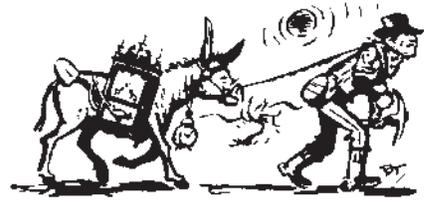


THE Tic Talk Times



November 2003
Vol. 23, No. 4

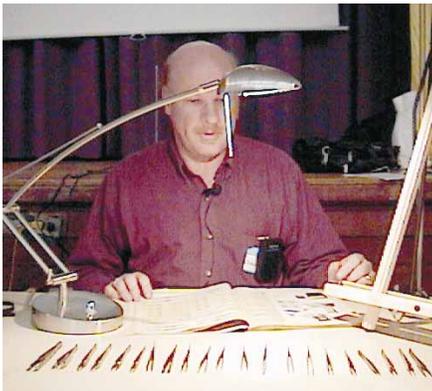
Newsletter of Orange County Chapter 69 of the
National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

Meeting Minutes: Oct. 3, 2003

Tweezers and Pivots

Our October meeting was called to order by President Charles Register at 8:00 p.m.

Charles encouraged us to introduce ourselves if we found ourselves near someone we didn't know. Did you meet someone new this month?



Doug Adams talked about tweezers

There was a motion to approve September's meeting minute. The motion was seconded and approved.

Upcoming marts in November include Chapter 116, Santa Anita/Arcadia. Chapter 118, San Joaquin Valley/Fresno on November 8. Chapter 4, Bellflower on November 16. The southwest California Regional in Del Mar is on November 20-22.

October's board meeting will be held at Dennis Woodson's home.

continued on page 2

This month

The Un-Cuckoo Clock

We have a really excellent program this month. Les Lesovsky has been collecting and researching Black Forest Clocks for many years. Over a year ago, he gave us a Beginner's Corner presentation on the basics of Black Forest design and development. Now he has developed a complete program on these interesting timepieces.

While many cuckoo clocks came from the Schwarzwald, Les's program isn't about them. He will be talking about the "shield" clocks, sometimes called "wag on the wall." He'll cover their design elements, their development (as best we know it), and the techniques used to construct their trademark wooden frames. In addition, Les will give us pointers on repair techniques.

The Beginner's Corner will be given by Dean Armentrout. He will demonstrate for us a relatively simple technique for silvering a dial. (Given that he only has 10 minutes to do it, it must be a simple technique!)

Make it a point to be here for these interesting talks! And don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual holiday party on December 5.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The English Full-plate Lever

The lever escapement was invented by Thomas Mudge, a London watchmaker, in the 18th century, but he showed very little interest in his device and it was left to other makers to undertake the necessary work of developing it. The lever escapement differed from other escapements in use at the time in that the balance was free for most of its swing and only made contact with the rest of the mechanism for a short period at each vibration. It was capable of standing up to everyday life better than those escapements that received impulse on every other beat, such as the duplex, and once the various difficulties had been overcome, the lever watch became the most popular English watch of the 18th century.

The earliest were as large as contemporary verges of the late 18th century, but the makers strove during the first half of the 19th century to make the watch smaller, even though the fusee was retained. In addition to retaining the fusee, which now needed an even finer chain than before, a device was incorporated in the fusee to provide a little power in order to keep the watch going while it was being wound. The old pair case of the verge watch was replaced by a new one with an inner dome containing the winding hole, although the hands were still set and

continued on page 3

Meeting Minutes *(from page 1)*

Welcome to our guests Tony Xie, Bob Chieng and Shelly Register!

Dave Weisbart announced that the NAWCC National Library Committee is always grateful for donations. They are particularly looking for back issues of "Antiques" magazine.

In December, expect to receive information about the merger will be published in the Bulletin. Mary Ann Wahlner can provide it sooner by e-mail if you want.

We're still trying to get our member applications and flyers out. If you know of a store, antiques mart, library or similar place where we can put these, please get some at the next meeting.

Bud and Pat Saiben have again made donations to Chapter #69's library. Thank you!

Remember, the material in the library can be checked out by chapter member. There are many interesting, books, periodicals, and videos available.

This month's Beginner's Corner was "Tweezers" by Doug Adams. Doug explained that along with screwdrivers, tweezers are absolutely essential tools to the watch and clock maker. There are so many different types of tweezers! Doug showed us several pages from a supply catalog that sells many types of tweezers, then he showed us an array of tweezers and described how each could be used.

The first pair was a stout, carbon steel pair that can be used for clocks. They can take a good bit of pressure so you can get a firm grip on parts.

The next pair was also carbon steel, but somewhat lighter than the first. Good for pocket watches and general watch work.

Next came a pair of very fine carbon steel tweezers. These would be good for hairsprings and other fine watch parts. They can't take too much pressure however and Doug keeps these put away at the bench until they're needed in order to protect them.

Doug explained that all of these types of tweezers are also available in stainless steel. Stainless steel tweezers are softer and so are easier to bend and damage, but they're non-magnetic and so can be very useful for work on watches.

Also, it's a good idea to keep old tweezers, don't get rid of them, they can be used to heat parts when necessary.

Doug continued to show us different types of tweezers. There was a heavy pair with sharp points. These are good for pulling and twisting. There was a pair with grooved, curved points. These are good for picking up small parts like jewels. He showed us a pair that he used for straightening pivots and then a pair used for bending hairsprings. Next came a pair of nipping tweezers that are used to nip off things like brass pins, and he showed us

another pair that he uses for pulling parts off of movements.

Finally, Doug demonstrated how a whetstone can be used to reshape tweezers but explained that he also often use a flex shaft unit to do this as it is faster.

Thank you Doug for a great Beginner's Corner!

The program for October was an AWI video presentation on replacing a pivot. The video started out with an AWI instructor using a diagram to explain what he was going to do. He showed his technique for centering and then drilling on a lathe. Don't force the cutting tool, if it's not cutting, it needs to be sharpened. Dipping the cutting tool in oil can help.

Once the hole is deep enough, you can turn and fit a plug. The size of the plug is important. If it's too large it will split the arbor. The instructor drew a diagram and then demonstrated how to turn the plug on a lathe. He also explained how to size the plug.

Once he had created the plug, he attached it to the arbor using Loc-Tight to ensure a solid fit.

Finally, he demonstrated how to finish and burnish the pivot. Quite an information-packed video!

Show and tell for the month was horological items beginning with the letter "N".

Gene Osten brought in a New England pocket watch (*right*). This watch has some interesting features. It has a second hand that should be stopped and started at will. Gene explained that it was very popular with the horse crowd. Interestingly it is a size 16 movement with at size 18 face in a size 18 case!



Dave Weisbart brought in an attractive steeple clock that says Jerome Company which turns out to really be a New Haven clock!

Larry Squires brought in some items related to pivoting. The first item was Heat Fence. It's a clay-like substance that can be put on the arbor when you have anneal the end for drilling. This protects the rest of the wheel assembly from the

Minutes (cont.)

heat of the torch. He also brought in a copper apparatus that is used to allow the heated portion to cool slowly during annealing.

Roy Irick brought in a “No Name” clock! It’s a beautiful French carriage clock that is not marked (*opposite, bottom*). According to Roy, you can sometimes come across clocks that appear the same, but upon closer inspection, contain different movement. Apparently there were companies that made the casing for carriage clocks and then sold them to different movement manufacturers who then put their own works into the cases.



Tony Baker brought in a wonderful New Haven clock in an imported porcelain case (*above*). Tony has been able to identify the case as being German, circa 1901.

The door prizes were won by Gary Walters, Charles Register, Robbyn Armentrout, Bud and Pat Saiben and Dean Armentrout. Congratulations!

The meeting was then adjourned by Charles.
Respectfully submitted by Jana Smith, Secretary

English Lever (from page 1)

the movement still swung out of the case from the front.

Very early lever watches have their seconds dial flush with the main dial, but later the seconds dial was sunk below the surface to give more clearance between the hour and seconds hands: these had been set closer together as the watch became thinner.

Eventually the full-plate watch was discontinued in favor of the three-quarter plate, but by then it was too late. By the early years of the present [20th] century the English watch industry was virtually dead.

From Clocks & Watches by E.J. Tyler



English lever watch case construction. The glass opens to adjust the hands and the back door reveals the winding square.

Dave's Shop Talk

Listen To Your Clock

A clock can tell you more than the time. If you learn how to listen to it, it can give you important indications of why it's not running right. With all due respect to our friend and member Eric Leung, who can put a clock in beat without being able to hear it (!), your sense of hearing can be one of the most important tools you have.

We all know about putting a clock in beat. I must say that my training as a musician has been a tremendous help to me in this task. For the beginner, probably the hardest thing is to ignore differences in the pitch and/or volume of “tick” and “tock,” and concentrate solely on the timing. Musicians are used to this. (An aside: I recently ran across an out-of-beat *metronome!* I pity the poor music student who had to work with *that* – and the people who tried to dance to his music.)

Beyond being in beat, listen for variations in the volume of the beats over time. If the clock sounds strong and suddenly gets weak for a few beats, you have an asymmetry somewhere. This could be many things: a bent pivot, arbor, gear tooth, or pinion trundle, or an out-of-round or eccentrically mounted gear, for example. Once you've determined that you have such a problem, the next step is to match its period to a recurring event in the movement. I often use a sharp-pointed dry-erase marker to put dots where gears and pinions intersect (it wipes off cleanly and easily). Once you see a particular gear in a particular position each time the soft ticking occurs, you can start looking for the asymmetry.

I recently used a beat amplifier to listen to how gears were meshing in a chime train. At one spot on the third wheel, a series of tiny “catches” could be heard. As it happened, if a catch occurred when the train was just starting up, the train wouldn't go. It turned out that while the outside of that gear was nearly round, the depth of the gear teeth was eccentric, and therefore the curves on the tips of the teeth were different (thicker) on one side of the gear! A previous repairman's slightly-off-center bushing job turned this otherwise insignificant flaw into a train-stopper. Reshaping the teeth in that section remedied the problem.



Tic Talk Times On Line

Would you prefer to receive the Tic Talk Times over the Internet?

Send an email request to webmaster@nawcc69.org. You can also view the current and past issues at www.nawcc69.org

**DATED MEETING NOTICE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

The National
**ASSOCIATION OF
WATCH & CLOCK
Collectors, Inc.**
Orange County Chapter No. 69
c/o David Weisbart
13077 Springdale St.
Westminster, CA 92683



Our Next Meeting: November 7, 2003

Program:
LIVE Presentation:
"Black Forest Clocks"
by Les Lesovsky

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

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

Location: The EBELL CLUB
625 French Street
(at Civic Center Drive)
Santa Ana, CA
(714) 547-6331

Beginner's Corner Mini-Seminar:

"Dial Resivlering" by Dean Armentrout

Show & Tell:

Horological items beginning with the letter "O"

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of:
Ed Athey
2121 N. Flower
Santa Ana
(714) 8351696

