



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY REGULATOR



CHAPTER 75 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH AND CLOCK COLLECTORS, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1973

June 2007

CLOCKS BY S. D. Hodge

Reprinted from the May, 1977, Valley Regulator

The clocks in which we are chiefly interested are those for household use, and the earliest of these came from England. In 1600, there were clocks made for a moderate price, and for the use of the average householder. These clocks were known by the names "bird-cage", "lantern", or "bed-post" clocks. The works were brass with a painted or engraved dial. They were put on shelves or brackets attached to the wall, and were wound by pulling down the opposite ends of ropes on which weights were hung. Some of these were striking clocks, others were furnished with an alarm, and none of them was expected to run for more than thirty hours.


The first clocks of the lantern or bird-cage variety were small, ranging in size from three and one-half inches to five inches square. One peculiarity of these clocks is that the dial face often projects an inch or two beyond the sides of the frame, in which case they are called "sheep's-head" clocks. They are not uncommon in England even yet, for they were made continuously until about 1825. As the works are made of brass and well made, they are excellent timekeepers. The little ornaments which stand up in front of the clock are known as "frets", and they are a more or less accurate indication of when the clock was made. The design of crossed dolphins came into use about 1650 and was a favorite pattern. There were other frets, generally of geometric design, which also became well known.

Another style of clock in use about this period was called the "bracket" clock. Such clocks had the handle on the top or on the sides. Clocks like these were luxuries and there are records which show that Henry Jones, a popular clockmaker, with a shop in Inner Temple Gate, charged 150 pounds for a similar clock which he furnished to Charles II in 1673. The chime and silent dial was not in general use for one hundred years or more, the case of mahogany and the brass screens at the sides to permit the sound of the striking to be distinctly heard. If there are spandrels or brass ornaments in the corners of the face, they point to the first half of the eighteenth century.

On many of the seventeenth century clocks, the maker's name will be found engraved on the edge of the dial-plate below the circle with the numerals. Later, it was engraved on the dial-plate between the figures V and VII.

Sometimes two names are found, particularly in the earliest clocks, and in this case, the name engraved in the center of the dial surrounding the hands is the name of the maker, while the name at the foot of the dial is the name of the seller of the clock.

Colonial tall-case clocks made between 1680 and 1770 have one characteristic in common that is almost a sure badge of age: the dials are of metal, usually brass. Of these dials, there are many varieties, major and minor, that engage the interest of collectors and connoisseurs. Most of them have silvered chapter rings upon which the time tracks and numerals are engraved. Many have molded or cast corner pieces, called spandrels, displaying floral, animal, cherubim and other designs. The centers of the dials are ring turned, hammered, matted, punched, and stippled. The engraving, if crude on some, is superb on others. During this period of working, it is doubtful if any clocks were made with painted dials. The unpainted metal dial was traditional and the clockmakers stuck to tradition, even if they had to flatten out a pewter dish, and contrive from it a click dial.

Since the dials of these clocks are judged by experts as a reliable guide to the age of the cases, an excursion into the world of these dials is in order. Numerals are almost invariably Roman. The bottoms of the numerals point toward the center of the dial. The Roman "III" is used instead of "IV". Up to about 1720, the dial plates are square. After that date, the arched top dial appears. On the arch, also called the tympanum, appear bosses on which the name of the maker is sometimes engraved or there is a small supplemental dial on which the "Strike/Silent" hand of striking movement clock is placed. When neither name nor other feature is in the arch, it may be embellished with a cartouche, a fretwork piece, or some other decoration, applied, embossed or engraved. About 1745, a new feature was introduced in this space-it was used to carry a moon phase indicator. In some clocks, there are no actual moons, but only a slot through which a numbered disk may be seen. More often, the feature did include a disk on which the moon was engraved and which, from behind a hemisphere to the left, was revealed as new moon, in its waxing quarters; as full moon, and its waning quarters, as it sank from view behind another hemisphere to the right. The disk usually had two moons engraved upon it and made one revolution in two lunar months. 

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Ken McWilliams



The gavel has been passed for the twelfth time as our chapter begins its thirty fifth year. It is an honor and a privilege to join the ranks of the presidents that preceded me. I would like to take a moment to remember them for their many contributions, without which, we would not be here today.

Our first president, *Howard Banta* 1973-77, *Dean Van Audall* 1977-79, *Jim Chamberlain* 1979-81, *Joan Peterson* 1981-83, *Howard Banta* 1983-84, *Jim Gilmore* 1985-89, *John Meisner* 1989-93, *Mary Ann Wahlner* 1993-97, *Gene Sizemore* 1997-99, *Fred Lipman* 1999-2003 and *Kim St. Dennis* 2003-2007.

I begin my term with a staff that contains several new faces.

Vice President-Bill Robinson. Bill is new to our board but not to the chapter. I also work with Bill on the new Ventura chapter 190 B.O.D. He is a dedicated worker and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him.

Secretary-Kathi Sheffrey. Kathi is new to the board but is a long time member. She is my Membership Director for the TimeKeepers Clock Clinic. Kathi never forgets anything, so if you say it, you better be prepared to do it. (I affectionately refer to her as "Mom")

Refreshments - Laurie Conti. Laurie isn't just new to the staff, she is a brand new member. Laurie joined TimeKeepers earlier this year to learn clock repair. She heard about the NAWCC from other members and decided to join. She quickly joined Chapters 75, 190 and hasn't missed a mart within a 150 mile radius since. Seeing our club through the eyes of a new member should be very enlightening.

These people along with our remaining staff represent a very strong and talented group. I feel very confident that we can accomplish a great deal with our new crew.

Now, about you. You are the final ingredient in our recipe for success. Without you the rest doesn't make much sense. Come to the meetings, give us your opinions, your ideas, your grips and your praises. What do you want out of this organization? Without feedback I have no idea if we are on the right track or not. Can't make it to the meetings, you can still call or e-mail me. Lets make this an organization that we can all be proud of and have some fun while we do it.

See you at the meeting,

Ken 

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Life is like a box of crayons

We can learn a lot from crayons! Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

BOOK REVIEW

Thomas Engel, "Thomas Engel, a modern Thomas Edison, An Autobiography.

published 2003 by Costa Maritim, Wiesbaden (Germany), ISBN 3-00-011996-5 (in separate English and German editions), paperback, 300 pages, 15 Euros plus shipping.

Book review by Fortunat Mueller-Maerki

Like most students of horology I first came across Thomas Engel as the author of the 1993 book "A.-L. Breguet, Watchmaker to Kings, Thoughts on Time" (ISBN 3-85725-114-x), one of the most lavishly produced horological volumes in the last decade. More recently he was in the news when the depth of his collection of superb Breguet pocket watches (and others of similar importance) became apparent when Antiquorum in Geneva held a superbly documented, single-owner auction of about 150 world-class watches in 2001. In the auction catalogue one could learn that this collector was a self-taught, self-made inventor who had also taught himself watchmaking up to the level of making his own tourbillon watch. When I heard about an autobiography I decided that I wanted to learn more about the motivations of a fellow timekeeping nut, although this watch collector obviously had at his disposal more means, energy and skills than I ever will.

Engel, born 1927 in Germany, never finished school due to wartime interruptions, and never had any formal professional or business training, but got a head start as a "kitchen helper" for the US Army (and black-market goods trader) in the chaotic aftermath of WW2. A love of reading and self-study, coupled with street-smarts, untamed curiosity, ambition and energy, soon made him start a one-man business in the then new area of plastics processing. Disregarding conventional chemistry and physics wisdom he invented several new processes and plastic materials. A tinkerer, truth seeker and inventor at heart he decided early on to make his living selling licenses and collecting royalties, rather than becoming a manufacturer.

Engel's introduction to horology came in the early 1950's, when his UK licensee turned out to be serious collector of Breguet timepieces, who gave him a copy of Sir David Salomon's Breguet book as a gift. Engel caught the watch collector's bug, just as he came into his first chunk of disposable income. In his single-minded if not to say obsessive- manner that characterized all his endeavors he started to study Breguet and collect his masterpieces. Engel taught himself watchmaking, taking a special interest in the techniques used to produce fine rose-engine cut dials in the style of Breguet. With his inherent mechanical aptitude he became a good dial and casemaker, but employed formally trained craftsman to make unique movements for the watches that bore his name on the dial.

The charm and weakness- of autobiographies of this

kind is that they clearly are not "literature", but "stream-of-consciousness" narrative, probably told to a tape-recorder and then transcribed, and only lightly edited. This process also unavoidably leads to numerous small factual errors. This is not primarily a horological book. Engel's family, his inventions and his career get first billing, but there are significant horological tidbits (well known watchmakers like Alfred Hellwig and Richard Danners make their appearance, meetings with prominent dealers like Edgar Mannheimer, Tina Millar and Richard Faulkinert are described, as are once important collectors like Cyril Rosedale and Seth Atwood) to fascinate a horologist.

If you don't like this style of self-serving autobiography don't bother to buy this book, but if you enjoy anyway the somewhat voyeuristic pleasure of an unvarnished self-description of a successful self-made-man the many horological threads that wind through the narrative will be appealing to horological collectors, who may well see sides of themselves in the sometimes obsessive ways Tom Engel pursued his vocational and avocational interests.

FMM/ 15 August 2004

Fortunat Mueller-Maerki, Sussex NJ
Vice-Chair National Watch and Clock Library,
Columbia, PA

VP Museum Relations, Antiquarian Horological
Society - USA Section

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Update: the Congreve Rolling Ball Clock.

I received a call from Dolores Bernecker of Indio California last month. Dolores saw the article in the Regulator about the Congreve clock project. As it turns out her husband, Burton, was the person that did most of the work on the parts that I "inherited."

Dolores was also the person that gave the parts to Walter in hope that he would find someone to complete it.

Unfortunately, Burton wasn't even mentioned in the article or at show and tell. I was unaware of his involvement at the time but now the record can be set straight.

The article also suggested that Walter sold the clock to me. This was not the case; it was given freely with the stipulation that it would in fact be completed, which it was.

Ken McWilliams

The NAWCC Initiates an Electronic Newsletter

To all Members and Friends,

NAWCC has initiated an electronic newsletter for distribution to Members, that provides the latest information about what is happening at National and around our organization. Profiles of our staff are included so you can put a face to the name when you may have occasion to contact Headquarters, there are also short articles on topics of current interest, and numerous links are provided so you can access the services and benefits provided by NAWCC.

Members whose current email address has been provided to Headquarters are already on the distribution list and should have received the two issues already sent. If you are a NAWCC Member and have not received the newsletter, please contact Pam Lindenberger at Headquarters (plindenberger@nawcc.org) and provide your current email address. Also, you should set your spam filter to accept "nawcc.org" email messages.

We will appreciate hearing from you with your comments and suggestions for improvement, also for ideas regarding what should be included in future newsletters.

You can see and download the June 2007 edition of NAWCC Happenings as follows:

To View the web copy of NAWCC Happenings Volume 1, Number 2 please type the link below into your browser window:

<http://newsletters.affinigent.com/nawcc/default.htm>

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“Centuries pass quickly; it is the years and hours that take time.”

***“As I look in the mirror I see,
And my wondering never ceases,
How year after year I receive
My cost of living in creases”
-Richard Armour-***

THANK YOU, KIM!



The Board of Directors of Chapter 75 would like to thank Kim St. Dennis for all of the hard work and the long hours he has provided to the chapter as its President for the last four years.

The position of President requires a lot of dedication. Kim met the challenges, and then some. He donated the Chapter 75 website and all of its administration. In addition, Kim donated countless hours behind the scenes as well as conducting workshops and classes.

Kim will be remaining on the current board as Treasurer, as such he continues to donate his skills and expertise to the chapter.

John Faries' Handy Hints

How to tell a “Reproduction” skeleton clock from an Old Master:

1. ‘Bumpy’ Scrolls

Run your finger around the outside and especially the inside of the scrolls. If ‘bumpy’, you can be sure it is a reproduction.

2. Rolled Brass instead of cast brass for plates and/or bridges and cocks is a giveaway that you have a reproduction.

These reproductions or conversions are made up from old pub and bracket clock movements with new cast or rolled brass plates, copied from an old design (sometimes). This has been going on complete, or in kit form, since about 1885. Many were made in Spain by “Marton and Gain”, and are still being made today. These, and others like them in kits or completed, can still be bought new in England. These later ones have stamped brass bridges and cocks, for the most part.

Of course, there are now being produced some fine, professional quality, “Limited Edition” model skeletons. Exquisite and expensive--you have a new clock, it's up to you.

Originally printed in the November, 1979, edition of the Chapter 75 Valley Regulator.

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS!

Robert Gary presented a few simple methods to improve the photography of your watches and clocks. Robert discussed how lighting is critical to good photographic results. By simply using good natural lighting, even if that means taking the clock or watch outside to take advantage of a nice, overcast,

bright day, shadows and reflections can be eliminated. The use of inexpensive backdrops was also discussed. By using such readily at hand items as towels, table cloths, or poster board, the visual emphasis on the timepiece can be increased. This is of particular importance when attempting to sell the timepiece, such as on eBay or at auction.

Photo number 1 on the left shows a typical photo seen on internet auction sites. The dial is obscured by the reflection from the flash, and the



background is extremely distracting.

In photo number 2 on the right, the flash has been eliminated by using natural light through a north facing window. The clock is much more visible, but the background remains a major distraction, which can result in fewer bids being received, and possibly lower bids being submitted. By the simple use of a white poster board behind the clock, as demonstrated in photo number 3, the potential buyer's eye is focused entirely on the clock. There are no other distractions.

All three of these photos were taken with the clock in the same location, only the lighting and the background were changed. In an actual auction situation, the fourth photo would be of the clock in front of the poster board with the dome removed. This would allow for the examination of the clock dial without interference from the glass.

Chapter 75 is designing a workshop on photographic techniques for the watch and clock collector or seller. We hope to present this workshop in the early fall.



Chapter 75 of the NAWCC Presents The 2007 Watch & Clock Mini-Mart

(The Mart is Open To Current Members Of The NAWCC & Their Guest)

★ OVER 70 TABLES ★
★ TOOLS ★
★ CONSIGNMENT TABLES ★
★ CLOCKS ★
★ WATCHES ★
★ BOOKS ★



★ SOFT DRINKS ★
★ SNACKS ★
★ FREE PARKING ★
★ FREE COFFEE ★
★ HOT DOGS ★

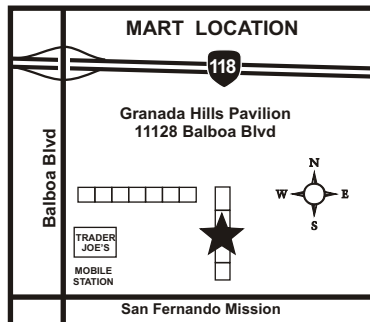
SUNDAY JULY 22, 2007

At the Granada Pavilion
11128 Balboa Blvd.
Granada Hills, CA

ADMISSION: \$5.00

TABLES: \$10.00

SCHEDULE	
11:00 A.M.	Mart Table Setup
11:30 A.M.	Mart Opens
2:30 P.M.	Mart Closes



**TABLE RESERVATION DEADLINE
JULY 20, 2007**

Mart Director: Toni Moss

Phone: (818) 407-1474

Fax: (310) 391-4463

E-mail: tdolls@aol.com

..... Sign up form

**Make checks payable to: San Fernando Valley Chapter 75
Tables assigned on a first come bases.**

THIS FORM MUST BY RECEIVED WITH PAYMENT BY JULY 20, 2007

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**Send this form & check to:
Chapter 75 Mini-Mart
8800 Eton Ave. #8
Canoga Park, CA 91304**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NAWCC # _____ Phone: _____

	QTY	
TABLES	<input type="text"/>	X \$10 = <input type="text"/>
ADMISSION	<input type="text"/>	X \$5 = <input type="text"/>
	TOTAL	<input type="text"/>

WANTED

Will purchase your clock collection, all or part.
Call **Jerry** at **(818) 986-1159**

Brewster & Ingram 30 hour movements spring & weight. Also; Seth Thomas advance black adamantine, part or complete.
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858**

Welch, Verdi: Case and Dial
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858** or write
P.O. Box 71, Lompoc, CA 93438

E. N. Welch - 8 day T/S & alarm movement mounted on wood blocks for beehive.
Call **Hugh Jay** at **(805) 733-1858** or write
P.O. Box 71, Lompoc, CA 93438

Waltham 18s Appleton Tracy ca 1883 with gold flash movement.
Call **Glen Frizzi** at **(818) 894-1960**

Wanted: LeCoultre model clock in decent condition Rue de la Paix made in the late 70s or early 80s.
Call **Herman Berman** **(818) 788-4230**

WANTED: Chinese duplex or market pocket watches. Also verge fusee pocket watches and old enameled case watches.
Call: John Bolen (818) - 892-0633



RARE WOOD CASE LeCOULTRE ATMOS CLOCK
Good Condition and Running Fine. Call Jim Gilmore at 805-492-1827.
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Web: <http://www.atmos-man.com>

Allen Perdomo repairs complicated watches in his new shop in Thousand Oaks. He also buys parts of aircraft clocks or complete aircraft clocks. Call him at **(805) 495-3495**
235 N Moorpark Rd, Suite D, Thousand Oaks

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Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.
Ferdinand Geitner, mbhi, is owner and operator of "The Montecito Clock Gallery" now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a Montecito

FOR SALE

BUSINESS FOR SALE
Clock, Watch, & Jewelry Repair
ShopNorthridge area
Contact Eddy: 818-383-7901

OUT OF BUSINESS **SALE**

Ingersoll's Clocks and Antiques, 62 Palm Dr, Camarillo, CA. Over 50 wall, mantel, and long case clocks. Discounted 30%. Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10:30 to 4:30. Call to confirm: 805-482-9936 or 805-484-8813.

FOR SALE

Antique Secretary Desk that can be used as a watch repair table, with lamp \$200

Mission Style Clock \$250



Bim Bam Vienna \$450
Jeanne Van Ausdall
(818) 886-4063

Chapter 75 Ladies Table

Dearest Ladies,
I would like to thank all the ladies who brought treasured items to sell at the "Ladies Table" last meeting. I hope you had a good time. Because we had so many items, we will have two tables for future meetings, so please join us. I would also like to thank Jeannie Van Ausdell for all her assistance in helping with the "Ladies Table". She suggested that all items be labeled with a price and the name of the seller. That way, if you want to look around, and one of your items sells, we will know whose it is. We look forward to sharing the tables with you and having a good time.
Chris St. Dennis

FOR SALE
TIMEX WATCH DISPLAY CASE
17" Diameter, 69" Tall
Excellent condition
You pick up in Westhills
Call Ed: 818-346-4688

"If you don't have time to do it right the first time, when will you have time to do it the second time?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapter 75

**of The NAWCC presents
the 2007**

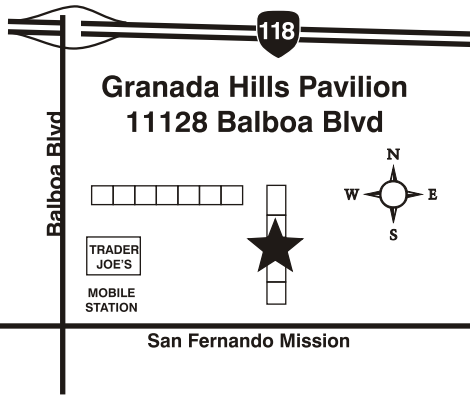
Watch & Clock Mini-Mart

Sunday, July 22, 2007

At the Granada Pavilion.

See page 6 inside for details!

MEETING LOCATION



Chapter 75 meets the 4th Sunday of every month, except December. **Visitors are welcome.** For more information, phone Kim St. Dennis at 818-349-8031.

1:45 - Program, Notices, Events

MEETING

Set-up Time: 11:30-12:00 • Operating: 12:00 to 1:30

by: Jim Gilmore

Restoration Techniques

Clock Case

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

June 24

MEETING:

THIS MONTH'S

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

2130 Saxe Court

If Undeliverable return To:

The Regulator

