

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC)

Chapter 154 – Daytona Beach, Florida

www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com

September 2011 Newsletter

NEXT MEETING & MART

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Doors Open at 9:00 am

Meeting Includes:

- * **Mart Table is included (bring your items to sell or trade.)**
- * **Meet old friends and make new friends.**
- * **Full Buffet Lunch.**

Meeting Agenda

Video: Cuckoo Land

A 27 minute video featuring the Cuckoo Land museum in Tabley, Knunford, Cheshire, England that houses the world's largest collection of cuckoo and other clocks made in the Black Forest region of Central Europe. Brothers Roman and Maz Piekarski, horologists and clock restorers, started the museum more than twenty years ago. Their world-class collection includes over 600 clocks on display (many of which are very rare.)

Show and Tell: Any member or guest can bring a horological or related item to the meeting and show it off and tell about it. We have had some very interesting items and stories in the past and the sky is the limit.



REGISTRATION AND DUES

Annual Chapter Dues are \$8.00 per year

The Mart, Meeting, with a Full Course Buffet Lunch included is \$15.00 per person. Also included is a Free Mart Table.

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MEETING PLACE

**Duff's Original Buffet
(Banquet Room)**

**2400 S. Ridgewood Ave. (US1)
South Daytona, Florida**

**Phone: (386) 788-0828
(located inside the Sunshine Park Mall)**

Simon Willard (the celebrated USA clockmaker)

Simon Willard (April 3, 1753 – August 30, 1848) is credited for many innovations and timekeeping improvements, but is best known for inventing the eight-day patent timepiece that came to be known as the 'gallery' or 'banjo clock'.

About 1780, Simon Willard moved to Boston's 2196 Roxbury Street (now Washington Street), into a four-room workshop. In 1784, Willard's workshop advertised: "Simon Willard opened a shop in Roxbury Street, nearly facing the road which turns off to Plymouth. There, Simon Willard carries on the clock making business, in all its branches." Simon was interested in perfecting the mechanism of the compact clocks. Nonetheless, since the 1790s, Willard's workshop built tall clocks in great proportion while performing general clock repair.

English suppliers were also used, as the early United States lacked vital raw materials, most particularly brass. Entire English clock mechanisms, whose performance was much longer with respect to the wooden ones of America, were assembled into the mahogany clock cases of Boston.

By their quality, the clocks of Boston became a sign of status. Americans were eager to buy clocks for parlors, offices, churches, or other public spaces. Simon Willard's clocks were the most famous in America. However, they were still expensive for the common people. Indeed, Simon Willard preferred to build sumptuous models which were full of artistic details (brass touches, mainly). In his belief, the clocks had to be just so expensive that, after acquiring one, the people may be still able to furnish their fine homes.

Simon Willard built most clocks through labored handicraft, and these devices were outstandingly precise. Particularly, Simon had quite trained hands and a great eye, filing cogwheels without using marks, whereas such mechanisms worked finely, with a month accuracy of 30 seconds. Although Simon's workshop produced fewer clocks with respect to Aaron's, nowadays Simon's clocks are sold by the highest bids in auctions, by their superior refinement. About 1810, both Simon and Aaron were producing clocks which belonged among the European clock mainstream.

Simon Willard built long case clocks which were quite sumptuous, being adorned with many fine details. These pricey models cost more than 60 dollars during their heyday, the 1790s. In the most expensive tall clock units, the mahogany cases had a mid-18th century English style and, bearing exactly similar English brass mechanisms all, their case complexity determined their final price.

During his career, Willard manufactured 1,200 tall models. However, after 1802, in which the gallery clock was finally patented, Simon spurned the manufacture of the tall clock, which was thereafter produced only by special commission.

Simon Willard invented the Patent Timepiece, later called the "banjo" clock, at Roxbury. It was America's first commercially successful wall clock. It was an innovative design. It was the first American eight day wall clock, the first American wall clock to have the pendulum suspended in front of the weight in the case, and the first American wall clock to have the weight attached to a pulley. The brass clock mechanism was reduced to a much smaller size, therefore saving brass which was in scarce supply in the early 19th century. Its shape was an imitation of the traditional wheel barometers. Early Patent Timepieces were built by hand, to order. By 1805 the clockworks, and standard cases, could be produced in quantity, reducing the cost of the clock.

Willard patented its creation quite late (1802) but most competitors of Simon dodged this document, reaping much money with their own versions of the Patent Timepiece. However, Simon never filed a demand against such usage. After 1802, in Simon's workshop, the smaller Banjo and shelf clocks were the bread and butter models while Simon pursued his other great projects, throughout the United States. Eventually, Willard's workshop manufactured 4,000 small timepieces (Banjo and shelf clocks).

In 1818 he invented and patented a type of mantel clock, known as the lighthouse clock and regarded as the first alarm clock produced in America. Originally known as the "Patent Alarm Timepiece", they have become known as lighthouse clocks (a 20th century term) for their obvious similarities.

On August 30, 1848, Simon Willard died in Boston. He was 95 years old. Because of his commercial traits, Simon finished his life with just five hundred dollars. However, simultaneously all other competing clock manufacturers had benefitted from producing the Banjo Clock massively, although the corresponding royalties were never claimed by Willard.

Beautifully crafted Simon Willard tall case clock brings \$57,500 at Gordon S. Converse & Co. auction

*PRL*og (Press Release) – Jul 19, 2010 – (YORK, Pa.)
– A fine and beautifully crafted tall case clock by the celebrated U.S. clockmaker Simon Willard (Mass., 1753-1848) changed hands for \$57,500 at a sale of antique clocks held June 18 by Gordon S. Converse & Co., based in Strafford, Pa.



A Brief Story of Pocket Watches

By Jacob J John

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jacob_J_John

Having a pocket watch was a matter of pride and passion in the 1960's. However nowadays fame of pocket watches has come down to a level of a gift piece that we place in our showcases. The history of watches began in 16th century. The inventor of this marvel device is Peter Henlein. The early vintage models were squarer in design, later it started appearing in all variety of size and shapes.

In the earlier ages the elite class could afford a watch, and being an owner of a watch was considered as a symbol of authority, wealth and status. In 17th century these watches were carefully tailored in unique styles and designs. Often they were studded with diamonds and precious stones and were given as gifts. They were also handed over from one generation to another with other traditional valuables.

Early 19th century was considered as the golden period of these long chain watches. The famous brands like Ulysse Nardin, Minerva, Heuer, IWC and many others started establishing during that period. This period also marked the beginning of industrial production of watches.

During the beginning of 20th century a lot of standardization occurred in the industry. Quality certification was introduced during this period based on the precision and the design. But late 20th century was not a good period for pocket watches. The rapid growth in popularity of wristwatches had huge impact on the pocket watch industry. Slowly they began to fade and made their position as a collectable.

Today there are hundreds of different varieties of makes and designs available which resembles the famous antique models. For people who want to try out something different and special, these watches make very fine gifts. You can find a lot of variety made up of different precious metals, in a lot of different colors studded with precious stones.

If you are looking for something different for someone special these watches will be a unique gift because of the history and the marvel it is bringing along with it.

Note: Jacob John is a Pocket Watch hobbyist for over 12 years. He has a passion to share his excitement about Pocket Watches with all interested people across the world.



Pocket Watch Pictures: Patek Philippe - Repeater movement (circa 1903) - 18K Solid Yellow Gold Case - chronograph with 1/5 second divisions and a white enamel dial with black Arabic numerals.

Wrist watches are here to stay despite competition from mobile phones

By Karn G. Bulsuk

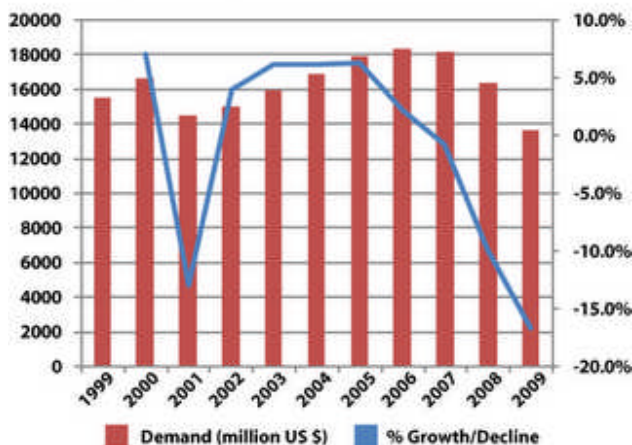
Article Source: <http://www.bulsuk.com/2011/05/wrist-watches-are-here-to-stay-despite.html#axzz1XQDIBeru>

While wrist watches are being replaced by the mobile phone, they will continue to have staying power by going upscale and becoming luxury items.

A watch used to be a rite of passage as part of growing up, something that your parents would buy for you when you were "old enough" to tell the time.

But in a world which mobile phones and smart phones do everything from tell the time to the humidity and even your elevation, why would you need a watch anymore? Especially with generation-y and the kids after them, a massive number of people are used to looking at the time via their iPhones, Blackberries and Nokias.

Demand and Percentage change in the Wrist Watch Market



Statistics source: Freedonia Focus in Jewelry, Watches and Clocks, November 2010

Statistics have shown that the global sales of watches have been in constant decline since 2005, even after accounting for the economic recession that hit the United States.

For watch lovers however, there is no need to fear that the wrist watch will be consigned to the dustbins of history, as watches are a direct parallel to the fate of fountain pens.

Once common in every school child's and office workers stationary, the invention and mass production of the cheap ball pen was thought to drive the fountain pen to extinction. It has survived those predictions by shifting to targeting enthusiasts and the niche luxury market, where prices can reach over US \$1000 per pen. In fact, an industry report forecasts that between 2009-2014, watch demand will expand 5.9 percent annually to US \$4.0 billion with multiple purchases of luxury watches leading the way.

While for the most of us wrist watches will be replaced by our cell phones and no longer be a necessity, they will certainly still be here to stay.

The Daytona Beach, Chapter 154, of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. (NAWCC)¹ is dedicated to preserving the history, art and science of timekeeping (horology). NAWCC is a nonprofit scientific organization that serves as a unique educational, cultural, and social resource for its membership and the public at large.

Our members include hobbyists, students, educators, casual collectors, clock makers, watch makers, jewelers and professionals in related retail and manufacturing trades.

¹ The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) is an American non-profit organization with about 19,000 members. The NAWCC was founded in 1943 by members of the *Horological Society of New York* and the *Philadelphia Watchmakers' Guild* who wished to create a national organization. The membership is now divided into over 175 "Chapters" which can be based on a locality or a special interest. The vast majority of chapters are US location based, a number are also in Canada and Australia (which do not have national horological collectors associations) and a handful are elsewhere. Special interest chapters range from "Tower Clocks" to "Horological Science".

Contact Information (NAWCC - Chapter 154 - Daytona Beach)

Chapter Officers (2011)

President / Newsletter Editor: Randy Jaye
(407) 497-5755

Secretary/Treasurer: Viviane Lindeolsson

Vice-President: Jim Ziesler

Director: Ed Epp

Director: Tom Bransford

Website: www.nawcc154-daytonabeach.com

Seismic retrofitting gives Evergreen's clock tower an unfamiliar appearance

LISA PEMBERTON | Staff writer • Published August 18, 2011

Olympia, Washington – Construction scaffolding envelopes the 120-foot clock tower at The Evergreen State College, making the iconic structure appear futuristic – almost like it was plucked out of a science fiction movie.

The \$1 million seismic retrofit for the clock tower is scheduled to be finished by the end of next month, said Paul Smith, director of facility services at Evergreen.

Seventy-five percent of the cost is being paid for through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the remainder is being paid for with funding from the state Emergency Management Division, according to Evergreen spokesman Jason Wettstein.

The clock tower was completed in 1971 and lacked the resilience of modern seismic designs, Smith said.

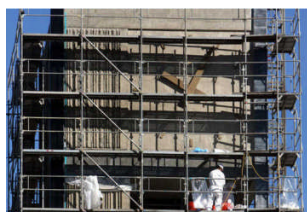
Although it wasn't damaged during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake – which damaged numerous buildings in the area, including the Legislative Building on the Capitol Campus – crews determined the concrete paneled structure could "catastrophically fail" during a sizable event, Smith said.

Reid Middleton of Everett designed the retrofit. Crews with Leewens Corp. of Kirkland are adding a fiber-reinforced polymer wrapping around its beams and columns.

The work isn't expected to change the overall look of the tower, Smith said. "It will be new-concrete looking," he said.

Wettstein said the clock tower has always been a central meeting place for students. Washington Gov. Dan Evans and the legendary mountaineer Willi Unsoeld are among those who have rappelled it.

"It's the most recognizable aspect of a building on campus," Wettstein said. "(It) has been central to us throughout our 40-year history."



Note: The Evergreen State College is a public college in Olympia, Washington with an enrollment of around 4500 students. It was founded in 1967.