

## Harris, Markus

**From:** NAWCC <mharris@nawcc.ccsend.com> on behalf of NAWCC <newsletters@nawcc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2012 5:14 PM  
**To:** Harris, Markus  
**Subject:** Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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### National Watch & Clock Museum participates in EXTRAORDINARY GIVE

On November 30th, the NAWCC participated in the [2012 Extraordinary Give](#), a 24-hour online marathon donation event. All gifts made to the NAWCC Museum during that time were extended by the Lancaster Community Foundation fund.

Funds directed toward the NAWCC and our museum totaled \$18,500, not including the additional matching funds from the Community Foundation, which should push the final tally over \$21,000. Special thanks to all who participated!

### RESTORED ANTIQUE STREET CLOCK PROMINENT IN DOWNTOWN KC



Photo: Shane Keyser

Dear NAWCC Member,

Happy Holidays! This month we discuss amazing auction sales, explore the tale of a historical watch that will be heard by millions, take note of some holiday horological appearances in various media, and mention the upcoming film appearance of a famous riddle to which we all know the answer.

Enjoy!

## Master Horologist Daniels Collection Sold At Auction



Photo: Sotheby's

A selection of clocks and watches from the estate of the British master horologist George Daniels, including several of Daniels' own creations, was recently auctioned at Sotheby's for over 12 million dollars.

The famous watchmaker's notable Space Travellers' watch, created by him to commemorate the 1969 moon landing, brought the highest price of the collection amidst fierce bidding, finally selling for 1.8 million dollars (almost twice the original estimate).

Another of Daniels' creations, the 18K yellow-gold Grand Complication pocket watch, features a minute repeater, an instantaneous perpetual calendar, an equation of time, a moon phase, a power reserve, and even a thermometer. With the highest estimate in the sale, of between \$800,000 and \$1,285,000, it sold for 1.25 million.

Charles Roeser (right), of Essence of Time Tower and Street Clock Restoration in Lockport, NY, and Chad Stuart worked on restoring a street clock earlier this month that has been a Kansas City landmark for nearly a century.

The 18-foot-tall clock was first installed in 1915 in front of the Winkler jewelry and watch repair store on Minnesota Avenue. It was built by the Seth Thomas Clock Co. of Connecticut, and had four glass faces. It became a familiar meeting place for generations of people who patronized downtown.

In 1972 the Winkler family sold the clock to the city for \$1 with the condition that it remain downtown. The jewelry store left downtown in 1990.

The clock cost \$459 when new, according to Seth Thomas company records. The restoration is expected to cost \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Nancy Winkler now owns Winkler's Diamonds at 82nd Street and State Avenue; she was enthusiastic when approached about refurbishing the clock.

"I think it's amazing that the city feels it's important to restore such a historical landmark," she said.

Read more [HERE](#)

### **YOUNG CLOCKMAKER SPECIALIZES IN CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR**



Photo: Clare Becker

**Christopher Arter operates Christopher Cringle's online ornaments and clock repair.**

A coaxial chronograph pocket watch sold for \$884,950, slightly over the estimate, while a 1970s pocket watch (made by Daniels for his daughter) went for \$466,610.

All of the money raised in the auction will go toward the George Daniels Educational Trust, which helps students seeking higher education in horology, engineering, medicine, building, or construction.

Daniels, who died in November last year at the age of 85, has been described as the father of modern-day horology. He fought for 20 years for the acceptance of his coaxial escapement (his design was eventually adopted by Omega, which now uses the system on most of its products).

### **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ACTUAL WATCH RECORDED FOR NEW LINCOLN FILM**



Photo: KHS

"I heard the actual pocket watch existed," director Steven Spielberg said in a recent interview, "and I wanted to know whether they'd let us wind it and record it. I didn't know if they would, but they did. I thought that was very important. So, every time you hear that little ticking in the story, that's Abraham Lincoln's actual pocket watch."

Ben Burtt, the Academy Award-winning sound designer best known for inventing the sound of the light saber in Star Wars, knew that one of Lincoln's pocket watches was in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, but it couldn't be used because of a scheduling conflict. Further searching revealed the existence of another watch that had belonged to Lincoln at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, KY-said to be the very watch carried by Lincoln the night he was assassinated. Inherited by Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, the watch was donated to the Kentucky Historical Society in 2002 and remains on public display there.

Conservators at the Kentucky Historical Society agreed to carefully wind the watch for the film's sound technician. A dozen takes were recorded to ensure that perfect sound sample was captured. Coincidentally, when the watch eventually wound down and stopped, it indicated 10:25-the same time historical accounts report assassin John Wilkes Booth entered Lincoln's private box at Ford's Theater.

Burtt also recorded other famous sounds for the film, including some inside the White House. "The thing we were there for was the clock on the mantel in Lincoln's executive office," Burtt said. "The clock is still there. It is a French clock purchased during Andrew Jackson's administration." The sound of the clock "is used in the movie in many scenes in Lincoln's office," he said.

The authenticity of the sounds adds to the movie's drama. As the tension

The holidays can be a bit busy for the Hanover, PA, resident also known as "Christopher Cringle."

Arter specializes in Christmas. He established a successful online Christmas lighting and ornament business, **Christopher Cringle's**, in 2009 at the age of 17.

"I've been working in Christmas since I was 15," he said. "I call myself a Christmas specialist."

Arter has also expanded his business to include clock and watch repair, another one of his passions. He was the youngest by far in his class when he attended classes at the NAWCC School of Horology, where he learned the historic craft of timepiece repair, a job that takes patience and attention to detail-traits Arter also demonstrates in his Christmas decorating.

Clock and watch repair, like the Christmas ornaments and decorating, is a niche business Arter hopes to fill. He anticipates it will keep him busy during the heat of the summer when few are thinking about the holidays.

[christophercringles.com](http://christophercringles.com)

### 16th-Century Automaton Figure Clock



This important South German late 16th-century gilt copper and bronze elephant automaton figure clock was sold at auction at Bukowskis on December 5. The clock-shaped like a war elephant with a mahout and howdah-has an hour and minute dial with Roman

risers, Lincoln's watch can be heard clearly ticking away history, counting down to his final rendezvous with fate.

## NYC MUSEUM TO HOST NEW HOROLOGICAL EXHIBIT



Photo: Frick Collection

### PRECISION AND SPLENDOR: CLOCKS AND WATCHES AT THE FRICK COLLECTION

January 23, 2013, through June 23, 2013

The Frick Collection has one of the most important public collections of European timepieces in the United States, much of it acquired through the 1999 bequest of the New York collector Winthrop Kellogg Edey. This extraordinary gift of 38 watches and clocks, dating from the Renaissance to the early nineteenth century, covers the art of horology in France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. For reasons of space, only part of the collection can be on permanent view in the museum's galleries. In 2001 many pieces from the Edey collection were featured in *The Art of the Timekeeper*. Masterpieces from the Winthrop Edey Bequest, an exhibition organized at the Frick by guest curator William J. H. Andrewes. In the winter and spring of 2013, visitors will have another opportunity to explore the breadth and significance of the Edey collection through an exhibition that presents 14 watches and 11 clocks from his bequest.

Shown in the new Portico Gallery, the exhibition illustrates the stylistic and technical developments of timepieces from 1500 to 1830. Edey's remarkable collection of Renaissance clocks is represented by a master work by Pierre de Fobis (see above) and his interest in watches by significant examples signed by George Smith, Henry Arlaud, Pierre Hnaud, Julien Le Roy, Thomas Mudge, Abraham-Louis and Antoine-Louis Breguet. Also included in this presentation are three spectacular clocks on loan from Horace (Woody) Brock. Never before seen in New York City, they reflect the precision and splendor of the art of clockmaking in eighteenth-century France. This exhibition is organized by Charlotte Vignon, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts.



Photo: Frick Collection

Learn more about this collection [HERE](#).

hours I to XII repeated twice, the inner Arabic 24-hour scale with Zs for 2s, and the outer minute ring with Arabic five-minute markers. The striking dial shows Arabic hours 1-12.

The final auction hammer price on this intricate clock was \$691,467.75.

## First Annual NAWCC Conservation Seminar

"Preservation of Clock  
Mechanisms and Their  
Cases"

May 2-4, 2013

Location: NAWCC campus  
in Columbia, PA.

Topics will include:

*Conservation vs.  
Restoration vs. Repair;  
Principles and Objectives  
for Maintaining an Artifact;  
Replacement Parts,  
Reusability Principle,  
Materials, Marriages,  
Conversion,  
Custodianship, Scholarship;  
Conservation vs.  
Restoration of Mechanism  
and Repair; , and Principles  
of Ethical Horology.*

**4 days of lectures,  
hands-on demonstration,  
and discussion.**

Early registration rates  
available until March 18.

Click [HERE](#) to learn  
more.

## JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK

Click the link below to view  
documentarian Emon  
Hassan's excellent video  
exploration of **Master  
Horologist John  
Metcalf!**

Click [HERE](#) to learn  
more.



London Stock Exchange, 1842

**Charles Dickens** often used clocks and watches as a plot device in his stories. In *A Christmas Carol* "Scrooge could be found in his usual place beneath the clock at 'change" (at the Stock Exchange). Also important to the story is Scrooge's pocket watch, a minute repeater, that tells him when to expect the arrival of his ghostly visitors. Nor was the old miser Scrooge much prone to trust the local church clock, even remarking that it was less than accurate since "an icicle must have got into the works."

## CITY OF YONKERS AUCTIONS OFF DECOMMISSIONED STREET CLOCK ONLINE



(Photo: YonkersCARStore.com)

The city of Yonkers, NY, recently put the old clock tower from Getty Square up for auction online, with bids starting at \$660. The 50-year-old clock, which is about 19 feet tall and weighs nearly three tons, was replaced as part of a \$500,000 renovation project in the downtown square.

The clock was among the more unusual offerings on the city's recently implemented online auction site: YonkersCARStore.com. Since June, the city has sold more than \$600,000 worth of surplus items, including vehicles, cameras, computers, paintings, traffic lights, and even an old punch clock from City Hall.

The broken, four-face street clock was replaced with a new model last October. The location of the clock-the new one was made in Illinois-was moved about 100 feet to put it within the protection of the fenced-in, landscaped center of the square. The old clock, which had been in service since the 1970s and was prone to malfunction, would have cost \$25,000 to fix and has little historical value, city officials said. Its replacement cost \$20,000.

Yonkers resident Thomas Ash, 62, said he can't remember ever keeping time by the old clock because it always seemed to be out of order. "I'm so

## MEMBER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Current members: recruit a new member and receive a \$35 voucher that can be applied to next year's dues!** The voucher must be submitted when paying next year's dues or members can call toll free 1-877-255-1849 to redeem (voucher cannot be submitted online). The recruited member cannot have been a prior member. If the new regular member joins online or mails their application, they must complete the "referred by" field for the recruiting member to benefit from this incentive (cannot be used in conjunction with a gift membership, limit one voucher per year).

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING FOR NAWCC MEMBERS AT OUR GIFT STORE!

Books, tools, jewelry, association memorabilia, and many other wonderful gift opportunities await you in the **NAWCC Giftshop**. View our online catalog and give your friends and loved ones a gift that will last the tests of time... a horological gift from our Association!

Visit the NAWCC GIFTSHOP HERE:

[NAWCCSTORE.ORG](http://NAWCCSTORE.ORG)

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glad to have a new clock that works," he said.

## Horology in the Media

### HOLIDAY SIGHTINGS



The Parker family, as depicted in the modern classic holiday film **A Christmas Story**, poses in their 1940 kitchen under a German-made Junghans's porcelain 8-Day Wall Clock common to the period.



These four clocks appear in classic holiday films from the 30's and 40's. From Left to Right: 1) A jolly British "Act of Parliament" clock reflects the image of overworked Bob Cratchit in 1938's **A Christmas Carol**. 2) An ornate 19th c French ormolu cartel wall clock hangs in the parlor in **Christmas in Connecticut** (1945). 3) This rugged tall case clock with swan neck pediment and column supports also appears in **Christmas in Connecticut**. 4) The third entry from that film, the hallway wall clock on the far right, is a mystery-- an odd, rustic tavern-type clock of undetermined style and origin. But it can still measure time and tell us when it's time for the holidays!

## FILM

### THE HOBBIT



(Photo: New Line Cinema/Warner)

## A RIDDLE IN THE DARK HAS A HOROLOGICAL ANSWER

**The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (2012) - This fantasy adaptation of JRR Tolkien's 1937 children's novel **The Hobbit, or There and Back Again**, mostly concerns itself with epic battles between elves, dwarves, goblins, and dragons... but it will probably include the famous riddle-duel between protagonist Bilbo Baggins and the dastardly creature Gollum, in which the following classic riddle is asked:

This thing all things devours:  
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
Gnaws iron, bites steel;  
Grinds hard stones to meal;  
Slays king, ruins town,  
And beats high mountain down.

Of course, as any dedicated horologist could tell you... the answer is TIME.

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