



Restoring an Adamantine Finish (Part 2)

by Mostyn Gale

In the first article on this topic I discussed a general method for restoration of an adamantine finish. In this article, I discuss a method for restoration of a decorated adamantine finish. By decorated I am referring to the common use of fine, usually gold painted, line art. This line art is typically a paint filled engraving in the surface of the adamantine. The clock I was restoring had some of this art on the front surface of the clock. The challenge for me in this case was how to protect the original gold paint in the engraving while I used the same process that had worked for the rest of the clock. If you recall the previous article, part of the process utilized paint remover. Obviously this would destroy the gold paint. I needed a "protectant" – something that would be impervious to paint remover, not destroy the original paint, and could be easily removed.

I experimented with several different processes utilizing a piece of wood that I had scored with a pattern and filled the scored pattern with gold paint. Next I covered over the gold paint with flour-water glue, just like we used in grade school, as a "protectant." Then I applied the paint remover and finally removed the protectant with a brush and warm water. The process worked like a charm! Having determined this process would work, I started applying it to the clock. Unfortunately, the indents in the clock were much narrower and shallower than my trial and the flour-water glue was cracking and not providing good coverage, so back to the drawing board. I added a small amount of hide glue to act as a binding agent to hold the flour-water mixture together. It worked! Now the problem was how to apply this mixture only to the indents and not have it spill outside the lines. This turned out to be impossible with the application tools I had, so I ended up doing a lot of cleanup work to remove the protectant from the surface of the clock outside the lines. I accomplished this with painstaking use of toothpicks, water, and Q-tips. Several days later, I was ready to apply my standard adamantine process to the front surface of the clock. I held my

breath and started in. Before long it was completed, and now to remove the protectant. That worked easily as well, using warm water and gentle brushing with an artist's pint brush. The end result is a beautiful clock. I can't say that I have seen a nicer one of this age, and it has the original painted decoration.

Finally, I reiterate my caution from the first article: I don't want anyone to run out and try this on their heirloom clock or worse yet, someone else's heirloom clock. This is not a reversible process and repairing a mistake is impossible. That said, I am very pleased with the result that I achieved. What do you think? ■



Prior to restoration



Detail prior to restoration



Finished restoration



Final, before removal of protectant



Final, after removal of protectant

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Mike Schmidt

A New Year presents new and wonderful opportunities.

The first opportunity is for a great program on Sunday January 20th. A special presentation will be given by Bob Frishman "Horology in Art". Bob has performed professional clock restoration for more than 32 years and has been the proprietor of Bell-Time Clocks in Andover Mass. Bob a former Congressional Speech writer, a horology scholar, past president of the New England Chapter 8, gives lectures and workshops on clock – related topics to historical societies, service organizations and academic groups. He recently gave a presentation at the 2011 NAWCC NATIONAL CONVENTION. You may also know Bob from his series of articles "Horology in Art" that have recently been published in the NAWCC BULLETIN. This is a great opportunity to bring family and friends for a very interesting program that all can relate to.

Another fine opportunity is attending the Annual "GREATER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL" January 31-February 2 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Details for Mart table reservation, programs and admissions can be found thru the NAWCC website.

Congratulations go to all the students who completed the December FSW301 "Basic Pocket Watch Repair", Instructor Ferdinand Geitner, class coordinator Giorgio Perissinotto, students Paul Caulfield, Cyrus Wind Dancer, Robert Long, Liz McClanahan, David Perez, John Spent, and Stephen Stein. This is Chapter 190's fourth FSW301.

We currently have enough students and interest to offer another FSW 302 "Basic Wrist Watch Repai." The date for this 4 day Wrist Watch Workshop is April 19th—22nd. If you are interested in this workshop or any others please let me know. When we find there is interest and can potentially put together eight or more students for a workshop, we will schedule and advertise that specific workshop. Please let me know what your interests are.

January is the start of our Chapter new year and time to renew and support your Chapter 190 membership. Thanks to all who have already renewed.

The clock workshop on Sunday starting at 10:30 A.M. will be in two parts. First, a demonstration on fabricating clock hands; this will be followed by a Microset demonstration on diagnosing problems. The workshop will be led by George Antinarelli, Paul Skeels and Ernie Jenson. This is a round table discussion where everyone gets to join in and learn. The coffee will be on early.

See you at the meeting.

Mike Schmidt



Happy Birthday

January

Mike Everman
Sylvia Griswold
Dick Henderson
Virginia Norwood
Tom Rementer
Lex Rooker

Zaki Salahuddin
Beverly Schmidt
Paul Skeels Dan

February

McKinnon
David Perez

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Ken McWilliams

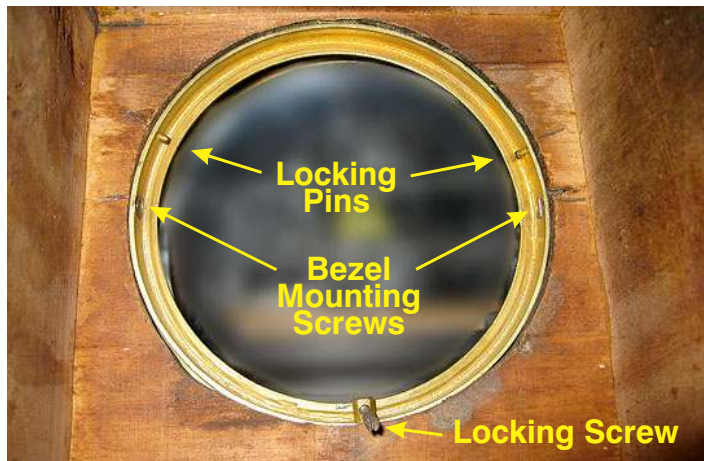
I get a lot of questions from members at our meetings, by e-mail, by phone, and even a few by postal mail. This column is created from those questions.

Question. I have a French mantel clock that stopped running. I decided to pull the movement and give it a good cleaning and oil it. When I went to remove the movement I discovered that it was not mounted like normal clock movements are. In fact, the dial, bezel and movement didn't have any screws at all save one at the bottom of the dial on the inside. I removed that one but it doesn't seem to do anything at all. I tried prying on the bezel thinking that it may be a press fit, but it didn't budge. Is there a secret to removing the movement on this one?

Answer. I'm glad that you didn't pry too hard, because it is not a press fit. Is there a secret to removing the movement? Sort of, but like most things, once you know how it works, it is very simple.

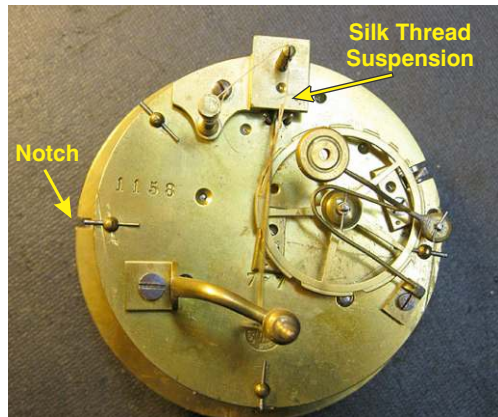
The locking screw that you removed is the key to removing the dial and movement from the bezel. It need not be removed, only loosened. Once it is loose, grab the movement and rotate it clockwise until the notches in the dial lines up with two pins in the bezel. When the notches and pins are aligned, simply remove the movement and dial assembly. Pretty simple isn't it?

I have some photos of one of these old French clocks with the locking dial plate. The first one shows the bezel with the dial and movement removed. The pins are easily seen. The bezel is attached to the case with screws that are not visible when the movement is in place. The locking screw can be seen at the bottom of the bezel. This keeps the dial/movement assembly from accidentally rotating.



The second photo shows the dial/movement assembly. The left notch on the dial plate can be seen. (A second notch is opposite this one on the right side.)

As a side note, this movement has a silk thread pendulum suspension. (No suspension spring) It is a little hard to see in the photo, but the thread goes through the post at the top of the movement and then is attached to the turned knob below and to the right. This can be turned to make the silk thread longer or shorter, thus adjusting the pendulum length. This is how the rate is changed. These are usually not very good timekeepers because they are sensitive to humidity and temperatures changes.



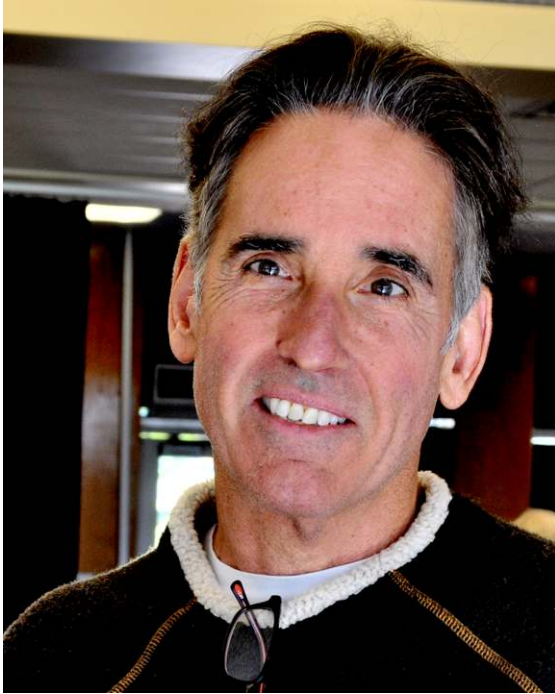
The third photo, shows the dial plate without the movement and the notches are easy to see



I have run across many clocks that have caused me to question why I ever got into clock repair. One that comes to mind is an English, Elliott mantel clock. Like the above clock, there appears to be no way that the movement can be removed. But, once the mystery is solved it becomes obvious. In this case, there are four tiny screws holding the chapter ring onto the dial. Removing these screws, and the chapter ring, reveals four recessed screws that attach the movement to the dial. By simply removing these, the movement is easily removed through the back. ■



Kurt Triffet



Kurt lives in Ventura and has owned a graphic design business there for 30 years, “Triffet Design Group”. He is single and has lived in Southern California for many years, but hails from Toledo, Ohio. His college experience is in the field of art. Besides his interest in watches, he is also into vintage cars. He can be seen on the internet, sitting with a smile on his face, in a beautiful red Renault Caravelle. He has been in our club for a couple of years. Here is what Kurt has to say about his watch interests: “What I enjoy the most about this hobby is that you have the chance to own a bit of history. Always have been attracted by the mechanical nature of these little machines, but a 50 or 75-year-old (or more) watch has also seen the world go through a myriad of changes and as much for the individuals that wore them.”

No one in my family was big on watches, but I was able to get a wonderfully worn 1940s Elgin that my grandfather wore. This watch saw them going to France from the US just prior to the outbreak of WWII to pick up my mother. They barely secured passage on a ship to get back. The watch saw a lot after that, too.

Another watch I acquired was a 1951 Eternamatic that was inscribed, Norbert W. Schratz. I posted this on a watch forum, and was amazed to get an email a couple weeks later from the son of Norbert! He had done a Google search on his father and my watch post showed up. I offered to sell him back the watch for what I paid for it, but he declined. He was more excited just to have found something of his father's.

I wonder to this day how that watch got out of his family.

I mostly prefer vintage Omegas, but my collection has quite a mix of interesting watches. I joined our local NAWCC chapter after having been invited by the esteemed Ferdinand Geitner. I have participated in a few online watch forums for many years now. Currently, I can mostly be seen on PuristSPro, but had posted for a long time on WatchUSeek and Timezone.”

FACES SEEN AT NOVEMBER'S MEETING



Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

People's History

After restoring watches and clocks for many years I've come across many interesting snapshots of peoples lives through the history of their time pieces. Recently, a customer brought in several watches for servicing. Among them was an early (1950s) gold Rolex oyster, automatic with the usual engraving on the back cover showing the name of the owner and some special occasion or event in the persons personal or professional life.

What made this one different was the additional engraving in very small, but clear, letters around the edge of the back cover. After quizzing the owner, it became clear that these were cities around the world where the family member who had been working for a customer relationship marketing company (I'm not mentioning names) establishing connections and bases for the expansion of his company throughout the world.

As you'll see from the extensive list this was quite some undertaking, it starts with a date of 1961 and then the engraved names of the countries - Lebanon- Iran- India- Thailand- Hongkong - Macao - Philippines' - Australia - Fiji - Tahiti - Hawaii - USA - England - France - Holland - Switzerland, and finally, Italy.

One thing caught my eye, the USA was in the



middle of his ventures. I would have thought he started off working from here.

Another item was a "normal" silver cased cylinder pocket watch with an unusual engraving on the inside back cover.

Cylinder movements were not the most expensive movements of the times, but this person certainly left his mark (literally) on this one.

It states that this movement was inspected (not made) by

T. H. Russell 18 Church Street, Liverpool, Maker to the Queen and British Admiralty #177989.

Now from my (humble) point of view I'm wondering why a cylinder watch, which does not necessarily keep the best of time anyway, would warrant such a Royal inspection. T. H. Russell is listed to have worked from 1848 to 1902 which is the correct period for this watch. The other factor is that this watch was made in Switzerland. Interesting.

The ad below is for nonmembers of the NAWCC

it is for Saturday only admission.
If you have a friend or neighbor who may want to attend, give them this ad for a five dollar discount.

NAWCC members may attend both Friday and Saturday

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Tickets are (\$15 per person) Purchase
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Visit our website at www.2013GLAR.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The next Meeting & Mart for Chapter 190
is January 20, 2013
Sellers may start setting up at 11:30
The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15
The Meeting starts at 1:15

PROGRAM

"Horology in Art"

Presented by Bob Frishman

Bob has written recent articles on this
subject for the NAWCC Bulletin.

He has traveled from Andover Mass.
to present his program for Ch 190.

SHOW & TELL

Your Choice

The following workshops are scheduled for 2013:

Introduction to Antique Clock Collecting,
Repair & Maintenance. A 2 day, open to the Public,
Workshop Prerequisite: Interest & Curiosity in
mechanical clocks. All Tools & Movements supplied,

February 9th & 10th at the Historic Dudley
House Museum 2 days of Instruction \$100

Contact Mike Schmidt phone; 805 988-1764
e-mail; eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

FSW 302 *Beginning Wrist Watch Repair Workshop*
-April 19-22, 2013, Instructor Ferdinand Geitner,
contact coordinator Zaki Salahuddin 805 654-8552
email phoenix@cimm.net

FSW 103 *Introduction to Chiming Clocks Workshop*
January 25-28 2013, Instructor Lex Rooker, contact
coordinator Frank Huttlinger 714 267 3930 email
huttlinger@cox.net

A watch repair workshop and clinic is provided at
each monthly meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. This will
be led by Jorge Montoya with input from Ferdinand
Geitner. Everyone is welcome to bring repair questions
or participate in the discussion.

*Suggestions for chapter 190 workshops,
demonstrations, or programs are always welcome.
Contact any board member with your ideas.*

This Month's Mini-Workshop

At 10:30AM

First, a demonstration on "*Fabricating
clock hands*"; this will be followed by a "*Microset
demonstration on diagnosing problems*" The
workshop will be led by George Antinarelli, Paul
Skeels and Ernie Jenson. This is a round table
discussion where everyone gets to join in and learn.

A Watch Repair workshop and clinic
is also provided at each monthly meeting
beginning at 11:30 a.m.

This will be led by Jorge Montoya with
input from Ferdinand Geitner. Everyone is
welcome to bring repair questions or participate in
the discussion.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

*If there is a topic that you would like to learn
about, just mention it at the workshop. We are
always looking for good topics for the workshops.*

Mart Note:

Ernie Jenson and George Antinarelli will
bring a new batch of items from Jim Ingersoll's
workshop, and Dave Coatsworth will be adding
additional watch and clock material from two
recently acquired estate lots to his mart tables.

Welcome New Member

Chris Manzione
from Newbury Park



CLASSIFIED PAGE

This page is dedicated to advertising for Chapter 190 members. It is, of course, free to members.

SERVICES OFFERED

The Montecito Clock Gallery

Restoration, repair, sales of clocks and watches.
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Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a
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dave@daveswatchparts.com



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Width:

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2 Vienna R/A's: 16" • 1-wt Vienna Regulator: 17"

I fully realize that crowns do not attach uniformly
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Please contact: **Giorgio Perissinotto**

E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

Antique French 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.
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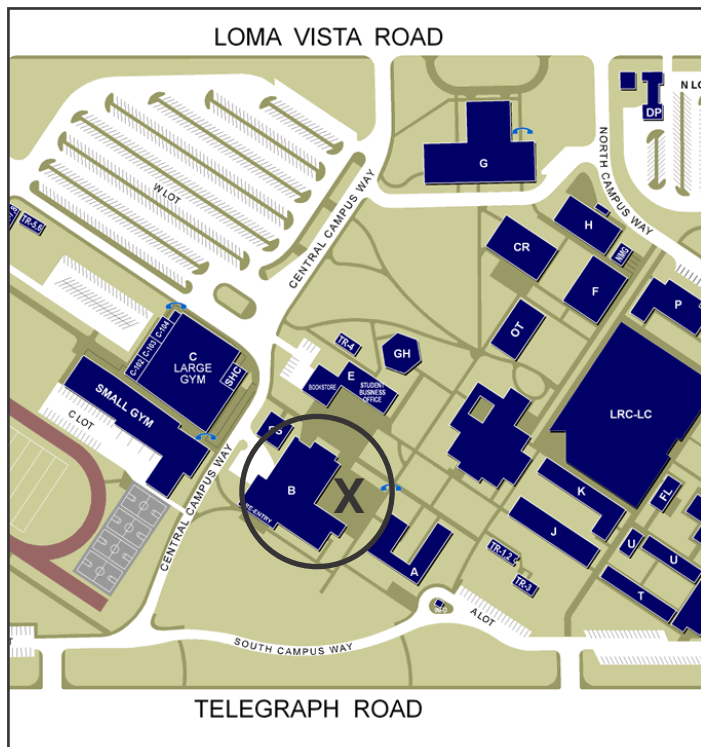
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The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
 We will meet in the cafeteria on the Ventura College campus. The cafeteria is located in building "B", east of the gym and athletic field.



Jan - Feb, 2013 Issue

NOTE: THE CHRONO TIMES WILL BE PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY STARTING WITH THIS ISSUE

NEXT MEETING
JAN 20

FEBRUARY MEETING, 17th



If Undeliverable return To:
 17738 Superior St. Unit 21
 Northridge, CA 91325

Chrono Times

The After-Sale Clearance in Solvang

The move is complete now and the original showroom that many of you know is closed. There isn't room for all of our inventory in the new location, so we've opened a brand new temporary showroom in the lower level of Solvang's Old Mill Shops. Now we invite you to a very special Clearance Sale of our own remaining merchandise.

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