



Horology Trivia

by Giorgio Perissinotto

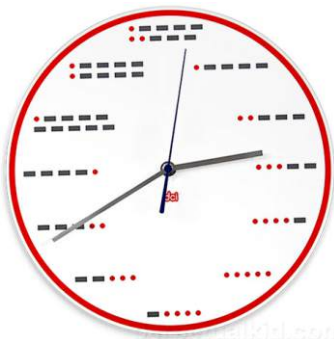


Unusual Clocks

OK, you have read, perhaps in this column, about water clocks, fuel clocks, candle clocks, etc., and you may have questioned the sanity of those collectors who go after the unique, the one-of-a-kind, the survivor. One of the most remarkable aspects of horology is the seemingly unending variety of time pieces one comes across at flea markets, antique shops, garage sales and NAWCC Chapter markets. So let us go through some unusual clocks. You have seen dials with Roman and Arabic numerals, and you may have seen clocks with Turkish dials such as the one to the right. The numerals are in the table below it.



Can you guess what the dial below is? You will have to think in dots and dashes.



	PERSIAN NUMERALS	OTTOMAN NUMERALS
0	۰	۰
1	۱	۱
2	۲	۲
3	۳	۳
4	۴	۴
5	۵	۵
6	۶	۶
7	۷	۷
8	۸	۸
9	۹	۹

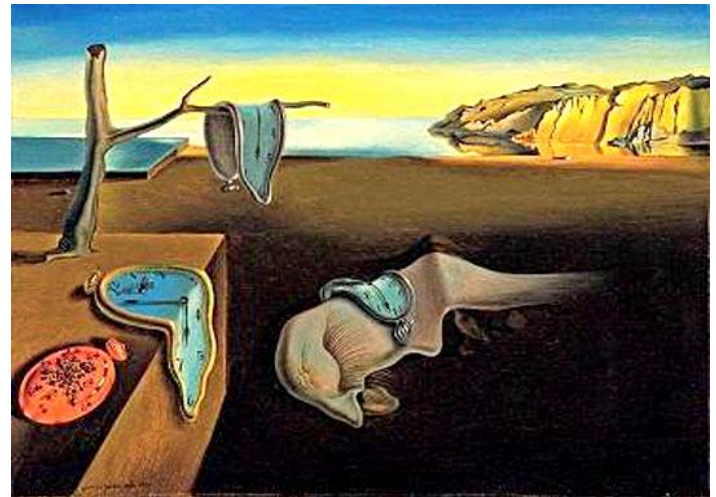
Let us go on and search for more unusual clocks. Maybe a comment is unnecessary, but can you find some order in the apparent disorderly scattering of the numbers?

The hour and minute hands do point to a readable time, in this case 10:10. By the way 10:10 is commonly found on clocks and watches when



they are not running. Though you may disagree, I think the position of the hands is meant to highlight the brand or marque of the timepiece, to direct your gaze to the Rolex, or Hamilton, or pick your wish brand.

The famous Salvador Dali melting pocket watches have captured the imagination of popular culture, but its title is "The Persistence of Memory" and is actually a quite serious work by the surrealist Spanish-Catalan painter.



The Persistence of Memory

This well-known piece introduced the image of the soft melting pocket watches. It epitomizes Dalí's theory of "softness" and "hardness", which was central to his thinking at the time. As Dawn Ades wrote, "The soft watches are an unconscious symbol of the relativity of space and time, a surrealist meditation on the collapse of our notions of a fixed cosmic order." This interpretation suggests that Dalí was incorporating an understanding of the world introduced by Albert Einstein's "Special Theory of Relativity." Asked by Ilya Prigogine whether this was in fact the case, Dalí replied that the soft watches did not reflect his understanding of the theory of relativity, but was rather the surrealist perception of a Camembert cheese melting in the sun. Never to be caught off guard, Dalí was famous for shocking his interviewers. Although fundamentally part of Dalí's Freudian phase, the painting dates from 1931 and is kept at MoMa, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

The center of the painting where a watch is melting away, is a self-portrait of the painter ... or at least that is what critics have suggested on the basis that it is a theme recurring in other paintings. It is, in fact a "fading" creature, with an eye closed. I will leave to the reader any further theorizing, but think of sleep, which alters our perception of time; or dreams which, when evoked, recapture time passed by.

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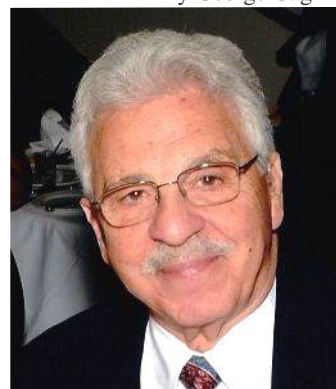
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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By George Gaglini

They tried every key in the house. Not one of them worked and the beveled glass door of the grandfather clock stayed stubbornly locked; weights all the way down...silent. Four children ranging in size from two feet to four feet appeared in the front hall that Saturday morning on one of my house calls. They were seen playing around the clock earlier in the week but, according to mom and dad, not one of them was admitting anything about the key. It was missing. Digging into my key box, I came up with the right size and voila! The door opened. I wound up the weights and moved the minute hand to the first quarter and soon the familiar four-note descending scale of Westminster chimes began ringing. You could sense the applause in the hearts of that family. This strange looking clock guy with an opti-visor had created a miracle. The clock was singing again and family tension segued into pure joy.



There is a human side to clock-making. I see it all the time and it was there that day at that house call. Nowhere is that human side more evident than at Chapter 190 meetings. Professional engineers mingle with artisans, teachers, collectors, inventors, and just plain curious amateurs on the third Sunday of every month at the Ventura College student center where Chapter 190 holds its meetings. They all have one thing in common...they love clocks and watches.

You can say the same about the hundreds of folks who will be at the Chapter 190 Annual Mart to be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds next month on April 19, 2015. Co-Directors Donna Gaglini and Sue Gary are working hard with all of the other volunteers it takes to produce a successful Mart. Eighty-plus tables will be laden with clocks and watches for sale at the Fairground's Santa Rosa Hall and there is a line-up of great door prizes including a whale-watching trip, clocks, watches, tools and other things horological. As a special treat, Jim Chamberlain will present one of his magical clock exhibits for all to marvel at.

This year's Mart promises to be action-packed and well-attended by vendors and buyers alike. The Co-Directors have reduced prices for public admission and have given vendors incentives to purchase more tables and bring more products for sale (contact Donna Gaglini at 805-647-6463 for more details).

One thing is certain, along with all the technical wizardry on display, the human side of clock-making will be in the air on April 19, 2015 at the Chapter 190 Annual Mart just as it was at that home with the (now-unlocked) grandfather clock. I urge all enthusiasts reading this edition of Chrono Times to save the date and come to beautiful Ventura to share in the enthusiasm and excitement of Chapter 190 as we celebrate clock-making's human side at the Annual Mart.

George Gaglini

Happy Birthday

March

**Michael Arnoldus, Alan Davis, Tim Harriman,
Jorge Montoya, Tom Musselman, Michael Pollard,
and Jerry Treiman.**

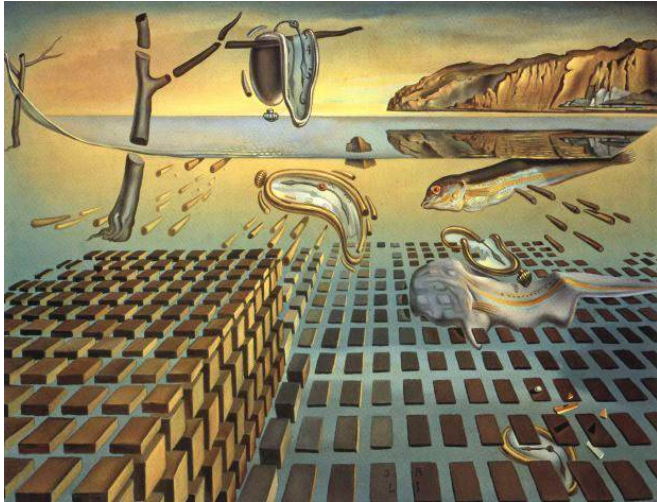
April

**Mark Davenport, Donna Gaglini, Cathy Gillogly, Ron Kubitsky,
Loren Miller, Walter Pickett, Jeff Slobodian, and Lee Wade.**

Continued from page 1

The orange clock at the bottom left of the painting is being invaded by ants. This one is easy, as Dalí often used ants in his paintings as a symbol of decay, which eats away time.

The Persistence of Memory is not the only "melting clocks" by Dalí. In 1954 he painted *The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory*, a very small work where the objects are submerged in water. Though tempted to engage on a flight of fancy, I will leave it up to you to offer interpretations. Yes, in the plural.



The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory

And if you cannot live without a melting clock, consider buying one of many for sale like the one shown below for \$14.99. Guaranteed to keep accurate time and not melt it away.



The brave can peruse Dalí's art at the website: www.moma.org/collection/object.php?object_id=79018

Chapter 190 People

by Ernie Jensen

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Ron's interest in clocks began in 2005 when his wife, Patty, inherited several old American clocks. The clocks ranged from a common Sessions mantle clock from the early 1900s, to a racing yacht's timepiece made by the Fairhaven Clock Company. The clocks hadn't run for years. "I knew nothing much about clocks, but I was bothered that the clocks didn't run. So I took an introductory class in clock repair through a local parks and recreation program," added Ron.

He soon discovered he had both an aptitude for clock repair and a new found fascination for horology. He began to buy "practice" clocks which he took apart and put back together. By 2009, he joined the NAWCC and borrowed many books and tapes from the lending library to further his knowledge. He took his first field suitcase class, F101 Introduction to Basic Time and Strike with Ray Marsolek and has gone on to take seven more field classes since then. He became a member of Chapter 190 in 2014.

Ron was born and raised in San Pedro, California where he enjoyed a boyhood spent restoring old cars and power boats. Ron continues to maintain and enjoy his family's 1950 Chevy convertible which he completely rebuilt as a teenager. "I've always been a tinkerer, and now I mostly tinker on clocks," said Ron. Ron graduated from the University of Southern California with a BA in Business in 1976 and later earned his MBA at CSUDH. He has been a licensed real estate broker since 1977 and continues to teach real estate at Los Angeles Harbor Community College. In 1984, he started Maricich Construction Company, a building and estate development business in the South Bay of Los Angeles which he continues to operate. His wife Patty is a school district administrator. They have one son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

Ron and Patty live in Rancho Palos Verdes, but spend every summer at their home in Breezy Point, NY. In 2012, their home there suffered extensive damage from super storm Sandy, so Ron has been working on home restoration there for the last few years. Thankfully, none of his east coast clocks were damaged in the storm. He and his family enjoy traveling, boating, fishing, and campfires at the beach. Favorite family vacation destinations are fishing off Santa Catalina Island, snorkeling in Napili Bay, Maui, and exploring family roots on the island of Hvar, Croatia. ■

Tales From the Bench

by Ferdinand Geitner

A Rolls Royce Clock

Not the Rolls Royce of clocks but a Rolls Royce car clock from a 1924 Rolls Royce Phantom I. What I found interesting is that this famous English car was using an American built Waltham car clock.

I have repaired many Waltham car clocks and most come with a long extended stem (winder) so one can wind and set it from below the dashboard. This one was very neat and compact inside a closed case flush on the dashboard with no winder visible. The English had a thriving watch and clock industry and I did not think they would be inclined to import an American clock for their (very) famous English motor car.

This made me curious and after some research I found that Rolls Royce built a Factory in Springfield Massachusetts to meet the massive and growing US car market called "Rolls Royce of America Inc." The first Phantom chassis was completed in 1921. Later, Brewster & Co in Long Island City, New York provided the coachwork.

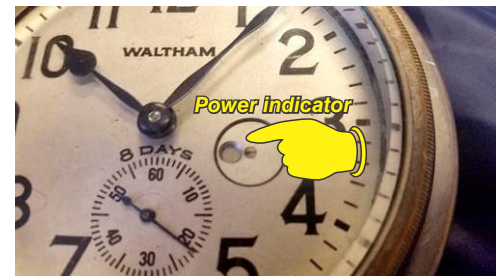
This clock had to be twisted counter clockwise on the dashboard which released the locking mechanism and made it (with the help of a large spring) pop out from the dash, revealing the fold down winding knob. A spring clip fitted in a groove inside the outer case stopped it from falling out completely. This had to be slightly modified to be able to remove it in the confined space as the ends had been worn round over the years and could not be manipulated and removed.

To remove the movement through the front bezel, one had to remove the back cover which has milling around the edge for a special key and is screwed down



low inside the outer shell and has the large spring attached to it. This allows access to the usual case screws to release the movement

An interesting feature is the rotating reserve power indicating dial within the main dial for this 8 day clock showing how many days of mainspring power are left. Usually this is shown by a shorter rotating hand.



There should be a colored dot (probably red) which becomes visible when it needs winding but the color has faded away.

Something new every day. ■

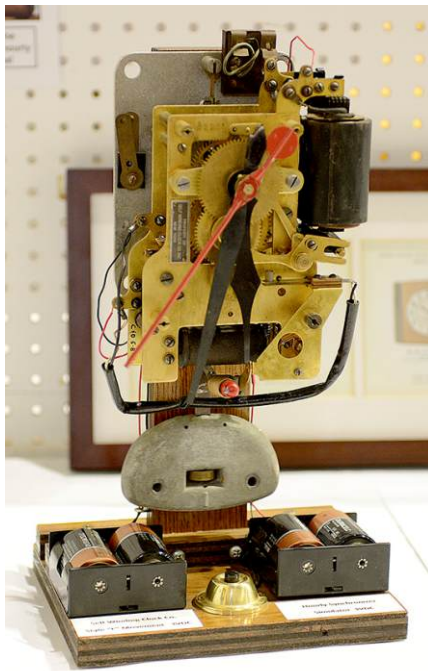


George Gaglini has donated a number of clocks to the chapter. These will be auctioned off at the March 15th meeting. The proceeds will be split between our chapter and the NAWCC.

Who knows, there may be a treasure among these. It's for a good cause, check it out.

“Railroad Time” Exhibit

For those of you who did not have the opportunity to visit the “Railroad Time” exhibit at the Greater Los Angeles Regional this year, here are some photos of it. In my opinion, this was one of the best exhibits we have ever had.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

by Mike Schmidt

Chapter 190 continues to offer our popular "Introduction to Antique Clock Collecting & Repair & Maintenance" workshop. This 2 day workshop is open to members, friends, and the public. The only prerequisite for this workshop is "Interest & Curiosity" in mechanical clocks. All tools, movements, and knowledge will be supplied.

The next workshop is May 30th & 31st at the Historic Dudley House Museum in Ventura.

For further information contact Mike Schmidt 805 988-1764 or email EagleCreekClocks@msn.com

A FSW 101 "Introduction to Basic Time & Strike" is scheduled for 2 weekends, March 14,15 & ,21 22. The coordinator is Mike Schmidt- for further information contact Mike Schmidt at 805 988 1764 or email: eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

Future Field Suitcase Workshop (FSW) for 2015: A FSW102 Closed Barrel and Snail Escapement.

Other workshops will be scheduled as interest develops. NAWCC requires 7 students for a workshop. Please let me know what workshops or repair instructions you desire.. Contact Mike Schmidt at phone 805 988-1764 or e-mail eaglecreekclocks@msn.com

A 2 day chapter 190 workshop will be offered soon on "*Platform Escapements*" No date or cost has been established yet, but if you are interested contact Ken McWilliams at: internet@socal.rr.com or call (818) 718-8300.

The FSW 301A "Advanced Pocket Watch" for January was successfully completed. Congratulations to instructor Ferdinand Geitner and students: Armen Anserlain, Greg Anserlian, John Darby, Bob Long, Ron Maricich, Bob McClelland and coordinator David Perez,

"Action is the Foundational Key to All Success"
Pablo Picasso

This Month's Mini-Workshop Starts At 11:00AM

The workshop will be led by George Antinarelli. This is an open forum workshop, so bring your problem clock or watch and let the group help you.

**Don't let your clock problems baffle you,
come and let our experts confuse you.**

The **March** Chapter 190 Meeting
is March 15, 2015

Sellers may start setting up at 11:30

The Mart is open from 12:00 til 1:15

The Meeting starts at 1:15

"The creation Of Time Zones In The U.S."

Presented by Sue Gary

The change from local time to
standard time was a major
achievement in U.S. timekeeping.

Bring a special clock, watch, or tool
of yours to share with fellow members
for show and tell

No Meeting in April

We will be at the Ventura
Fairgrounds for our annual
Mini-Mart, April 19th.

Don't miss this one!

Welcome New Members

Stephen & Patricia Watts
from Visalia

Denise & Ricky Rodriguez
from Ventura

Richard Hadin
from Santa Barbara

Tod & Louise Tamberg
from Woodland Hills

Mel Jensen
from Ventura

Dean Sanderson
from Camarillo



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.
Ferdinand Geitner, mbhi, owner and operator
Now located at 1187 Coast Village road, unit 10a
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The Clock Gallery

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Expert Repair - Service - Restoration
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Loren Miller proprietor.

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FOR SALE

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Winding hole spacing of 38.9 mm, (1.53")

Repairable, other details available on request.

Bob Reichel, welchdoc@yahoo.com **Ph: 1-206-364-7374**

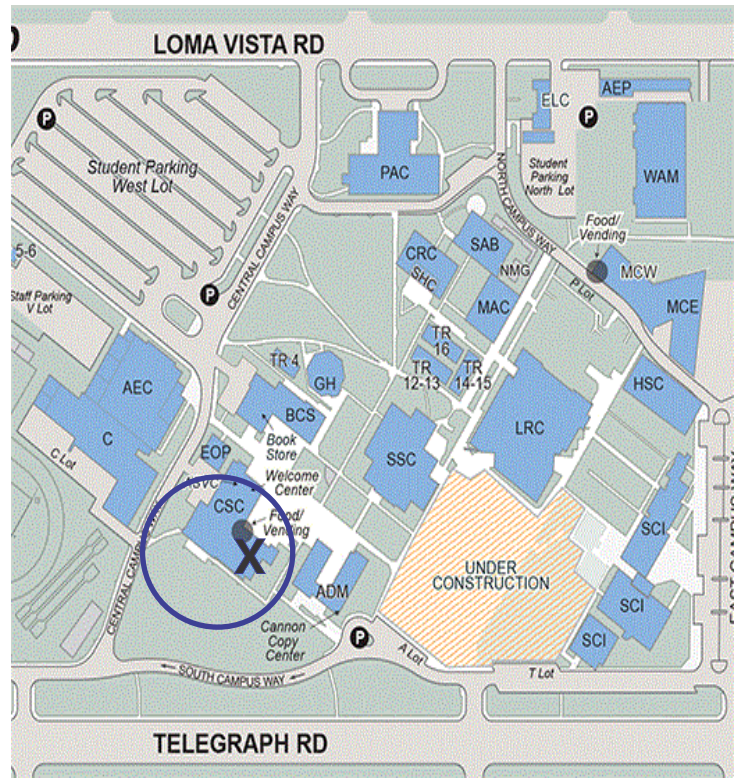
Antique French 2 or 3 dial calendar clocks.
Antique English 2 or 3 gear-train skeleton clock.
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4255 E. Main St., No. 15, Ventura, Ca.
Located in Firehouse Plaza (Main St. & Telephone Rd.)
Tel. 805-650-8800

- Chronometer -

Hamilton 21 Marine Chronometer in running condition, with
inner box and gimbals; outer box not essential.

Please contact: Giorgio Perissinotto
E-mail: giorgio@spanport.ucsb.edu

The Chapter 190 meetings are held the third Sunday of each month. (No meeting in December)
 We will meet in the Campus Student Center (CSC) on the Ventura College campus. The CSC is located in building "B", east of the gym and



March - April, 2015 Issue

NEXT MEETINGS

MARCH 15

MINI MART, APRIL 19

VENTURA FAIRGROUNDS



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

Chrono Times

Seaside

ANTIQUÉ CLOCK & WATCH

Show



SUNDAY
APRIL 19, 2015

9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

- Open to the public
- Hundreds of Antique Clocks and Watches on display and for sale
- Many great door prizes
- Amtrak station within very short walking distance
- Plenty of close parking (\$5 per vehicle, charged by Fairgrounds)

While you are here, visit and enjoy the many attractions Ventura has to offer, including:

- Ventura Harbor Village & it's many shops & restaurants
- Whale Watching, Island Wild Flower & Harbor Cruises
- Ventura County Wine Trail Tours
- Mission San Buenaventura
- Ventura Pier



Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park • Santa Rosa Hall
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FREE
Evaluations

Bring your watch or clock
to learn its history and
condition!

*(Limit: one item
per guest)*

Questions? Call (805) 647-6463
or email: drgaglioni@gmail.com

Detailed information: www.nawcc-ch190.com

ADMISSION:

\$5.00

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Children 16 & under

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