

# THE Tic Talk Times



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March 2007  
Vol. 26, No. 8

Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the  
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

*Meeting minutes, Feb. 9, 2007*

## Watch Works

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Doug Adams.

The members thanked Annette Dimino for the refreshments.

It was announced that Bud Saiben had fallen at the NAWCC meeting at Vista and broke his hip. The hip was replaced and Bud is feeling better. It was also announced that Margarite Wells had passed away as had Tave Crow.

Ray Brown advised that the GLA Regional had 1540 registrations as compared to 1200 last year. Saturday's "open to the public" attracted over 300.

Doug announced the upcoming regionals and marts:

- March 24, 25 – Arizona Sunshine Regional
- May 19 – Chapter 69 GoodTyme SuperMart
- May 17-19 – Pacific Northwest Regional in Spokane, Washington
- June 6-9 – National Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Ray Brown presented the evening's Beginner's Corner on the use and problems with mercury. Mercury is used throughout many industries from thermometers to jewelry making to dentistry.

Mercury is fluid-like at normal temperatures. Mercury has been shown to be quite dangerous to one's health. Ray stated that the term "mad

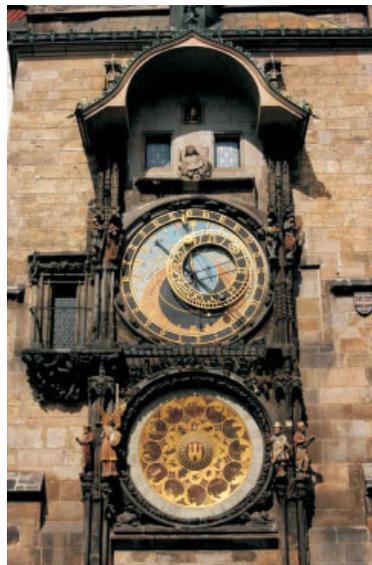
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*This month*

## Vienna & Prague

The cities of Vienna and Prague have rich horological histories. In its heyday, Austria produced some fabulous clocks and watches. Prague has one of the most famous public clocks in the world, the astronomical clock (started in the 15th century) on the old town hall (*below*).

Past chapter president Dave Weisbart was lucky enough to visit these cities last year. Fortunately for us, he took along both a video camera



and still camera, and he captured many images of both clocks and watches he saw during his trip. He has compiled these images into a video he calls "Dave's Horological Vacation."

Included on the video are Vienna's famous clock and watch museum, video of the hour striking of

*continued on page 3*

*Book review*

## Vienna Regulators

*A review of the book "Beautiful Vienna Regulators of the 19th Century" from <http://www.viennaregulators.net>*

### History:

The 101 Vienna Regulator clocks illustrated and described in this book cover a unique era of clock making which spanned the years from about 1790 to 1910. For purposes of this book, the "Vienna Regulator Era" has been divided into the three periods of "Early", "Middle", and "Late". For each of these periods a general description of the Vienna Regulator styles prevalent during the period follows:

**The Early Period** covers the years from about 1790 to 1840. Simple, straight lines and flat surfaces usually identify the Vienna regulators of this period. The "Laterndluhr" (which resembles a coach lamp) and the "Dachluhr" (a fully straight-sided evolution of the Laterndluhr) conform generally to the "Empire" style and reflect the furniture styles popular in this period. The dials are typically one-piece porcelain, one-piece metal, or occasionally multiple-piece metal surrounded by a cast bezel with an engine-turned pattern. The slender and simple hands are in total harmony with the clock. Toward the end of the Early Period the "Biedermeier" style appeared marking the beginning of the Middle Period.

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## Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

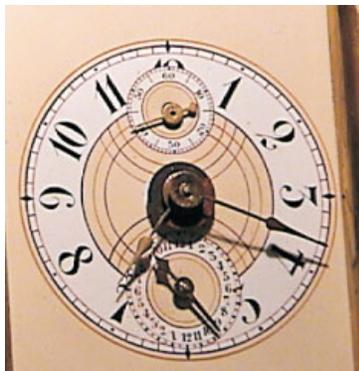
hatter” resulted from the usage of mercury in the manufacturing of hats and that the workers often became psychotic. Ray further advised that any spill of mercury should be cleaned up using powdered sulfur.



Doug congratulated Dave Weisbart on his receipt of a fellowship award at the GLAR.

The main program for tonight was a DVD by the Hamilton Watch Company entitled “How a Watch Works” from a film made in 1949. A typical watch ticks

5 times per second which must never vary. Inside each watch is a beautifully poised and balanced mechanism of springs and gears, pinions and bearings all of which are confined to a very small space. Every timepiece has a source of power, a means of transmitting that power, a dial to record the flow of power and a way to control the power. The mainspring is the source of power in a watch while the balance wheel and hairspring assembly forms the

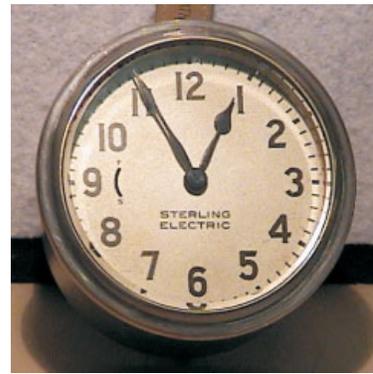


controller of power. The power is transmitted through a system of gears and indicator hands count the seconds, minutes and hours. It was claimed that if there is a part of a watch which could be called the most important it would be the hairspring.

For Show and Tell, Bob Selene read that in 1923 self-winding feature was added to wrist watches. In 1931 Rolex introduced the first waterproof self-winding watch. Bob brought a fifteen jewel self winding wrist watch.

Roy Irick brought a ‘no name’ carriage clock with a rare 24 hour alarm dial.

Phyllis Adams showed a magazine from the Smithsonian which featured an article on sun dials.



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cant forget to wind a  
**Sterling Electric**  
AUTOMOBILE CLOCK



**It Runs Without Winding**

Electricity winds the Sterling Electric and you can rely upon its dependability at all times.  
In some summer heat... Right when cold... the roughness of road travel does not affect its accuracy.  
Sterling Electric is jeweled... precision built... a fine instrument that brings added charm to every car. Easily installed and fully guaranteed.

Photo illustrated inside "Motor Time for Motor Owners"  
STERLING CLOCK CO., INC., LA SALLE, ILLINOIS  
Division of Phoenix Motor Company



WITH MERRILL CLOCK  
\$12.50 (including \$1.00 P.T.D.)

LEADING AUTOMOBILE DEALERS DISPLAY  
AND SELL STERLING ELECTRIC CLOCKS

Ray Brown brought a Sterling Electric Company car clock made in 1926 or thereabouts. Ray also showed an electric clock out of a 1934 Studebaker, and an ad for Sterling.

Patrick Kreeger brought a German WWII aircraft clock with a Junghans 36 hour movement possibly out of a ME109. This particular clock has been called a “hack” watch used to synchronize watches.



Door prizes were won by Bill Clark, Doug Lynn and Irene Kliem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.



*Winning door prizes is fun!*

## This Month *(from page 1)*

both the Prague astronomical clock and the Vienna “Anker Uhr,” clocks from Prague’s Klementinum, as well as clocks from private galleries, tower clocks, and even clocks featured in museum paintings.

This is a brand-new program that you won’t want to miss!

If you missed the Greater Los Angeles Regional, or if you attended and would like to revisit it, our Beginner’s Corner will be preempted by a slide show of the Regional. By all accounts, it was a very successful convention. Come see what the excitement was all about!

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## Book Review *(from page 1)*

**The Middle Period** covers the years from about 1840 to 1870. Throughout this period the “Biedermeier” style was the prevalent style for Vienna Regulators. This style maintained the simplicity of the Empire style but gradually evolved into rounded corners and curved tops with crests. There were also some cases with appliques and dramatic applications of figural woods. Dials evolved generally from one-piece to two-piece. Although some of the earliest Biedermeiers have engine-turned dial bezels it was more common to see “pie crust” bezels. The hands remained simple and complimentary to the clock.

**The Late Period** covers roughly from about 1860 to 1910 with an overlap at the beginning with the Middle Period. During this period the “Transitional” style marked a gradual evolution from the late Biedermeier style to the “Altdeutsch” style. The sinuous “Serpentine” clock also appeared during this period together with other “variant” styles not easily categorized as to style. The “Baroque” and “Art Nouveau” styles also appeared toward the end of this period. However, the Altdeutsch was the style of clock that was dominant in the Late Period. The Altdeutsch case design was strikingly beautiful with graceful lines, charming appearance, and perfectly balanced case proportions. Cases embellished with ornate columns, capitals, carved crests, finials and pendants typified the Altdeutsch style.

### Style:

Classifying Viennese Regulators can sometimes be difficult. Each one is a unique, handmade clock with numerous personal touches and variations in design. Because of this, examples of early style Vienna Regulators made during later periods do exist. Evidence strongly suggests that at least some clocks were skillfully modified over the years in order to conform to the style of the time. Therefore readers should realize that neither a precise definition of “periods” nor an absolute assignment of every clock to a period is possible. A certain amount of

judgement and opinion is involved. However this simply adds to the intrigue of the Vienna Regulator which will hopefully stimulate more research about the makers and their clocks!

Certain criteria are used for clock descriptions in this book. Unless otherwise stated, each clock has a Graham-type deadbeat escapement and a spring-suspended pendulum. Also unless otherwise stated, the bezels are spun brass and the pendulum rods are wood. Exceptions to these criteria are mentioned in the description of the clock. In some instances the very unusual features of a clock are further described and may be illustrated pictorially to provide a graphic elucidation.

While there are no longer many clock shops in Vienna, there are wonderful examples of Vienna regulators in museums and some private collections. The Uhrenmuseum der Stadt Wien opened in 1921 at Schulhof 2 largely through the efforts of Rudolf Kaftan



who through much interest and labor sought to make this a really outstanding horological establishment. He has thereby left a remarkable legacy which anyone interested in the technical or esthetic aspects of horology should see in Vienna. One should not fail to see the wonderful collection of Dr. Franz Sobek in the Geymuller-Schlossl. There formerly were good examples of Vienna regulators in many public buildings in Vienna, Brunn and other cities. However electric clocks, as in so many places these days, drove these clocks out resulting in their sale

to traveling “pickers” who for some time purchased them cheaply, shipping them to markets where they could be sold as “antiques”. The fact that there is now an interest in such clocks will save some from destruction and reveal to future generations the superb workmanship of makers like Binder, Bachner, Jessner, Ratzenhofer, Bock, Happacher, etc.

Regardless of the style or period, the Vienna Regulator is a beautiful work of art. Each one is a symphony of moving parts, performing in harmony and perfect precision, creating a masterpiece for the world to treasure and enjoy. As you view the vivid photographs and clear descriptions of the exquisite clocks in the Victor Kochaver collection, you may easily find yourself transported back to another time and place as you trace the journey of the Vienna Regulator from the Old World to the New. We hope you enjoy the journey!

**DATED MEETING NOTICE  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

Orange County Chapter No. 69  
c/o Cora Lee Linkenhoker  
7186 Calico Cir.  
Corona, CA 92881

*The National*  
**ASSOCIATION OF  
WATCH & CLOCK  
Collectors, Inc.**



**Our Next Meeting: Friday, March 2, 2007**

*Program:*

**LIVE AND VIDEO  
PRESENTATION  
"Clocks & Watches of  
Vienna and Prague"  
by Dave Weisbart**

*Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:*

The Greater Los Angeles Regional

*Show & Tell:*

Horological items beginning with the letter "O" or "P"

*Board Meeting:*

To be announced

*Time:* 7:00 – Doors open  
8:00 – General Meeting

*Admission:* \$4.00 – General  
\$6.00 – Couples

*Location:* Acacia Grove Masonic Lodge  
11270 Acacia Parkway  
(in the Civic Center)  
Garden Grove, CA

