

FRIENDS

OF THE CLOCKMAKERS' MUSEUM

— *Newsletter* —



2006

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

Introduction to Friends of the Clockmakers' Museum

by Chairman, Dr Colin Lattimore OBE JP

WELCOME to the Friends of the Clockmakers' Museum. Membership is drawn from a wide area of interests and expertise: members of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, members of the Antiquarian Horological Society, individual members of the general public, all of whom have an interest in clocks and watches and wish to see this magnificent Collection preserved and enhanced. Some of you have already developed an expertise in the various areas of horology, others are beginners wishing to acquire knowledge. We will cater for all levels.

built up over two centuries and belongs to the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. It is administered by an independent body of Trustees. The Trust has some investments but the income from these is barely sufficient to pay for a part time Keeper and a few domestic expenses. There is no money left over for repair and maintenance or fresh purchases.

The annual subscription for Friends has deliberately been kept low because each of our activities will have to be on a fund-raising basis; also we hope that members will feel able to donate annually an additional sum, however small, to enable the work of the Friends to progress. Monies raised will be used in three ways: one, to provide an annual care and repair programme at the request of the Trustees; two, to build up a reserve fund which can be used to contribute to the funding of appropriate new items. These sometimes come on the market unexpectedly with little time to mount a full blown fund-raising exercise; three, to provide assistance in further education in horology.

We are hoping that the size of the membership will be such that it will be impossible for all members to attend each function. So where possible and there is sufficient demand, functions will be repeated e.g. visits, lectures etc. There will be regular conducted visits of the Museum, limited to 15 members each time. These will initially be general but later specific areas of the Collection will be targeted as well. A

programme for 2007 will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter and further details will be available on our website.

As well as events organised by your Committee it is hoped that individual members will engage in fund-raising activities, coffee mornings,

bridge parties, golf tournaments, tennis parties, barbeques the list is endless. They do not have to be grand affairs, every little helps.

It is only by raising small amounts as well as large ones that we will be able to provide valuable and timely assistance to this very worthwhile project.

The Committee would welcome any ideas for functions and fund raising events, and also any offers of support in organising events. It is not always money; time and expertise are valued assets which the Friends can use.

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Please enjoy your time with the Friends. I look forward to meeting you all at future events.

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Portrait of Dr Colin Lattimore by Daniel Nisser

What is the purpose of the Friends? It is primarily to raise money to provide care, maintenance and enhancement of the Collection. Secondly, it is to provide enjoyment, knowledge and fellowship in the process. Why is it necessary to raise money? The Collection, which is of considerable value, has been

OLD FRIENDS

IT WAS not until 1764 that the Clockmakers' Company settled down. Until that date, it was peripatetic, renting rooms and other Company's halls for its meetings. It had no specific place that it could call its home and so no specific place in which it could keep property. But in 1764 it took a lease on rooms in the Paul's Head Tavern (in what is now Gresham Street) and remained there for thirty-six years. When the Paul's Head closed, the Company took similar rooms in the King's Head Tavern in the Poultry, where it stayed for forty-nine years.

It was in the settled conditions of the King's Head that in November 1813, the Court of the Company heard the watch and chronometer maker Frederick J. Barraud propose that the Company should assemble a library of horological books. The idea was taken up with enthusiasm by the Court and by the end of January 1814, a committee had been set up to turn the proposal into reality.

The Committee consisted of an interesting mix of talents: the Rev. Dr. Robert Hamilton (who had been Master in 1792), the brothers Justin and Benjamin Vulliamy (sons of the Royal Clockmaker), John Jackson Jnr., (a watchmaker) and Henry Clarke of Sandford Manor (an entrepreneur).

Of these, Benjamin Vulliamy can surely be counted as the first real "friend" of the Library and later the first "friend" of the Museum, which soon developed out of it. Records show that he attended every meeting of the Library Committee from its inception until his death in 1854 and chaired almost all of them.

He gave a number of important books to the Library, personally searched bookstalls and bookshops on the Committee's behalf and was effectively responsible for expanding the Library into a museum in 1814. In all he gave thirty-eight

individual gifts to the museum and persuaded many other potential "Friends" to give generously also. This was in startling contrast to the businessman Henry Clarke, who shortly after his appointment to the Library

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Committee was exposed by *The Times* for perpetrating two massive corporate frauds. Having briefly barricaded himself in his house in Fulham to escape enraged shareholders, he made his escape to Paris via Dublin and never returned.

Notable among non-Committee members who showed friendship early on were Matthew Dutton, clockmaker of Fleet Street

(and natural successor to Thomas Tompion), who gave "A Description... of the Time-keeper invented by the late Mr. Thomas Mudge" (London, 1799) and F.J. Barraud, the chronometer maker who had suggested the Library, who gave "The Principles of Mr. Harrison's Time-Keeper" (London 1767). They were followed by Josiah Shalcross, (a distinguished escapement maker) who gave Alexander Cummings's "Elements of Clock and Watchwork" (London 1766) and John Roger Arnold who gave a copy of his father's "An Answer from John Arnold" (London 1782).

By 1815, others had begun to join the friends' ranks, including the successful 18th century father and son watchmakers, Francis Perigal senior and junior. Both had left London for retirement in Devonshire but jointly sent an enthusiastic letter of encouragement on hearing of the Library. They also sent a parcel of eight valuable horological books by carrier, and it may give confidence to 21st century "friends" to know that all these books remain in the Clockmakers' Library today and all (through the generosity of the City of London) are made freely available to readers at Guildhall Library.

Once a solid base of support from the trade had been established, the Committee set about finding "friends" elsewhere. Their first success was in July 1817, when Benjamin Vulliamy reported the gift of a watch by Martinot of Avignon, from the Honourable Anne Seymour Damer. Mrs. Damer was the first high profile English female sculptress (her heads of Isis



and Thamesis can still be seen on the Bridge at Henley on Thames). She claimed the friendship of both Nelson and Napoleon and, as a particular favourite of Horace Walpole, inherited his flamboyant mansion at Strawberry Hill. On receipt of her gift, the

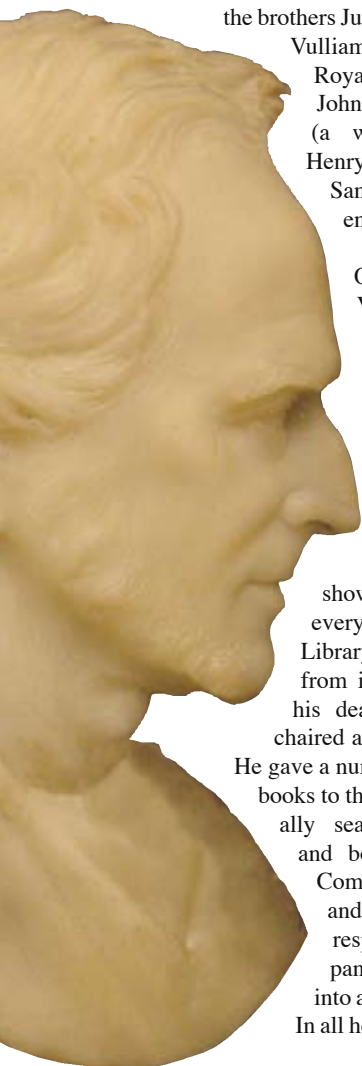
Committee declared themselves "happy to notice this contribution by a person unconnected with the Trade and they cherish the hope that the example of this celebrated lady will not long remain a singular instance of Persons of Distinction and rank interesting themselves in the Scientific pursuits of the Clockmakers' Company....".

None of those involved would have guessed perhaps, that one hundred and eighty nine years later, their museum would have acquired an international reputation and that its needs would have grown proportionately. Long may 'Persons of Distinction' take an interest! Long may the new Friends of the Museum flourish!

-Sir George White Bt, Keeper of the Museum



Illustrations clockwise from top: Martinot pocket watch; The Honourable Anne Seymour Damer; Benjamin Vulliamy



FRIENDS' PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

Inaugural meeting of Friends at the Guildhall

Tuesday 14 November 2006

The formal launch of the Friends of the Clockmakers Museum will take place at the Guildhall in November.

We hope that as many people as possible will attend this inaugural event as we wish to consult members on our future programme of events, seek new ideas and consolidate support for our fund-raising activities. You will also have an opportunity to meet other Friends and an opportunity to have a tour of the Clockmakers Museum which has the oldest collection in the world dedicated to watches and clocks.

Visit to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich

Friday 19 January 2007

A visit to the new time galleries at the Royal

Observatory has been arranged for Friday 19 January 2007. The tailored conducted tour of the Time and Society, Time and Greenwich, Time and Longitude, Time and the Navy galleries followed by the Horological workshop will be hosted by Senior Curator of Horology - Liveryman Jonathan Betts, Curator of Timekeeping - Liveryman David Rooney and Junior Warden - Peter Linstead-Smith. The tour will also include the famous Octagon Room, the Meridian Building and the 28 inch telescope – the most powerful telescope in the country. Afterwards lunch has been arranged in the National Maritime Museum's Regatta Restaurant. Following lunch Friends will have free time to visit the National Maritime Museum and /or revisit the galleries.

The formal tour will start at 1100 and finish at 1300 thereafter it is a short walk down to the National Maritime Museum for lunch between 1315 and 1415.

Numbers will be limited to 25 to allow small sub-groups to be formed for the gallery tours.

The History of the Long Case Clock – a presentation by Dr Colin Lattimore OBE JP At the Royal Entomological Society of London, 41 Queen's Gate, SW7 5HR

Tuesday 3 April 2007

This lecture will be open for Friends and any of their friends who may be interested in joining the Friends. It is aimed at those with a little knowledge of clocks who wish to expand their knowledge. The artistic and social background will be of interest to all horologists.

Visit to Windsor Castle

Late Summer/early Autumn 2007

We hope to arrange a private visit to see the clocks at Windsor Castle.

*We hope that you will make every effort to attend the Friends' events. It is important that all events are fully subscribed so that we actually raise funds rather than make a loss.

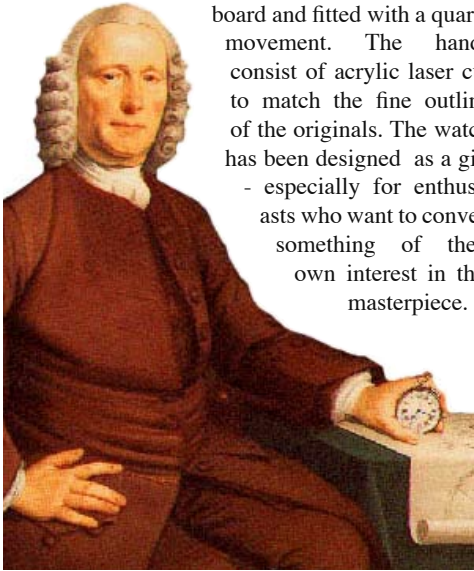


The Clockmakers' Museum, at the Guildhall, London: Venue of the inaugural meeting of Friends - October 2006

THE QUEST FOR LONGITUDE

If you read the book, you can now own the clock!

IN COLLABORATION with the clockmakers, Teaching Resources Ltd (a Middlesex University company) has produced a working representation of Harrison's famous H5. This takes the form of a printed image laminated onto board and fitted with a quartz movement. The hands consist of acrylic laser cut to match the fine outline of the originals. The watch has been designed as a gift - especially for enthusiasts who want to convey something of their own interest in this masterpiece.



A screensaver showing the shiny brilliance of the original H5 has been produced in addition to the timekeeper. When loaded, this synchronises with the computer's clock to tell the right time whenever it appears. The hands move precisely as the original.

A percentage of the proceeds of the sale of H5 and the screensaver go to the Clockmakers to further the cause of conservation. H5 is available from several sources including the Museum Shop at the Guildhall, the Royal Observatory, Greenwich or direct from teaching Resources via its on-line shop at: www.mutr.co.uk



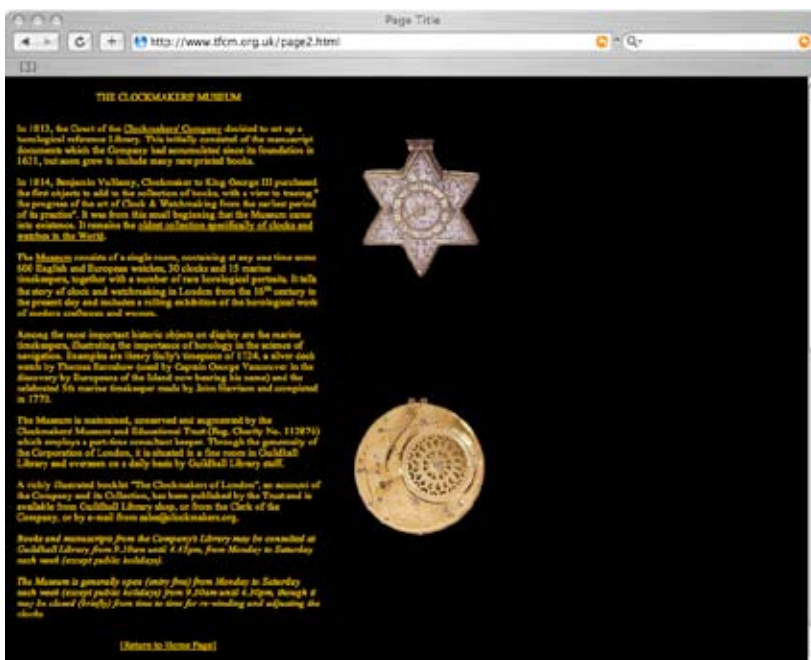
Actual size of timekeeper: 175 x 220 mm

FRIENDS' WEBSITE

YOU can find the Friends' web site at www.tfc.org.uk. Please check the site regularly for news and for changes and additions to

the Friends Events Programme. We are grateful to Sir George White, the Keeper of the Museum, for creating and populating the

site and we look forward to its expansion over time so that it can become an effective communication tool.



FRIENDS' LOGO

LIVERYMAN and sundial designer Joanna Migdal has designed the Friends' impressive and stunning logo which you can see at the head of this Newsletter. We would like to record our thanks to her for undertaking the work and donating her services free for the benefits of the Friends.

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