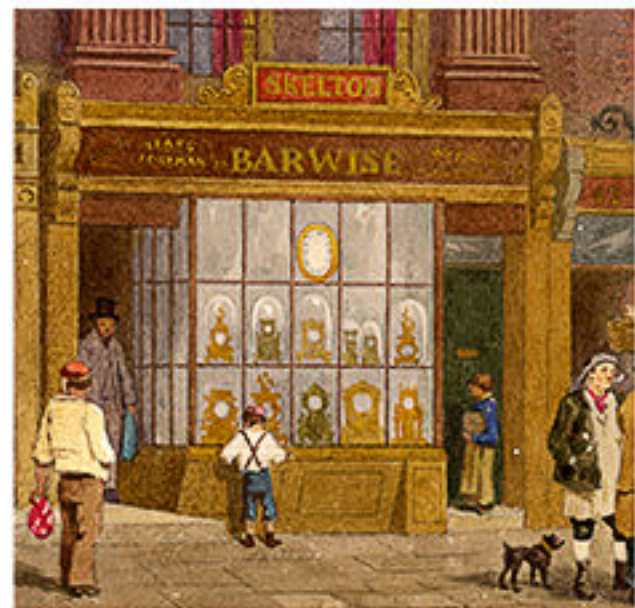


## ANTIQUARIAN HOROLOGY

AHS

NUMBER ONE VOLUME THIRTY-FIVE MARCH 2014



### Volume 35, Issue 1, March 2014

The front cover shows George Skelton's clock and watch shop at No. 43 St Martin's Lane, London. Water colour by John Wykeham Archer, dated July 1859. The arrangement of the text on the front, 'SKELTON / Many years foreman to BARWISE [...]', seems intended to deceive old customers into thinking it was the original Barwise shop. © Trustees of the British Museum.

This issue contains the following articles:

#### **De Amissione Temporis: Loss of Time**

by William Linnard (pages 618-620)

*Summary:* This short article draws attention to some of the writings of Petrarch (1304–1374) on the nature and value of time, and also to an interesting and little-known horological print designed and created in Germany in the sixteenth century specifically to illustrate this theme of loss of time.

#### **Barwise & Sons: watchmakers to the King. A brief history of family and firm**

by A.D. Stewart (pages 621-634)

*Summary:* John Barwise, born at Cockermouth in Cumberland about 1756, opened his watch retailing business in London in 1780. His home and shop were at 29 St Martin's Lane from 1790. He died there in 1820. His sons Weston Barwise (1793–1826) and John Barwise (1795–1869) continued the business. The firm was at its zenith as a retailer of high-class watches and clocks during the period

1810 to 1825. But in 1842 John Barwise Jr. decided to provide moral and financial support for Pierre Frédéric Ingold's attempt to mass produce pocket watches in London. When the project collapsed in 1845 Barwise and his business were ruined. He struggled on until 1855 and then retired. The name of John Barwise as a watch retailer in London, however, survived until 1988. [Read this article here.](#)

#### **The House of Kullberg**

by Alun C. Davies (pages 635-648)

*Summary:* Two firms, both established in 1858, were among those that dominated chronometer production in Britain for fifty years before, during and after the Great War. One was founded by Victor Kullberg, an immigrant; the other by Thomas Mercer, a Lancashire movement maker. Despite the availability of archives of the firm in the Guildhall Library less is known about the House of Kullberg than that of Mercer, his great contemporary and rival. The purpose of this note is to indicate something of the range and quality of the Kullberg archive for horologists. They enable estimates to be made of the firm's annual outputs and illuminate the way production was organised with outworkers. They also reveal details of Kullberg's customers, some reasons for the prices charged, and underline the importance of the value of the work done by the repair shop.

#### **From sun and water to weights: public time devices from late Antiquity to the mid-seventeenth century**

by Anthony Turner (pages 649-662)

*Summary:* In the course of a survey of the instruments used for public time-finding, keeping and distribution during Antiquity and the Middle Ages, the mechanical equivalence of water-weight driven and solid-weight driven clocks is underlined. The essential role of the clock-keeper as an integral part of public time keeping and distribution is also illustrated. The text was originally delivered as a lecture at the 2013 NAWCC Ward Francillon Time Symposium, 'Time for Everyone: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Public Time' held at Pasadena (Cal.), 7-9 November 2013.

#### **Friedberg – a centre of watch- and clockmaking in seventeenth and eighteenth century Bavaria – Part 1**

by Alice Arnold-Becker (pages 663-682)

*Summary:* This article is based on the Dingwall Beloe lecture which the author gave at the British Museum on 26 November 2012. It discusses how the small Bavarian town of Friedberg grew into a centre of watch and clockmaking. Some of the most important Friedberg watch- and clockmakers, such as Elias Kreittmayr (1639–1697), Benedict Fürstenfelder (1680–1754) and Johann Heckel (1673–1743), are presented on the basis of watches and clocks owned by the Museum im Wittelsbacher Schloss in Friedberg.

The issue totals 140 pages and is illustrated mainly in colour, and is completed by the regular sections Horological News, Book Reviews, AHS News, Letters to the Editor and Further Reading.

Steve started his research, ably aided by Darlah, by photographing turret clocks. This led on to an interest in Joyce clocks and subsequent research in Joyce records. The book is dedicated to Paul Fraser, a Joyce employee of long standing whose knowledge and enthusiasm fuelled the authors to complete the book.

This book is a must for any collector who is interested in the Joyce company. It will also be a must for professional turret clock restorers who will be able to locate similar movements as models from which missing parts can be fabricated for other clocks.

A new standard has been set by this book for turret clock books dealing with major makers. We hope that historians will follow suit, perhaps with books on the likes of Thwaites and Reed, Gillett & Johnston and Smith of Derby.

Steve and Darlah will be giving a lecture at the AHS Turret Clock Group meeting at Birmingham on 29 March, entitled 'Joyce of Whitechurch, Clockmaking during the 1850s'. This was a very important decade in the development of turret clocks as it embraced both the 'old' and the 'new'. At the start of the decade the output of the Joyce workshop was mainly concerned with large, double framed clocks. The mid years saw the introduction of flatbed clocks with the small single three legged gravity and experimental pinwheel escapements. By the end of the decade, the gravity escapement was established as the norm for most large clocks.

Chris McKay

---

## German regulators

JÜRGENERMERT, *Präzisionspendeluhren in Deutschland von 1730–1940 – Observatorien, Astronomen, Zeitdienststellen und ihre Uhren – Band 3 (1840–1940 Teil 1)* [Precision Pendulum Clocks in Germany 1730–1940 – Observatories, Astronomers, Timeservices/Timestandards and their Clocks – Volume 3 (Part 1 of Section 1840–1940)] Published by the author [JE Verlag], December 2013. No ISBN number stated. Hardcover, 454 pages, 21x31cm, 1094 illustrations (mostly colour,

mostly large). 667 endnotes, subject, person and location indices Price Euro 146 p/p. Additional information on this publication project with previews is on the author's website [www.ppu-buch.de](http://www.ppu-buch.de), with buttons to translate pages into English. Sold exclusively through Versandbuchhandel Doris Herold, Am Kühlchen 13, D-41516 Grevenbroich, Germany; [www.uhren-literatur.de](http://www.uhren-literatur.de); e-mail [gdherold@t-online.de](mailto:gdherold@t-online.de).

Until now, the unrivaled 'gold standard' for thoroughness and scholarship for any publication on precision pendulum clocks (hereafter PPC) had been set by Derek Roberts with his 2003/04 trilogy of volumes published by Schiffer on the subject. (Before that the somewhat German-centric *Präzisionspendeluhren* by Klaus Erbrich, Callwey Verlag 1978, was the only serious publication on the subject, but among the English speakers only die-hard PPC aficionados knew about that book). Derek and his co-authors expanded the published knowledge base on PPCs from 250 pages to over 800 pages, and made it available to an English speaking readership.

But recently the German horological historian Jürgen Ermert has upped the ante with the publication of the book under review. Focusing solely on objects made or used in 'greater Germany' (i.e. including Austro-Hungary and East Prussia) he set out several years ago to thoroughly document the Germanic chapter of this segment of horological history and technology. Originally conceived as a single volume, it grew into three volumes by eras with separate volumes for the segments 1730–1770, 1770–1840 and 1840–1940.

The author started assembling material, beginning with activities in Glashütte in the second half of the 18th century, and that part became a volume by itself, Vol 3 and the first one now published. The overall project grew to a size where it became apparent that no commercial publisher would touch it. The doyen of German horological publishing, Christian Pfeiffer-Belli, became involved as an advisor (and nominal publisher). The only financially viable option seemed to be private, not-for-profit publishing, based on a small, mostly presold edition.

**PPU mit 8-Tage- Werk**

Um 1880 dürfte auch die auf dem versilberten Zifferblatt mit „E. Baummeister, Weingarten“ (Abb. 609) signierte Sekundenpendel-Standuhr entstanden sein (Abb. 611).



Abb. 609: Das versilberte Zifferblatt der PPU-Standuhr etwa 1880 mit konzentrischer Anzeige, Zentralsekunde und der großen Signatur „E. Baummeister Weingarten“.

Wie auch bei der Dietschold-Uhr von 1878 (s.o.), finden wir hier ebenfalls nur eine verdeckte Signatur durch einen S&R-Stempel auf einer Speiche des Walzenrades. Es muss die Zeit gewesen sein, als die junge Firma Strasser & Rhode noch vor dem dann erst entstandenen Strasser'schen Universalitätler Werke im Auftrag fertigte. So hier für den Uhrmacher E. Baummeister in Weingarten (Baden-Württemberg) bei Ravensburg, in der Nähe vom Bodensee gelegen. Die Uhrmacherzeitschriften blieben zu diesem Uhrmacher still, aber in der Deutschen Uhrmacher-Zeitung von 1884, Band 8, Seite 64, findet man diese Anzeige (Abb. 610):

**Klein in Glashütte ein Werk vorzüglich zu erhalten, größtes Spindelzapfenrad 2 Linien, auf einem schwebel, 18 bar, 24 Lin. höher, ist sehr preiswürdig zu verkaufen. Um nicht zu verpassen, wenden Sie sich an:**  
**E. Baummeister, 8027**  
**Ulmshagen, Weingarten, Würtg.**

Abb. 610: Anzeige von Baummeister in der DUZ von 1884.

Nicht nur das große konzentrische Zifferblatt (Ø 250 [mL 260] mm) ist ungewöhnlich, sondern diese Uhr hat eine - bei S&R - seltene Zentralsekunde. Das Pendel für das frühe S&R-Werk hat konsequenterweise auch noch keine seitliche Anregung und die Ablafmikrometereinstellung die übliche Form (Abb. 612 + 617). Auch die an der Innen-

Rückwand befestigte Messing-Werklhalterung lässt nur bei den Trägern die spätere S&R-Form errahnen. Nicht überraschend ist hingegen das 5-stüblige Großmann'sche Zink-/Stahl-Kompensationspendel (Linsen-Ø 210 mm), das in frühen S&R-Uhren oft Anwendung fand (Abb. 614 + 616). Sehr schön gearbeitet ist die Gewichtsumlenkrolle des nicht seitlich angetriebenen 8-Tage-Werkes der späteren 1. Güte mit Graham-Hemmung. Der Anker hat rote Saphir-Plättchen und die Welle des Hemmungsrades und des Ankers laufen in eingeschraubten Chatons mit weißen Saphirägern, alle anderen Zapfen laufen in aufgesetzten verschraubten Chatons mit Kompositionsfuttern (Abb. 617 + 620).

Das schlichte, leicht geduckte, seitlich geschlossene Mahagoni-furnierte Gehäuse (H. 1775 B. 450 T. 200 mm) hat vorne eine verschließbare Türe mit einer Sprossenverglasung mit oben halbrunden Abschluss.



Abb. 611: Die frühe etwa 1,80 m hohe Mahagoni-Sekundenstanduhr etwa 1880 mit der Signatur „E. Baummeister Weingarten“ und Zentralsekunde. Gut erkennbar, dass die innenliegende Zink-/Stahl-Kompensationspendel.

245

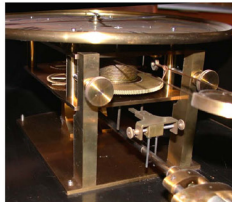


Abb. 612 + 614: (oben) Blick von unten auf das Werk der Sekundenpendelstanduhr mit dem Werkträger und der Ablafmikrometereinstellung. (un.) Der Messingpendelstahl scheint eine Vorversion der späteren ersten S&R-Form zu sein. (ganz un.) Der hier genutzte Großmann'sche Pendel-Typus.

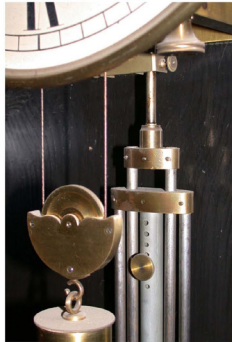


Abb. 615 + 616: (oben) Blick auf die schön gearbeitete Linienkrolle und den oberen Teil des Zink-/Stahl-Kompensationspendels mit der Verzahnungslinien der Kompensationswirkung am mittleren, stärkeren Zentralschraub. (un.) Untere Teil des Pendels mit der Gangdrückregulierschraube über der messingummantelten Blei-Linse.

246

The only volume written and published so far is Vol.3 (of 4) which essentially is the history of PPC making in Glashütte in Saxonia. Of the 460 pages in this volume more than half, 235 pages, are dedicated to describing, documenting and illustrating the history and output of the 'Strasser & Rhode' enterprise, which was the biggest German producer of PPCs mainly from 1875 to about 1914. Besides the expected corporate history, the richly illustrated text describes the technical details of these PPCs, including their revolutionary impulsion through the pendulum suspension spring, as well as their unique gravity escapement. One section is devoted to documenting and illustrating thirty-nine different specific examples, including many one-of-a-kind variants. Most are heavily illustrated with multiple, large, newly taken pictures, including many clocks so far unpublished. This chapter includes ten appendices (50 pages) reproducing various original documents related to Strasser & Rhode.

The bulk of the rest of the book deals with A) eight individual, one-of-a-kind PPCs made

by Glashütte based craftsmen (Schluch 1919, Verhagen 1894, Raufer 1905, Gruner 1904, May 1910, Kanis 1911, Rustemeyer 1931 and Schrumm 1942), many of these being one-of-a-kind 'Diploma pieces' created at the Glashütte Uhrmacherschule and B) with the nine Glashütte makers who seem to have produced several PPCs: Wilhelm Horn (1 PPC documented in the book), Paul Stübner 1806–1946 (7), Ludwig Trapp, 1865–1949 (2), Karl W. Höhnel 1885–1936 (3), Adolf Lange (some with Gutkaes, Grossmann and Goertz) 1815–1876 (7), Karl Moritz Grossmann 1826–1886 (3), Otto Lindig (1), Uhrenfabrik Bahnzeit 1909–1920s (1), Hermann Goertz 1862–? (4) plus four one-of-a-kind special cases (4), such as for example equation-of-time PPCs. There are also ten related appendices (totaling 40 pages, reproducing the full text of hereto unpublished source documents relating to the above subjects).

The author, in his laudable effort to provide a maximum of new and original information, at times sacrifices continuity, and the overall narrative is not always easy to follow. This book is not meant for casual

reading, nor as an introduction to the subject, but as a tool for the serious scholar or researcher. Regarding thoroughness and details provided, it stands head and shoulders over any other publication on PPCs.

The book is well produced, solidly bound, and the image quality is very good given that many pictures were crowd-sourced from third party correspondents. As budget constraints did not allow for professional layout support it is unsurprising that there are a few rough edges in that respect.

Anyone who does not read German must of course evaluate the utility of a foreign language publication. This reviewer believes this should not be a major hurdle in this case because: a) so much of the value of the volume is in the almost 1100 illustrations, b) the reader will probably be familiar with the general subject matter, c) online tools such as 'Google Translate' have recently seen great improvement when applied to scanned pages.

This reviewer wants to thank the author, without whose 'stubbornness' and single-minded dedication the project would never have been started. Hopefully, the remaining three planned volumes will be forthcoming in due course; the author expects to publish one volume a year. Undoubtedly your post-publication order now will provide additional motivation to Jürgen Ermert to continue with his monumental labour of love from which we other PPC enthusiasts can profit so much. The next volume, No.1, 1730–1770, promised for late 2014, besides expanding on Huygens' contribution, is expected to examine the British influence (Graham, Shelton, Mudge and Dutton) on the earliest German PPCs, and to describe early UK-made observatory regulators installed in Germanic Europe, as well as to document German-made examples inspired by London makers. The rich details of the history of the PPC in the Germanic world should be of interest to PPC enthusiasts the world over. This first volume offers a chance to expand your horizons. I assume you will enjoy the browsing through this new territory as much as I did.

Fortunat Mueller-Maerki

## More on the invention of the self-winding watch

In the September 2012 issue we published a critical discussion of Jean-Claude Sabrier's book *The self-winding watch*. Fortunat Mueller-Maerki has drawn our attention to a new contribution to the discussion by Richard Watkins from Australia. He wrote

Mr Watkins has spent the last nine months (including extended stays in LeLocle) spending countless hours examining archives and researching the issue, and he has written a detailed, meticulously documented, 264 page book on the subject to be published in January, which is chuck full of original source material, much of it never before published. I have just finished reading an advance copy. It contains significant new findings, some of which in my opinion raise at the very least serious questions on the integrity of Chapuis/Jaquet research over half a century ago. It also highlights curious – hereto unreported – discrepancies in the text of the Chapuis French (1952) and English (1956) language editions.

One auxiliary 'new' piece of evidence is the hereto publically unknown Sarton 1789 publicity brochure, a photocopy of which has recently been acquired by the NAWCC library.

The Watkins book will be available as an electronic download free of charge and a severely limited print run (100 copies, about 20 of which will go to research libraries). But you can reserve a print copy by emailing Richard at [books@watkinsr.id.au](mailto:books@watkinsr.id.au).

Editor's note: readers may also be interested to visit Richard Watkins' website <http://www.watkinsr.id.au/> for, among others, freely downloadable publications on or related to the history of horology, as well as links to two extensive listings which he prepared for the NAWCC, 'Digitised books related to watches and watchmaking' and 'Acquiring books related to watches and watchmaking'.