

Meeting Highlights Continued.....

Harold Baesler showed a Illinois Bunn Special pocket watch that he found at a garage sale for a ridiculously low price. Bill Butcher showed an "intriguing" French alarm clock that had a typical anchor escapement between the plates driving a balance wheel outside the back plate. Tom Hammond showed and demonstrated an antique watchmakers tool from the 1800's.

Program: The History of Skeleton Clocks by Henry Casson

Henry discussed the evolution of skeleton clocks supplementing his talk with pictures of clocks taken by him on various trips to Europe and from his collection of reference books. Skeleton clocks evolved from steeple or tower clocks in which the works are visible into the clocks we see today in collections, book, and mart sales. The designers of skeleton clocks were primarily interested in making the inner workings of the clock as visible as possible, essentially to "show them off." The clocks we identify today as skeleton clocks derived from the French decorative clocks of the 1790's which typically had exposed movements and pendulums mounted on highly decorative bases with vertical pillars. French skeleton clocks often have very large great wheels, high tooth counts, and finely spoked wheels. The English carried on the design evolution into fancier designs such as the scroll style of front and back plates with skeletonized dials and fusee movements. Favorite with the English was the use of cathedral architectural themes in the design. There are quite literally thousands and thousands of designs with exceedingly complex works incorporating musical movements, astronomical functions, and automata.

Henry concluded with an overview of the work he has been doing on his own designs and building of a skeleton clock. All in all a very thorough and interesting talk on a fascinating subject.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Presidential Message

Thank you for making my first meeting as president a pleasurable event. A good TIME was had by all as a result of good fellowship, good attendance, good program and excellent food. Thanks again to our host Charles Schubert & his family helpers. We are on our way to new and exciting Ch 31 horology meetings again. Thank you to 2 new volunteers - Dick Vigal as program chairman (He promises exciting programs calendared well in advance) & also I have been told that Terry White has agreed to step into the VP position. This is great - I don't feel alone in my position as leader now. I must mention and recognize 2 people for what they do for our organization - Mary Gonzalez and Betty Chisum. They are our backbone.

I would like the council members to be at the Nov 20 meeting about a 1/2 hour early to take care of some business.

I am looking forward to large attendance, great show and tell items and Mart sale items.

Harold Baesler

FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

The following programs are scheduled:

November - Jefferson Electric Clocks by Pat Cavanaugh.

January - Perpetual Calendar Watches by David Jacobs.

I will try to announce the programs three months in advance. Anyone wishing to give a program please contact me, Dick Vigal, 360-750-6704 or dvigal@comcast.net"

Standard Time by Harold Birch

In 1870, life was geared to the horse and buggy. No one paid much attention to the time or day.

Every town of any size had as the center of its community life a railroad station clock, that was regulated and set by the sun time, at noon. The situation worked well until the railroad network expanded from coast to coast travel between distant points was possible in a much shorter time. In 1883 this created a situation of 49 different local times shown on the station clocks across the United States. To read a time-table was impossible, and still is?...

This imposed hardships on the railroad, government and businessmen. Railroad stations kept three clocks going. One with the stations local time, the other two showing the local time of the nearest station, east and west.

Between New York and Philadelphia, time tables showed seven different times. In Pittsburgh, the railroad used six different clocks depending on which direction you may wish to go.

The telegraph was hampered by such situations. Two or more times a year the railroad managers met to discuss time tables and connections.

Sanford Fleming, of Canada and a civil engineer came up with our present system of time zones. (He was later knighted by Queen Victoria). A congress was held in Rome in 1882 to study the matter of time zones.

Greenwich was adopted as the base meridian. It was decided to divide the U.S. into four time zones according to the meridians across the U.S. These were decided to be called the eastern, central, mountain, and pacific time zones. The decision to put this in force for the U.S. was accepted and passed on November 18, 1883.

China adjusted to the time arrangement in 1900. Only France and Portugal were left, but in 1919 they came with the rest of the nations into and international time system.

A quote from Fleming's (early years) diary- *But does thou love Life?*

Then do not squander time for this is the stuff life is made of.....

Harold- Thank you for submitting this very interesting article!

Betty's Time Tripper European Trip

I just got back from the Henry B. Fried Memorial -The Time Trippers. This was the 32nd Horology Tour to Europe Sept. 19 to Oct 9, 2005. What a marvelous trip. We spent two days in Sweden, visiting Malmo, Copenhagen, & Lund. If there was anything to do with a clock or watch we saw it.

On the 22nd of Sept. we went aboard the Star Princess Cruise ship for a 17-day cruise. At each port we had our own bus to take us to clock & watch relating items. Dover, London we visited the home of Jack Henley, member of the AHS and private collector of horology, mechanical music and antique cars. What a beautiful collection. Outstanding clocks and a full table of Carriage Clocks, all sizes and shapes, I would loved to been able to buy just one.

In Falmouth we toured Trerice, National Trust Property and Gardens. Meeting our group was Phil Gale, who is a clockmaker, and restorer of clocks and singing birds. He had traveled from England to meet us. As we toured his beautiful buildings he told us about all the clocks. We ended up taking our bus on a one lane road clear out in the country to see Mr. Gales workshop. We went to Greenock, Scotland out to Peebles for another tour in the country. This man opened up his shop for us. I was able to buy 5 clocks from him and a couple other things. We were able to negotiate prices to a degree. In most places the pound was too high to buy any clocks. We went to Dublin and saw the Book of Kells, then went on to Belfast and then Iceland. It was too rough to go to Greenland.

There was a terrible storm causing us to arrive late in Ft. Lauderdale, and so I had to change my flight home. It was just a wonderful trip for the 20 in our group. If you ever get a chance to take one of these tours, it is well worth it. More to my story. The trip in Dover, England to the private collection we were met by Jack Henley the owner plus he had Duncan who works for Derek Roberts Fine Antique Clocks. Derek Roberts has written a beautiful book on Carriage Clocks. Duncan invited us to visit Derek Roberts Clock shop in Tonbridge, Kent. What beautiful clocks.

Yesterday, after my return home, I received an airmail letter from Duncan thinking I might be interested in a clock they just got. It is a 5.25 high miniature Austrian Zappler in the shape of a desk covered in Mother-of-Pearl Circa 1825 price 4500 pounds which is about 8 to 9 thousand dollars. I must have really made an impression huh!

Thank you Betty Chisum for sharing the highlights from your trip!