

Chapter 89 NAWCC

May 12, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Date and Location The 3rd meeting of 2018, our 50th year as a club and 44th as a chartered Chapter, was held at the Brunswick Masonic Hall. Members gathered for conversation and the Mart tables until noon, when we sat down for a lunch of sandwiches, chips, and desserts.

Call to Order, Attendees There were 19 registrations for the meeting – not quite enough to break even on the costs of the hall and the luncheon. The low turnout was attributed to (1) the meeting date being moved earlier since the ‘regular’ meeting date of the 19th would have interfered with the RO Schmitt auction, and (2) the following day, Sunday the 13th, being Mother’s Day. President Harry called the meeting to order at 12:40.

Secretary’s Report The Secretary’s report from the March meeting was accepted as printed and mailed by Mark.

Treasurer’s Report Kathy Smith gave the Treasurer’s report. The current balance was \$ 6273.09 but the expenses of this current meeting had not yet been finalized and posted by Bruce. A question was brought up about the required annual audit of the Chapter finances. VP Tim VonReyn said he suspects that Bruce will be able to give this report in September for review by the Directors.

Announcements Harry discussed NAWCC policy on sending out year membership pins at certain intervals. Some members have indicated that they have not received any, so he will look into this.

Upcoming Events (A) Harry reminded everyone that the Schmitt auction would be in Manchester on the following weekend.

(B) Tim Martel announced that he and Bev would like to host the Summer Picnic again and would invite everyone to their camp in Lyman.

*****Secretary’s note: More details and directions will be sent out this summer, but PLEASE NOTE and SAVE THE DATE of Saturday, August 18th, for the catered summer picnic at their camp. All you’ll need to bring is a lawn chair and beverage of choice, and any horologic material you’d like to discuss, show, fix, sell, etc...**

New Business This year is the 75th Anniversary of the NAWCC, and a big celebration has been planned for the Annual Convention in York PA in July. The NAWCC has asked Chapters and individuals for donations of items for an auction, or contributions of money for various funds and accounts. Some of our officers had discussed the idea of Chapter 89 sending some money, and Harry asked for input. Suggestions ranged from \$25 to \$250. We voted to have Bruce send a check for \$150 for the Anniversary celebration.

50:50 Drawing The first drawing was won by Mark vanLunen, and the second place ticket was held by Tony Accardi.

Show and Tell (A) Paul Fournier had taken in at his shop an old pillar and scroll clock by Terry & Sons, the case looking quite ‘distressed’. But inside he found a very clean and new-looking wood movement, and brought it to show the group. There were some theories that it was either a “new old stock” movement, or a later reproduction by someone such as George Bruno.

(B) Dave Smith brought two different strap-brass movements by Birge and Mallory. The smaller one probably came from an OG or a miniature triple-decker clock, and the larger one might have been used in an eight-day OG or a full sized triple-decker.

(C) Tony Accardi distributed a page from a book about Leonardo Da Vinci by Walter Isaacson. The book showed a diagram, drawn by Da Vinci in 1490, of a spring barrel holding a spiral ramp device with pins to drive a pinion; “A Spiral

Gear for Equalizing Spring Power". This was a precursor of the fusees used in clocks and watches several centuries later – he certainly was ahead of his time in many subjects!

(D) Harry Hepburn and David Smith brought some examples from their collections of wood movements and dials to show some of the history of dial design in the early years of Connecticut manufacturing. After Eli Terry had improved the concept of interchangeable parts and had fulfilled "the contract", his factory was bought by Seth Thomas and Silas Hoadley. Dials made by these men were labelled Thomas - Hoadley across the middle.

Seth Thomas sold out to Hoadley and continued in the clock business at Hiram Camp's factory. Hoadley gradually changed his dials, signing them S. Hoadley - Plymouth, but later the location of the text would vary from the straight line format. Dave has a dial signed in a semi-circle under the upper half of the chapter ring. Later Hoadley used a smaller circular signature below the center arbor, and sometimes this would frame the date dial ring, if one was present. Examples of these variations were shown; numerals appeared in either Roman or Arabic form.

Harry also showed a Riley Whiting dial, with the signature and town (Winchester) across the middle from 9 to 3.

Presentation Phil Carthage presented a slide show of his excellent photo documentation of the Portland Seth Thomas street clock movement disassembly and removal from the case from April 20th. Harry narrated the pictures and discussed the progress and plans for work on the clock.



Photo by Phil Carthage

WALTER ISAACSON

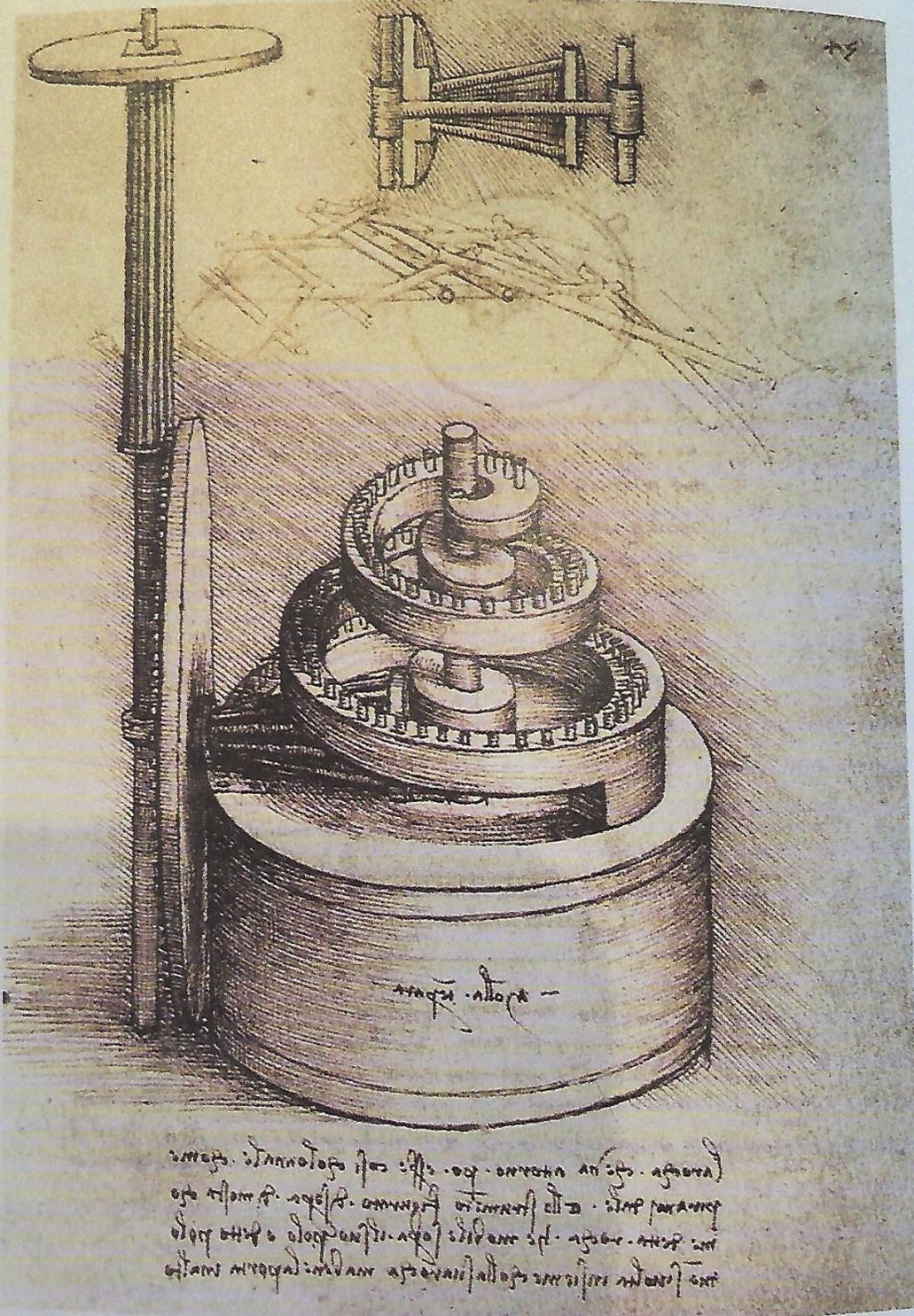


Fig. 53. A spiral gear for equalizing spring power.