By blending Liquitex Iridescent Silver with Blue I produced a color similar to the original.



Feeling confident, I dismantled the case, removed the movement and prepared to colour the case.

My first step, in any case-work such as this, is to take the case parts back to bare metal. Any existing lacquers, paints or varnishes may interfere with the Liquitex adhesion.



The case appeared to be tarnished and possibly had an old varnish over everything.

I made up a fresh batch of “Clock Brew” and immersed all the brass case parts, leaving them for about 10 minutes, with a regular lift and inspect.

The results were astounding. With rinsing, drying and dry buffing, with a little Autosol on the 75mm cloth buff wheel, up came the original colors, previously hidden behind a heavy coat of orange/brown varnish!



How could anyone believe that applying a heavy coat of varnish was beneficial to the beauty of the case !
Buoyed by the success with the case I looked closely at the paintings in the side windows and on the dial.
The orange lacquer had been applied to these as well and the effect was to subdue all the brightness of the art.



Gingerly, I tested solvents on the over-lacquer behind the dial mask.

Who could think that this was an acceptable protective varnish ?



Alcohol removes the varnish but was also going to attack the art work.

Stop work ! Leave this bit to an expert. One has to know one's limit before an irreversible mistake occurs !!!!

The restoration shown here is an example of what a specialist can do.



With the case restored, the movement remained to be repaired, restored and serviced.

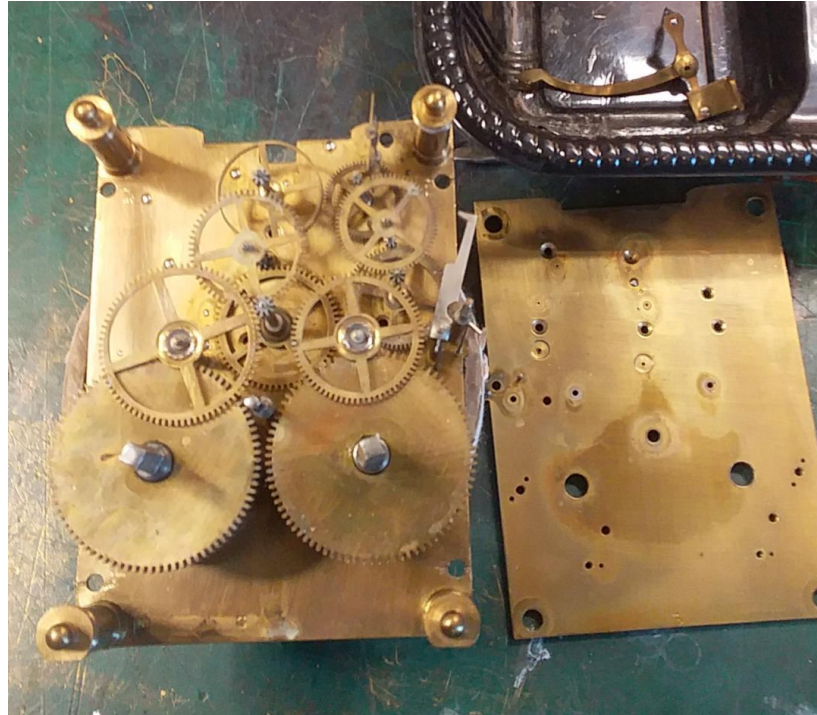
A good quality movement with time and strike trains, plus strike repeat. Complete, with no parts missing.

Quite often the Geneva stop-work goes missing. Who knows why, as it has an important function in preventing overwinding of the spring and tearing out the barrel hook or spring hole. It also sets up the mainspring so that the most consistent power section of the spring is utilized.



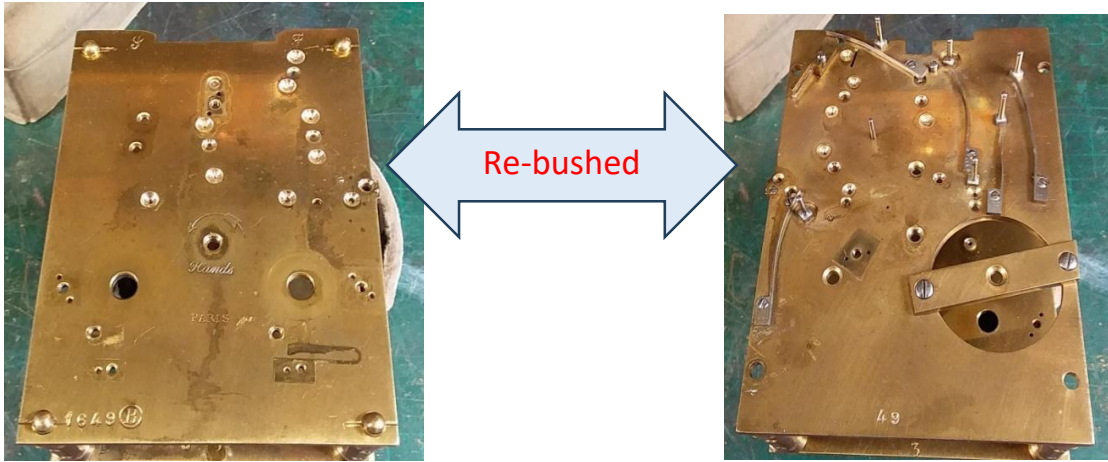
Geneva stop-work.

A full tear down was required to service and repair the movement.



All parts were cleaned and examined .

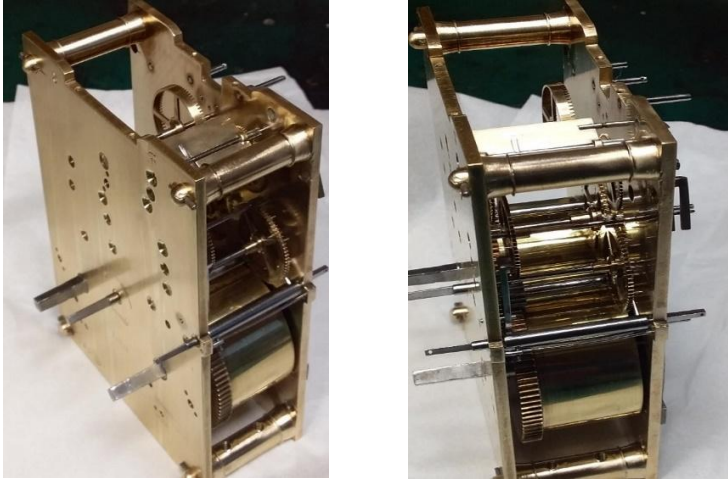
All pivots were cut ,and/or polished, with ultimately 9 plate pivot holes requiring re-bushing.



The mainspring barrels were opened and the old springs removed. Two new mainspring were fitted into cleaned barrels, as is my normal policy.



The movement was re-assembled.

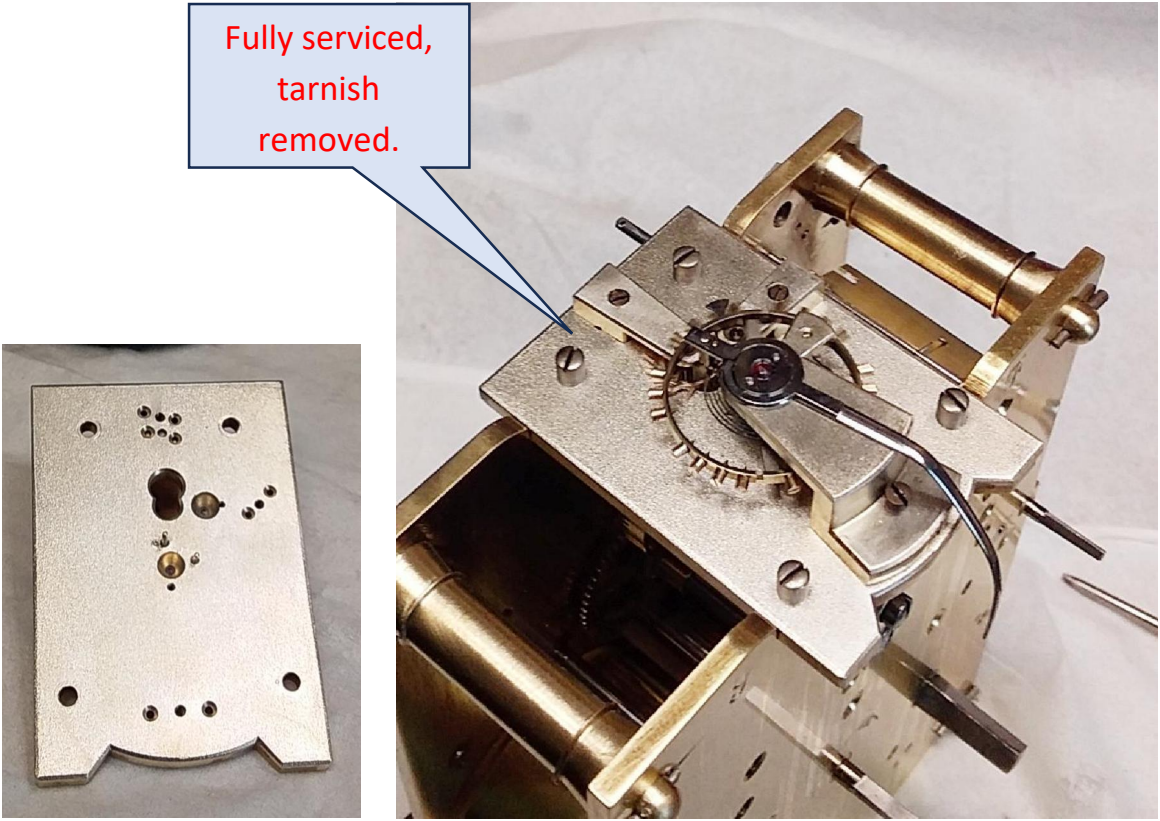


The platform escapement was fully dismantled, cleaned, oiled and reassembled.



The platform escapement was fitted to the movement, and the movement test run.

The rate was tested and set to 18000 bph.



The dial and hands were fitted back onto the movement.



The complete clock was mounted back into the restored case.



The final step was to close the case.



Restoration complete.

A comparison of the before and after.





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>