



A FINE AND POSSIBLY UNIQUE LATE 17TH CENTURY LANTERN CLOCK OF EXCEPTIONAL SIZE

Robert Seignior, London

SEIGNIUR, ROBERT. London. Also Seignior. Baptised at St Dunstan's in the West in 1645, he was apprenticed (not through the Clockmakers' Company) to John Nicasius and was freed Clockmakers' Company in April 1667. He took apprentices: October 1667 Richard Wright (March 1667/8), Thomas Cruttenden (then passed over to John Fromanteel).

He worked in Exchange Alley. He was constantly in trouble with Clockmakers' Company administration, October 1671 he was fined 20s for calling them a company of cheating knaves. In January 1673 Henry Jones complained he had faked his name on a clock. In November 1673 he was appointed King's Clock and Watchmaker 'without fee' until the death or surrender of office of Edward East, who in fact outlived him.

In 1682 he got £20 for a clock for the Treasury Chambers. On 10 October (most likely this clock).

His will, describing him as a clockmaker of St Peter Le Poer parish, is dated 1685 and was proved in Canterbury on 4 May 1687. He left his estate to his son, George. He was to be buried in St Peter's die Poor, Broad Street, near to the bodies of his wife and deceased son. By 1686 Daniel Quare had taken over Seignior's former premises in Exchange Alley.





EAST, EDWARD (I). London. Sometimes Est. He was a very famous maker. He was baptised on 22 August 1602 at Southill, Bedfordshire, the son of John East by his wife, Martha (née Newsam). He was apprenticed in March 1618 in the Goldsmiths' Company to Richard Rogers till 1626 and was made free in 1627. He was married on 8 August 1627 at St Nicholas Cole Abbey to Anne Bull, the daughter of clockmaker Edmund Bull of the Blacksmiths' Com-

daughter) being dead. Contrary to his wishes he was made one of the first Assistants in the Clockmakers' Company in 1632, then a Warden in 1638 and Master in 1645 and 1653. He very seldom attended meetings after about 1660, in which year he was appointed Chief Clockmaker to King Charles II. He was never Clockmaker to Charles I, as sometimes stated.

He supposedly worked in Pall Mall in 1632 and in Fleet Street by the 1640s, supposedly at 'the Musical Clock', and when he was Master he held the Clockmakers' Company court meetings there. Later (1690) he worked at 'the Sun outside Temple Bar'. He was brother to Jeremy East. His daughter, Sarah, married Thomas Herbert, watchmaker in 1676. He took as apprentices in the Clockmakers' Company: September 1643 Thomas Wolverstone (through Oswald Durant), free September 1650; October 1646 Robert Hanslapp (through Thomas Alcock), free March 1653; October 1639 Walter Gibbs (through Oswald Durant), free May 1648; January 1650 Edward Wagstaffe (through Richard Masterson); August 1654 Henry Jones, free July 1663; December 1654 John East (through David Moody); June 1657 Adam Pearce (through David Moody), free June 1664; December 1676 Richard Bellinger. He is said to have employed Elias Dupree, a Dutchman, in 1635, though I cannot confirm this. It seems likely that Evan Jones worked for him.

In 1656 he supported the Clockmakers' Company administration against the rebels. In July 1658 his son, Nathaniel, was apprenticed in the Grocers' Company to Thomas Lavender. On the Company list of June 1662 he is listed in Fleet Street with, or next door to, Jeremiah East. There seems to be a large gap in his life in the 1660s and early 1670s as far as the Clockmakers' Company records reveal it. In 1698 a watch by him was raffled by Andrew Brown of Edinburgh. In his will, dated 1688, proved on 23 February 1696/7 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, he mentions his residence at Hampton, Middlesex. He left 'the Swann with two necks', in Ladd Lane to his daughter, Anne Saunders. This, a corruption of Swan with Two Nicks, was a very important coaching inn and demonstrates his wide-reaching business interests. He mentioned his wife, Sarah (whom, as Sarah Powell, widow, he had married in February 1655/6 at St Dunstan's, and by whom a daughter, Sarah, was born in December 1656), his son, Edward, and Edward's son, Edmund. Also his son, James, and daughter, Elizabeth. His son, Edward, had already received his inheritance. The odd phrase 'It is my express will that my executrix bury me privately in the night time and that she give nothing but Rosemary att my funeral' suggests he may have been a Roman Catholic, as they held funerals at night for privacy. In October 1692 he gave to the Clockmakers' Company £100, the interest to be used for payments to poor members.

The East concern probably had a very large workforce, which probably included the following masters and their

numerous apprentices, many of whom were known or suspected Catholics/Royalists: Peter Bellon; David Moody, Benjamin Hill, Michael Cornish, Jeremy East and probably all the other Easts, John Matchett, William Partridge, Evan Jones, and probably others whose connection seems less obvious. A good number of these had French origins/connections. The East business house, with its French/Catholic/Royalist leanings, seems to have been in direct opposition to the Fromanteel business with its Anglo/Dutch/Protestant/Cromwellian inclinations. On 26 September 1678 William Hancorn ran away with several watches 'Whoever can apprehend him, and give notice to Edward East his Majesty's Watchmaker near Whitehall, shall have Five pounds reward besides his charges born.' This large workforce could account for the comparatively large number of 'his' works which survive, compared to the very small number (if any) surviving by his associates.

An old account, though not entirely accurate, offers some interesting information:

Edward East, watchmaker to Charles I, was in business at first in Pall Mall, near the Tennis Court. He afterwards removed to Fleet Street, and later still to the Strand, as in the *London Gazette* for 22-26 January, 1690, he is described as 'Mr. East at the Sun, outside Temple Bar.' His watches were held in high repute, and were often used by Charles II as stakes at games of tennis in the Mall. Sir Thomas Herbert relates in his Memoirs, that having failed to call the king at an early hour His Majesty ordered him to be supplied with a gold alarm-watch, 'which, as there may be cause, shall awake you.' A watch was accordingly procured by the Earl of Pembroke from Mr. East his watchmaker in Fleet Street. East was a member of the Clockmakers' Company, and one of the ten original assistants named in its charter of incorporation. After serving the office of warden, he was twice elected master, in 1645 and again in 1652. In 1647 he also served the office of treasurer of the company, an office of which he was the unique occupant. In 1693, probably not long before his death, he gave £100 to the company for the benefit of the poor. A very large silver alarum clock-watch by East which Charles I kept at his bedside, and gave to Mr. afterwards Sir Thomas, Herbert on 30 January 1649, when on his way to execution at Whitehall, is still in private possession. It is a beautiful piece of work, and has been frequently illustrated; the dial and back are finely decorated with pierced work. This may be the 'Watch and a Larum of gould' for which East received 'fortie pounds' from the Receiver-General on 23 June 1649, the watch having been supplied 'for the late King's use the xviiith of January last.' Another fine example of an 'Eduardus East' is in the British Museum; it is an octagonal crystal-cased watch made about the year 1640, and has a recumbent female figure engraved on the dial. The Ashmolean Museum at Oxford possesses a gold watch by East in the form of a melon. Other specimens of this

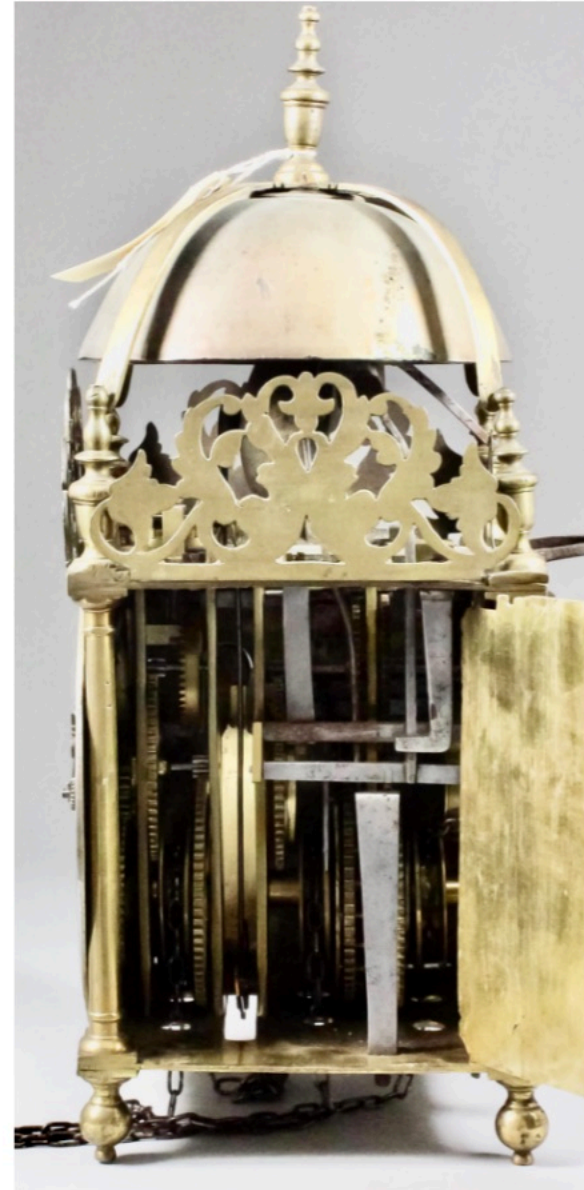
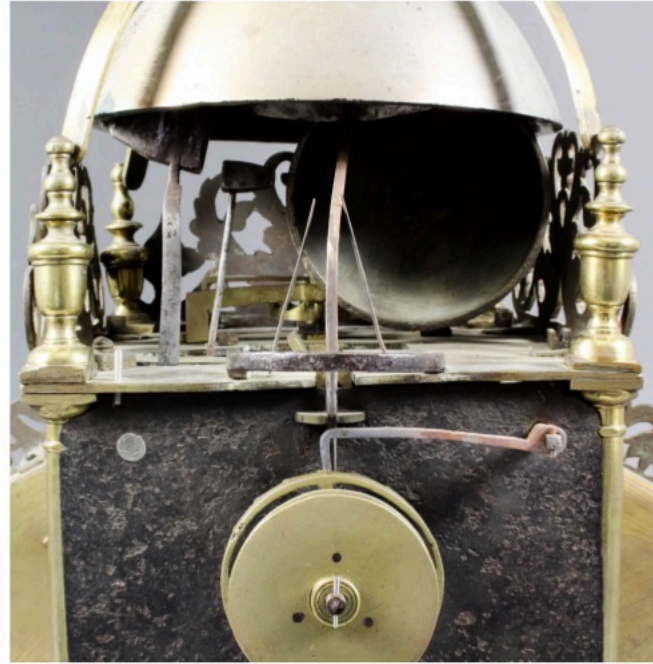


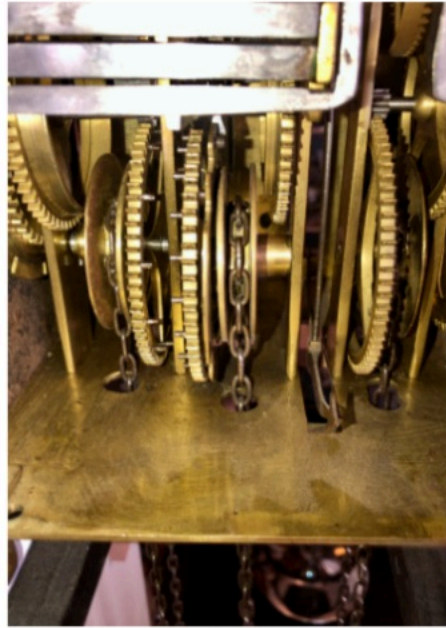
maker known to exist are a watch with tortoise-shell case, in the British Museum, dating from about 1640; another in the Victoria and Albert Museum; two examples in the Guildhall Museum, one a watch movement and the other a silver watch in oval hunting case with crystal centre; and two clock-watches in finely-pierced silver cases, in private possession.

Before the introduction of the pendulum in 1657 he primarily produced watches (Fig 90), but afterwards mainly clocks. Many clocks are known by him usually signed: 'Eduardus East Londini' (Figs 91-93, 94-96). See my article in *Clocks* magazine, July 1984.





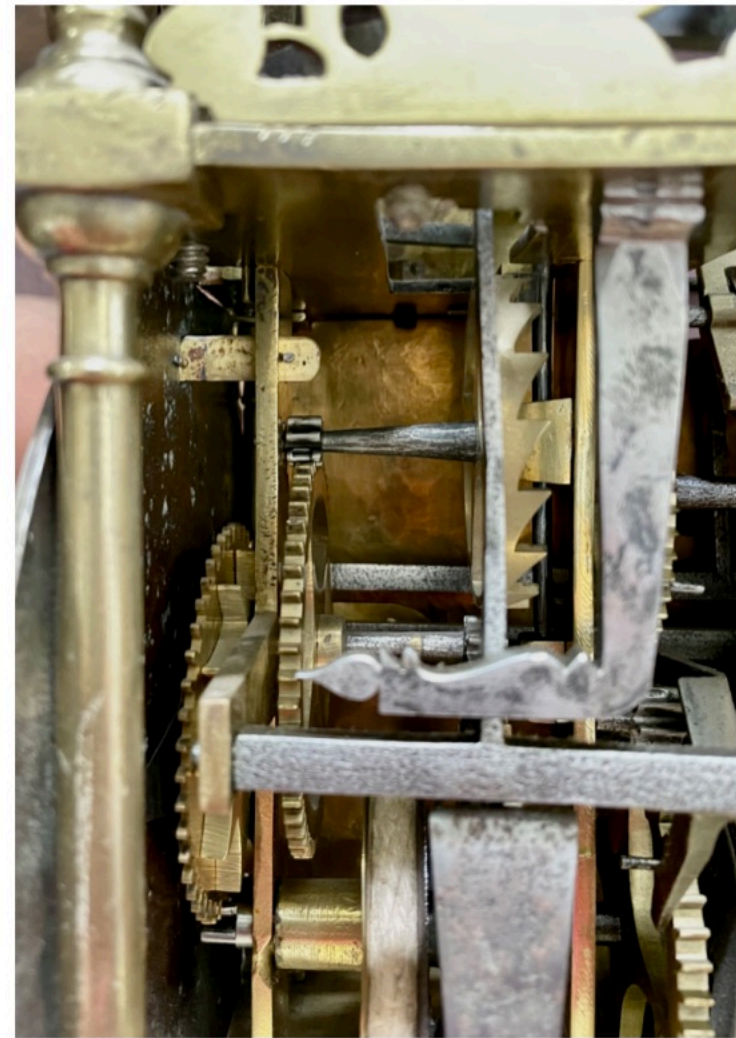
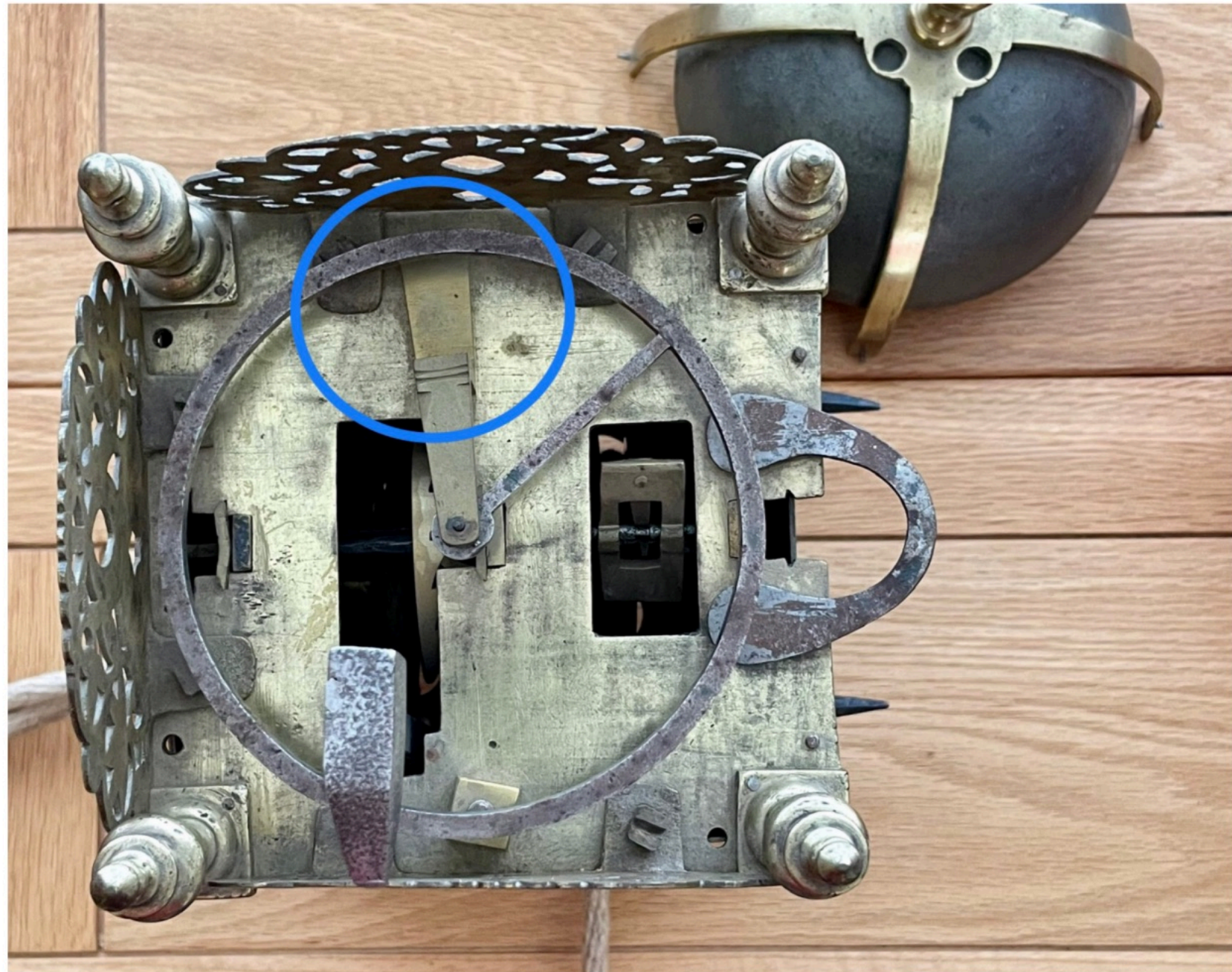




PACE, THOMAS. London. On 28 August 1631 one Thomas Pace was married at St Bride's Fleet Street to Dorothy Parker, by whom a son, Thomas, was baptised at St Andrew's Holborn and died in 1641. He was made a Free Brother in the Clockmakers' Company in September 1634.
He took as apprentices: September 1637 Jeffrey Bayley,

through Oswald Durant, free March 1646/7; (in 1642 and 1646 the Clockmakers' Company intervened in a quarrel between Pace and his apprentice but both parties refused to disclose the cause of their quarrel); December 1638 Laurence Entwisle through Thomas Dawson. He worked 'at ye Crowne in Fleet Street'. I have no record of him after 1646. Jeffrey Bayley, who was free in 1647, probably succeeded him in business. Lantern clocks are known signed 'Thomas Pace at ye Crowne in Fleet Street', 'Thomas Pace at The Crowne in Fleete Streete', 'Tho: Pace at the Royal Exchange Londini' and a miniature one (Fig 196).





FROMMANTEEL, AHASUERUS (I). London. He was born on 25 February 1606/7 in Norwich, where he was probably apprenticed to Jacques van Barton. He was the son of Murdoch Fromanteel (and his wife, Leah), a turner and chairmaker of Norwich, who seems to have been buried on 4 June 1652 at St Botolph's Aldgate, London, probably having come to live in London with his son. Ahasuerus had moved to work in East Smithfield in London by January 1630/1, where he joined the Blacksmiths' Company, then in 1632 became a Free Brother in the Clockmakers' Company. In September 1631 he was married to Maria de Bruijne from Colchester, by whom he had at least eight children, some dying in infancy.

It was not till many years later (January 1655/6) that he became a full Freeman and a Freeman of the City of London, and only then on the express written order of Oliver Cromwell, whose cause he had supported politically and financially. This may well mean that his earlier life was spent working as a journeyman and it is doubtful whether any work is known to survive bearing his name before 1655/6. An exception is that he is known to have worked, perhaps on one occasion only, with Edward East and a table clock exists bearing both their names. He is famous (*inter alia*) for having introduced the pendulum to England in 1658, but his work also shows other strong signs of original thinking and experimentation. He was constantly at odds with the Clockmakers' Company who

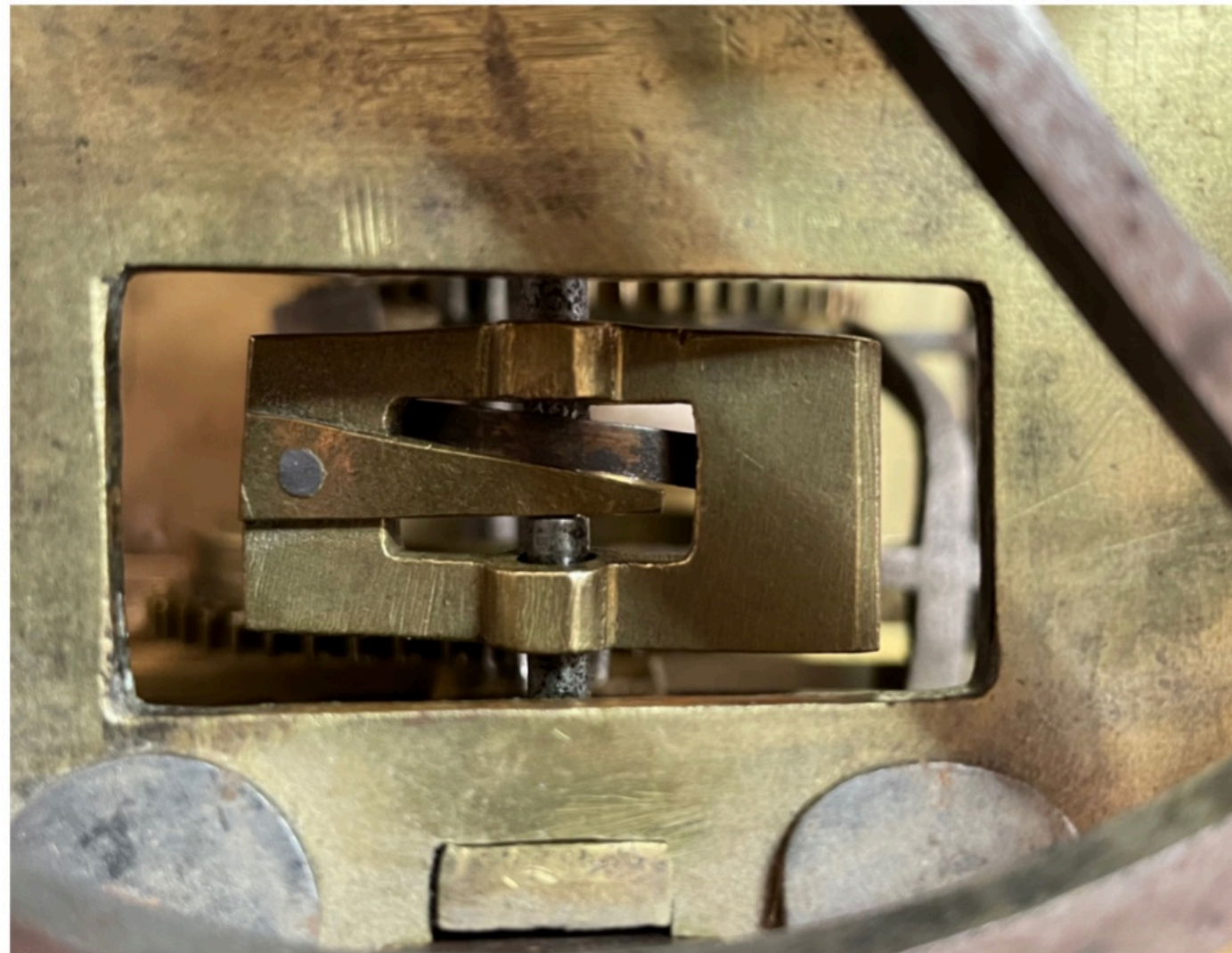


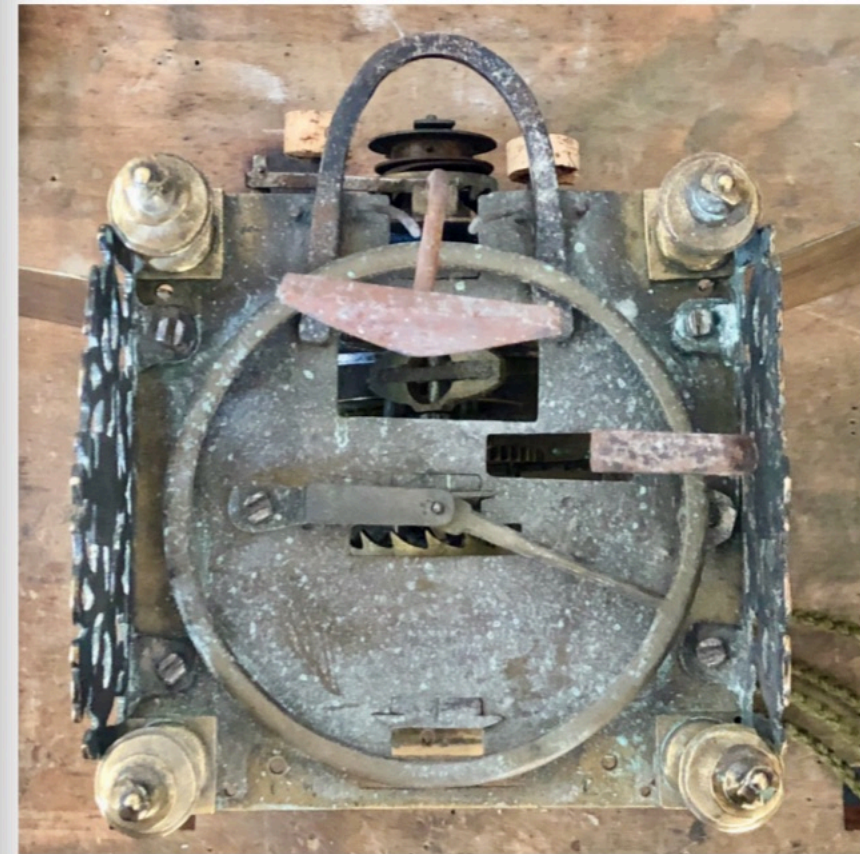
appear to have resented his talent and perhaps the fact that he would not conform to their procedures and that he probably was sufficiently independent financially to be able to refuse to conform.

About 1660 he was married for the second time, to Sarah, the widow of Samuel Winnock, a cloth dealer in Colchester, who had four young children by her late husband, which children he trained in the clock trade along with his own. It seems that he was initially in East Smithfield, by 1640 in the parish of St Mary's Whitechapel, then by 1650 at St Saviour's Southwark, where he remained till he left for Holland. Sarah, his second wife, was buried on 12 October 1665 at St Botolph's Aldgate.

He took as apprentices: December 1637 Jacob Hulst through Thomas Dawson; August 1646 Robert Collins through Joseph Quash; December 1646 John Mountage; May 1651 Stephen Smith through Joseph Quash; April 1652 his son, John Fromanteel; April 1654 Judah Cann through William Bunting but later passed over to Ambrose Blisse; June 1660 James Turgis; August 1662 his son, Abraham Fromanteel; September 1663 his son, Daniel Fromanteel; June 1664 his stepson Joshua Winnock (who later married his daughter, Elizabeth). By 1668 he had set up a branch of the business in Amsterdam, where he seems to have spent most of his time, though he was back in England in 1676. He died in England in 1693 at Maiden Head Court, from where he was buried at St Mary's Whitechapel on 31 January 1692/3.

He made bracket and longcase clocks (Figs 103-105) and a few lantern clocks, signed 'A. Fromanteel Londini fecit', 'A. Fromanteel' or 'Ahasuerus Fromanteel Londini', and another, monogrammed 'AF', which is thought to be by him. His clocks and watches were sometimes signed in full but later just his surname and town, which might be London or Amsterdam (see R. A. Lee in the bibliography). See my articles in *Antiquarian Horology* March 1975 and *Clocks* magazine, December 1979, May, June and July 1980, July 1984, and May, June and July 2014.







DUN(N), HENRY. London. He was baptised on 31 August 1606 at St Peter's Nottingham, the son of John Dunn of Nottingham, who was already deceased when Henry was apprenticed in the Merchant Taylors' Company in August 1621 to John Spittlehouse till 1631. He was made free in May 1630. He was made a Free Brother in the Clockmakers' Company in April 1677 and was last mentioned in their archives in 1678. He took an apprentice in the Clockmakers' Company in March 1677/8 named Bartholomew Dary or Davy (through Samuel Davis). A lantern clock is signed 'Henry Dun Londini'.

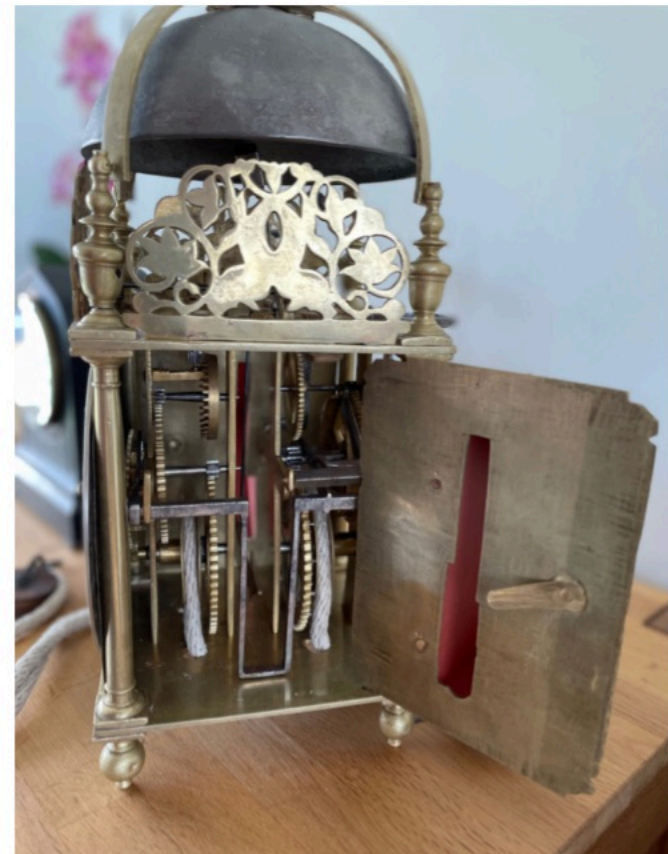




TAYLOR, THOMAS (II). London. He was known as Thomas Taylor senior of Holborn. He was already an apprentice of Nicholas Letters of St Margaret's Westminster by 1654, when the latter promised to bind him through the Clockmakers' Company, but did not. He was made free in the Clockmakers' Company in October 1659. He took as apprentices: March 1659/60 John Ward; March 1659 John Haid; January 1659 John Waynd; June 1666 Benjamin Elfes, free July 1674; 1662? Jeremiah Gosse, free January 1667/8 (taken from Thomas Holland); April 1670 John Bennett, free June 1678; August 1672 Thomas Ellis, free May 1682; January 1679/80 Charles Taylor; March 1680/1 Josias Southcote; December 1682 William Rogers; February 1682/3 Benjamin Nicklis; September 1675 John Shaw, free September 1682; September 1678 his son, Thomas Taylor (III), free January 1685/6; (from Joseph Windmills) John Jackson, free April 1684; January 1685/6 his son, Jasper Taylor, free April 1695; June 1686 David Wyche, later passed over to Thomas Taylor (III); July 1687 Thomas Plumleigh.

He had several children baptised at St Andrew's Holborn by his wife, Patience, being: 1660 Mary; 1662 Elizabeth; 1662/3 Thomas; 1666 Tabitha; 1667 Sarah; 1668 Susan; 1671/2 Jasper; 1672 Richard. He was made a Clockmakers' Company Assistant 1676, Warden from 1683, Master in 1688. He died in 1690. He wished to be buried at Fulham, where he owned property, 'near to my uncle Wyche' (who was perhaps the father of his apprentices, John Wyche and David Wyche?). He was described as a clockmaker of St Andrew's Holborn when his will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 1 July 1690.

In his will he mentioned his son, Thomas (III), son Jasper under 21, daughter Susanne, brother Jasper, brother-in-law John Fitters, *qv*, and his wife Patience. Tabitha Taylor of St Andrew Holborn who was married in 1688 to John Clowes, *qv*, was his daughter. Bracket and longcase clocks and watches are known, signed 'Thomas Taylor, Holborn', 'Thos Taylor in Holborn' and 'Thos. Taylor Holborn' (some said to show signs of Joseph Knibb's work). A lost watch was recorded in 1692 to be returned to Thomas Taylor (his son?) 'at the Upper End of Fetter Lane in Holborn'.





SPEAKMAN, WILLIAM (1). London. Sometimes Speckman. He was apprenticed in August 1654 through the Clockmakers' Company through Nicholas Tomlins to Peter Closen or Andrew Prime — perhaps to Closen till his death about 1660, then Andrew Prime, and was free in September 1661. He was married about 1660, which was strictly forbidden as an apprentice, but he seems to have done it anyway and may have got away with this

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perhaps because Closen died in 1660.

His first child, Thomas, was baptised in the church of St Clement Danes. He then had several children by his wife, Elizabeth, baptised in the church of St Andrews Holborn: 1666 Anne, 1668 Edward, 1670 Jane (died 1672), 1673 William, 1675 John (died), 1676 Katherine, 1678 John. Two children seem to have been baptised at Reading: 1674 Elizabeth and 1679 Mary. The boys all trained as clockmakers under him.

He took as apprentices: January 1662/3 John Sweby, free November 1671; August 1670 Boaz Brittain, free March 1679; September 1671 Simon Player; January 1675/6 his son Thomas Speakman, free September 1685; January 1682/3 his son Edward Speakman, free January 1691/2; Zachariah Mountfort (taken over from Francis Ireland), free April 1684; July 1685 his kinsman, Thomas Trowse; June 1683 Richard Bryan, free April 1686; July 1688 his son William Speakman; September 1692 his son John Speakman, free June 1707; December 1694 Philip Vick; December 1696 Ralph Morton; May 1699 Henry Clanfield (or Cranfield, son of Henry Clanfield late of Stanton Harcourt, Oxford, yeoman, deceased), free 1707; August 1702 Benjamin Broadhead (son of Parry Broadhead of St Andrews Holborn, Middlesex, gentleman), free September 1709; September 1710 Richard Andrews; April 1715 Gilbert Trow; Robert Benn, free December 1716. He also bound apprentices for certain other masters, including J. Windmills, E. Clough, D. LeConte, I. Lowndes, N. Higginson and F. Asseline.

He worked initially (1662) in Westminster, later in Hatton Garden. In 1698



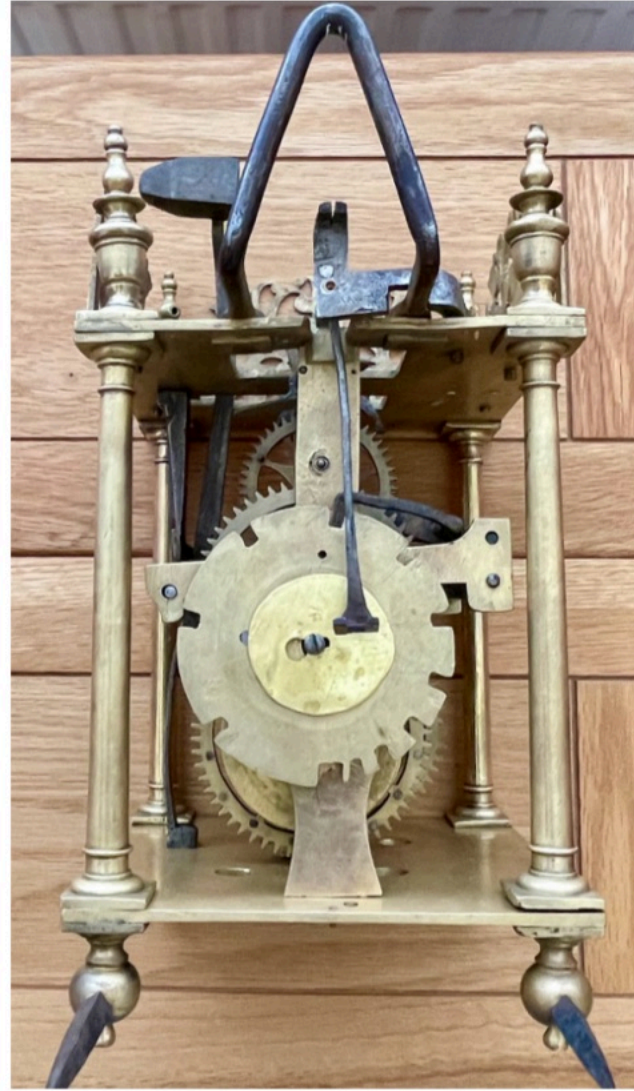
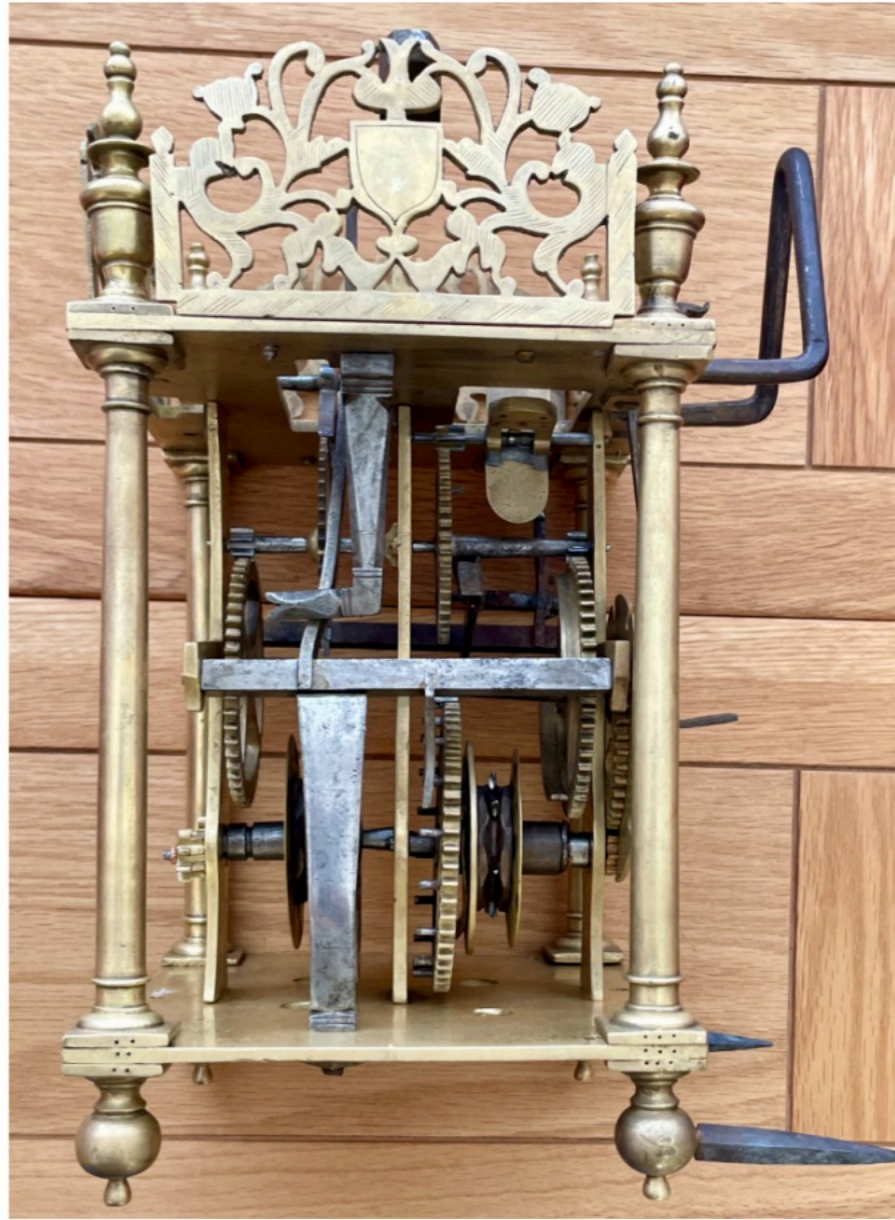


BECK, RICHARD. London. He was born about 1632 and was apprenticed in 1646 through the Clockmakers' Company to John Selwood, then on Selwood's death in 1651 to Thomas Loomes and was made free in 1653. He was married on 22 May 1655 at St Benet Fink to Elizabeth Gilbert, seamstress. His three children were baptised in the parish of St Benet Fink: 24 June 1656 Elizabeth, 25 November 1657 Richard, 20 February 1658/9 Mary. In 1656 he supported the Fromanteel/Loomes group, who rebelled against the Clockmakers' Company.

He is not mentioned in the Company after 1658, and in May 1659 he suffered a fatal illness and died, being buried on 4 June 1659 at St Benet's Fink, leaving a will, proved on 17 June in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, in which he mentions his wife, Elizabeth, his sister Ann, wife of Samuel Wolfe, and his three under-age children, Richard, Elizabeth and Mary. He also mentions his father and mother, Richard and Mary Beck. A witness to the will was clockmaker Carr Coventry, who probably worked for him.

He was only in business for six years but five lantern clocks have been recorded by him, signed variously: 'Richard Beck near ye French Church, Londini', 'Richard Beck Near The French Church' and 'Richard Beck at the French Church' (Fig 19). A watch is also recorded. See my articles in *Horological Journal*, August 2008, and *Clocks* magazine September 2011, and May, June and July 2014.

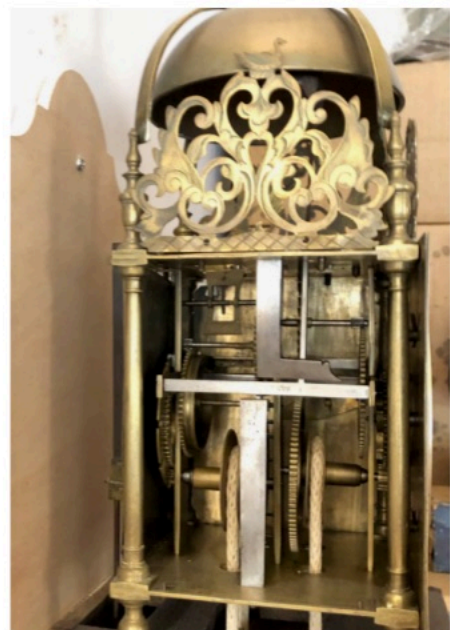






MALDEN, JAMES. Felsted/Rayne (Essex). He was working in Felsted when he was married in 1677, was there till 1680, then moved to Raine (usually Rayne) by 1681, working there till he was buried on 10 February 1724/5. He was also a grocer. A lantern clock of about 1720 is signed 'Jam. Malden at Rayne in Essex'. A square-dial lantern clock with anchor escapement is signed on the chapter ring 'Jam. Malden Rain Essex'.

FORDHAM, JOHN. Great Dunmow (Essex). He was working from about 1680 till the mid 18th century. In 1716 he took Mark Draper, son of Margaret Draper, widow, as apprentice. He made all types of clocks of which some were numbered, including lantern clocks, recorded examples including: 98, 125, 146, 179 (dated 1706), 184, 273, 329, 397, 494, 506, 530, 547, 548. One lantern clock has been noted signed 'John Ffordham Dunmowe Numb. 98', another one is signed 'John Fordham Dunmow No. 506', another is signed 'John Fordham Dunmow No. 397', another 'John Fordham Dunmow No. 494', and another 'John Fordham Dunmow No. 548'.



NEWTON, WILLIAM (II). London. He was born about 1662, was apprenticed through the Clockmakers' Company in August 1676 to Edward Stanton till 1683 and free in January 1685/6. He took as apprentices: January 1685/6 Richard Farmborough; September 1687 Benjamin Owen, through Isaac Webb. He paid no quarterage after about 1688. A lantern clock has been noted signed 'William Newton in East Smithfield'.



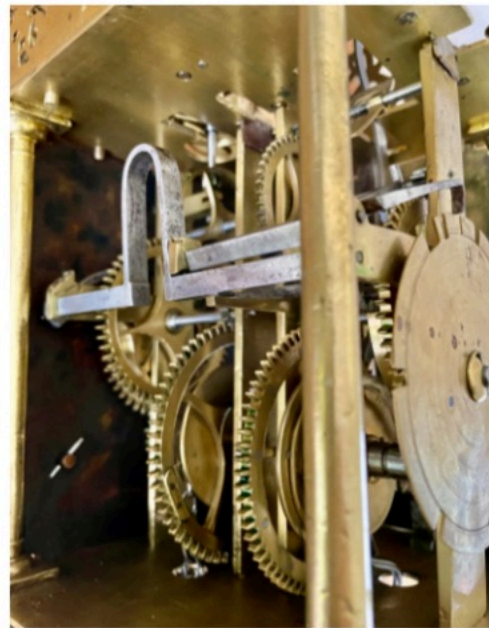
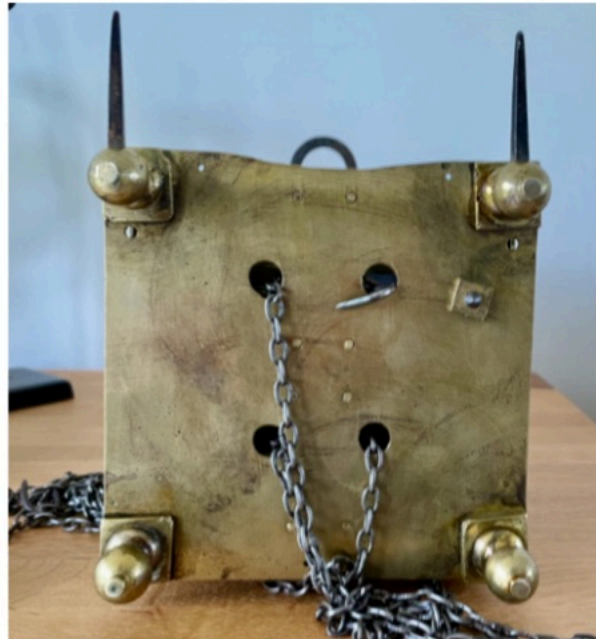
History excerpts appear courtesy of Brian Loomes, from his publication 'Clockmakers of Britain 1286-1700' (2014).

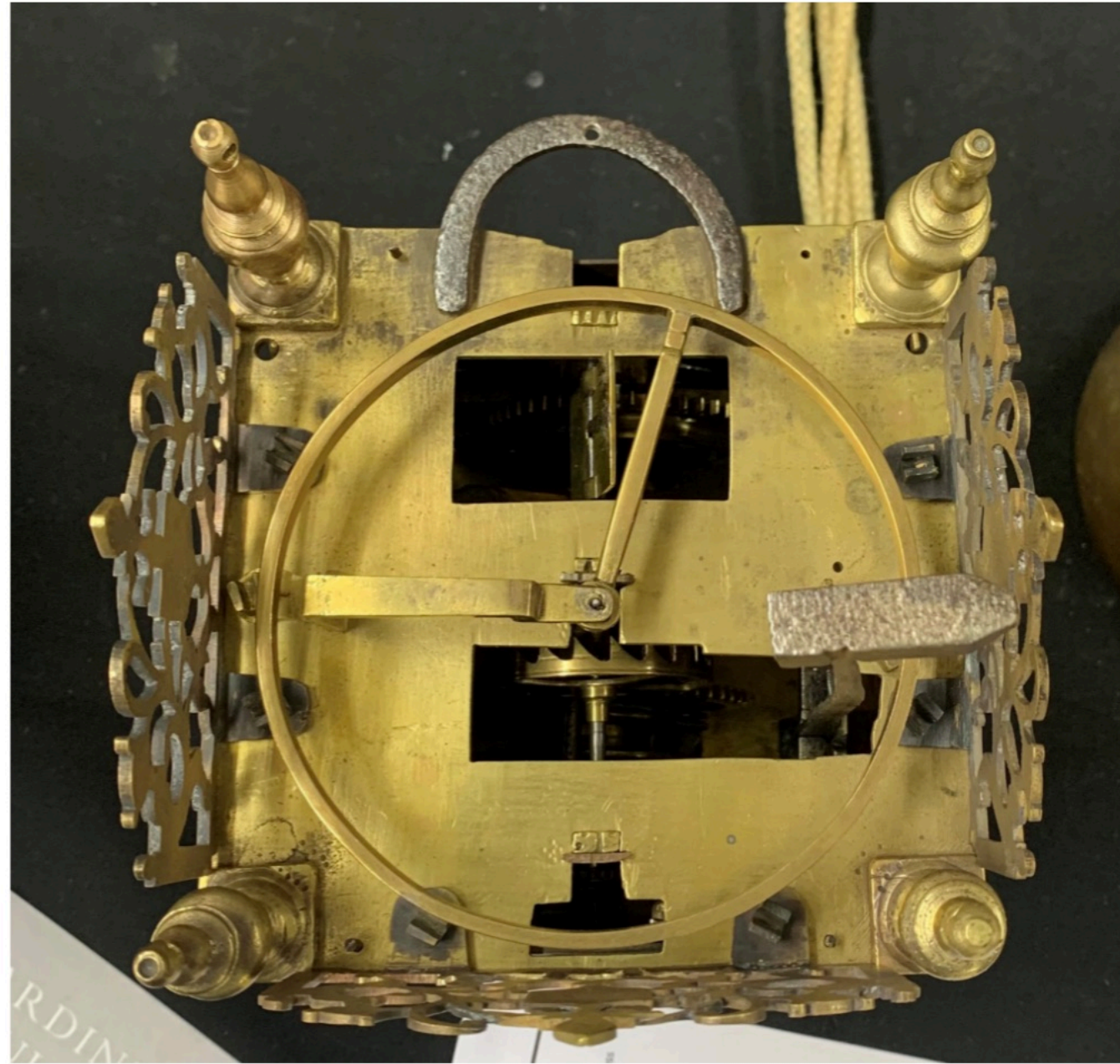
RAYNES, WILLIAM. London/York. Sometimes Raines. He was born about 1640 and was apprenticed in London in November 1653 through the Clockmakers' Company to William Almond through Ralph Almond and freed in January 1660/1. He took as apprentices: January 1663/4 Joseph Sumner; January 1667/8 William Beadle; George Crouch from Edward Bayley, free January 1668/9. He worked in Butcher's Row, East Smithfield, and was last recorded in the Company archives in London in 1672.

He and his wife, Alice, had children baptised at St Botolph's without Aldgate, London: 1671 Mary; 1673 Thomas; Or he may (also?) be the William Raynes whose son, William, by his wife Mary, was baptised in 1685 in the parish of St Botolph Bishopsgate. Later he moved to York, but at what date is unknown — perhaps the late 1680s or 1690s. He was killed in a fall from his horse when returning from York to his home in Gilling in 1695, 'when coming from Helmsley [four miles from Gilling], where his brother, Thomas Raynes, Gent, lives'.

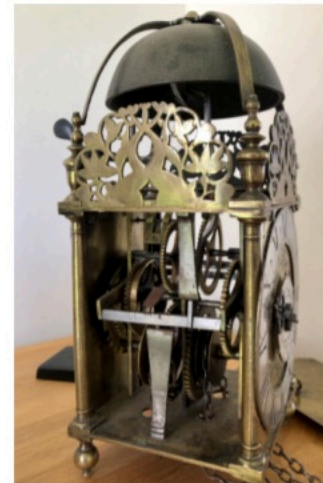
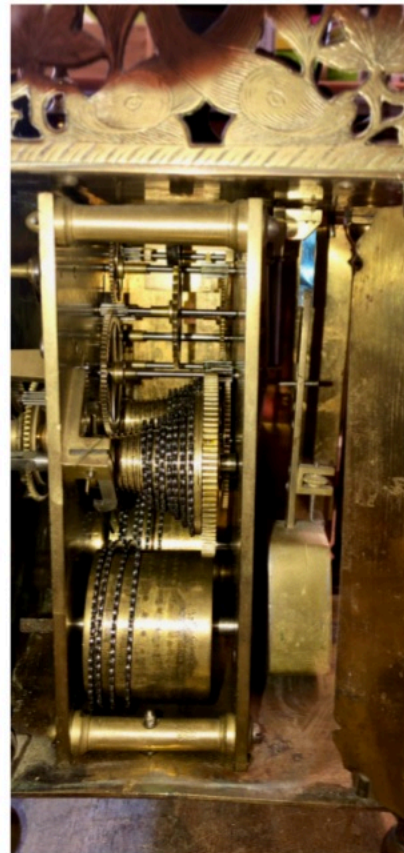
A longcase clock is known signed 'William Rayns, York', another 'Will. Raynes in Yorke'. Lantern clocks are known signed 'William Raynes Butcher's Row East Smithfield', 'William Rayns, York', 'William Raynes in Yorke', 'Willm. Raynes in Yorke', 'Will Raynes in Yorke' (the dial and front fret of this clock having exactly the same engraving as on a lantern clock by Thomas Cruttenden of York). A re-converted balance-wheel clock has been noted signed above the dial centre 'Wm. Raynes in Butcher Row in East Smithfield, Londini'. See my article in *Clocks* magazine, January 2000.



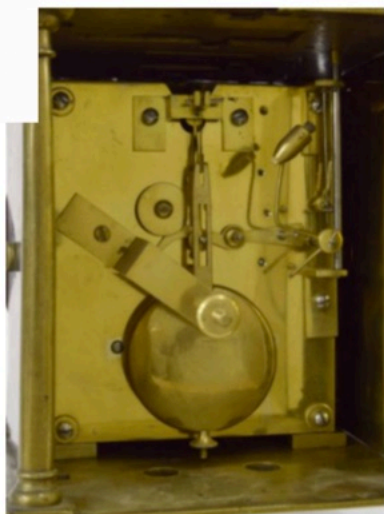










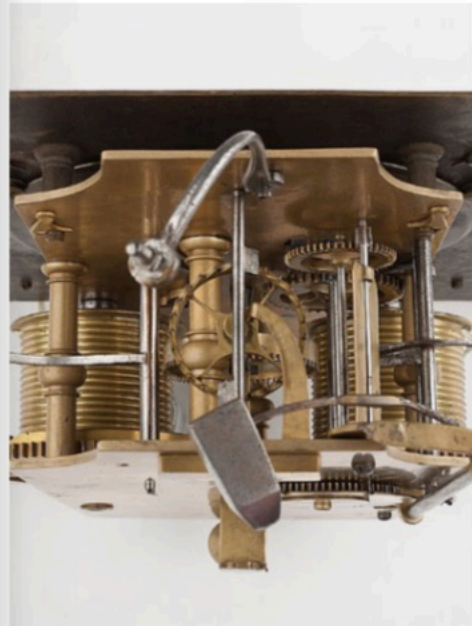


Miniature Time / Alarm Lantern Clock 'Rosse - London'
c 1700

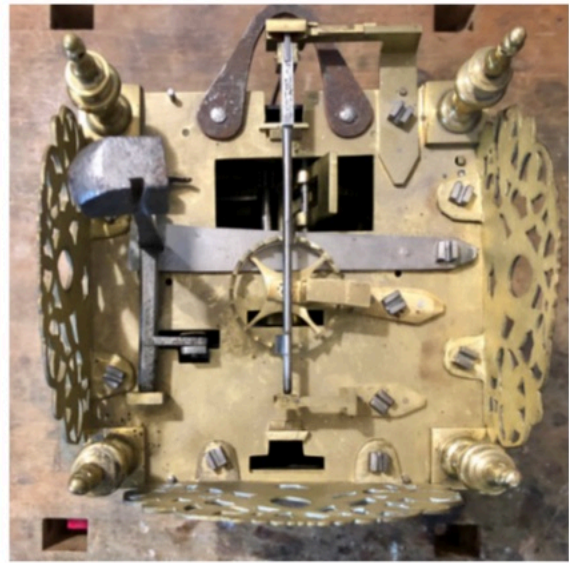
Real nice, good, time/alarm lantern clock. By and signed 'Wm Rosse - London', apprenticed to noted Lothbury lantern clock maker Thos. Wheeler in 1683. Verge pendulum, 4 inch dial. Original throughout.









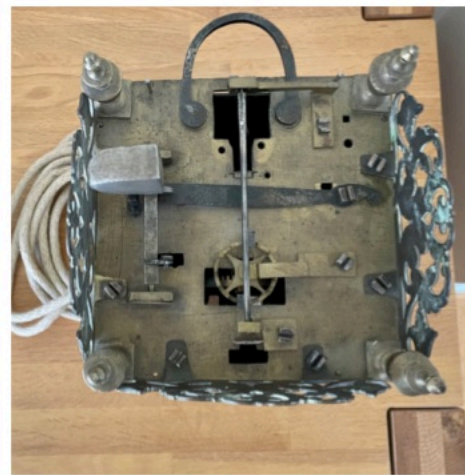


BETTS, SAMUEL (I). London. He was born in Southam (Warwickshire) probably in 1624, youngest son of Job (erroneously named as John) Betts senior, yeoman, and his wife, Rahab, and was the younger brother of clockmaker Job Betts. He was apprenticed in 1638 through the Blacksmiths' Company to John Drake, to whom his brothers, John and Job, were also apprenticed. He never apparently joined the Clockmakers' Company but he was known to them. In October 1648 he took through the Clockmakers' Company through Thomas Alcock an apprentice named James Lello, who was made free in April 1656, and took in September 1656 through Nicholas Payne another apprentice named Peter Walker, who was made free in October 1663. He was closely connected with Nicholas Payne.

On 29 September 1641 a Samuel Betts and wife Elizabeth had a child named Samuel baptised at St Dunstan's Stepney, but this may be a different person of that name. He worked in 'Lumbard Street'. He died in 1674, being buried at St Bartholomew's by the Exchange, leaving a widow, Mary and seven children aged under twenty one. In his will, written in 1671, he mentions his sisters, his brother, Job, and his son, Samuel junior (later to be apprenticed to Job) as well as his other children, who were: Job, Jacob, Josiah, Elizabeth and John. He also left a bequest to the poor of Southam, his home town, where his brother Clement still lived. In 1673 he was succeeded at his premises 'at the back of Royal Exchange' by James Markwick, who in 1674/5 was selling off Betts's old stock. The *London Gazette* of 8 February 1675 advises that 'Watches and Pocket Clocks stock of Mr. Samuel Betts, deceased, to be sold at late shop now the shop of Mr. Marquet watchmaker, on the backside of the Royal Exchange, London.'

A lantern clock of about 1663 with top-plate striking and scroll frets, signed 'Samuel Betts Londini', is pictured





An unfinished engraved alarm disc blank, from the dial plate set for a lantern clock by Thos. Knifton found on the foreshore of the River Thames, London C1650

