

## Harris, Markus

**From:** NAWCC [newsletters@nawcc.org]  
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National Watch & Clock

# MUSEUM

The National Watch and Clock Museum is part of the **National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors**. The NAWCC has more than 18,000 members worldwide and is the largest organization dedicated to the art and science of timekeeping. The National Watch and Clock Museum has one of the world's largest collections of timepieces. The 17,000 collection is housed at the NAWCC headquarters in Columbia, PA. In addition to the Museum, the association operates a library and research center and the accredited School of Horology where students learn to become professional watch and clockmakers.

## GALLET

GENEVE · 1685



Gallet & Co. traces its watchmaking roots to 1466 when Humbertus Gallet began making clocks under his family name. In 1826 Julien Gallet officially registered the company in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland with an emphasis in pocket watches. Since then, Gallet has gained the reputation as the "professional's watch." Various Gallet editions have been popular with people in the medical profession, nautical,

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year! We formally welcome 2011 with this special edition of the NAWCC eHappenings online newsletter, in which we report the latest news of the revolutionary partnership between Gallet Watch and the National Watch & Clock Museum, and detail how the good people at Gallet have pledged their support to the museum. It truly is an amazing story.

Enjoy!

### Museum Partners With World-Famous Watch Producer for Million-Dollar Fundraising Project



THE GALLET FLIGHT OFFICER

The National Watch & Clock Museum in Columbia, PA has partnered with the internationally-renowned Swiss company Gallet Watch Group to produce a special edition of one of the most famous watches ever made, with a significant portion of the proceeds set to benefit the National Watch & Clock Museum.

aviation, race car driving, and other fields where critical timing is needed. During the 19th and early 20th century Gallet watches were popular among railroad workers, and it was a recommended timepiece at several railroad companies.

Gallet and Co. is credited with introducing the first wrist-worn watch made for mass distribution. In 1895 these first "wristwatches" were introduced to the American consumer. However, the concept did not gain popularity due to public perception "as being too unusual for women and too feminine for men."

All unsold examples were returned to Switzerland for disassembly. Wristwatches did not become popular until WWI when Allied Forces realized the innovation allowed soldiers to tell time in combat situations. Since then Gallet has supplied many of the wristwatches worn by United States and Allied servicemen.

Gallet also enjoys a reputation as a leading timepiece chosen by other professionals. Gallet editions have been designed for aviators, doctors, nurses, yachtsmen, and auto-racing professionals.

## THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC

The historic **Gallet Flight Officer** chronograph, first introduced for the use of professional aviators and military pilots in 1938, has remained a favorite of both military and civilian flyers for decades. It was the world's first wristwatch to combine time zone calculations with elapsed time recording capabilities. The watch was a well-known favorite of Truman, who recommended it as a requirement for pilots of the US Army Air forces during WWII, and who personally wore a Gallet Flight Officer during his term as America's 33rd president.

During the 72 years since the watch made its debut, Gallet has continuously upgraded the Flight Officer with the most advanced technology available to the timekeeping arts. The very pinnacle of this evolution is expressed in the new "Museum

Named the Museum Edition Flight Officer, the watch is the 21st century edition of a classic timepiece. The new watch features a state-of-the-art movement that pushes the limits of what can be accomplished with mechanics. National Watch & Clock Museum Director Noel Poirier said he is excited about the project because of the watch's historical significance. "We joined the project because we realized this watch has great historical significance, and also because it represents to the modern watch enthusiasts the need to preserve the history of timekeeping."

[Click HERE to read recent Chronos Article on the Gallet Museum Partnership](#)



## THE WHOLE STORY

The Museum, in 2008, presented an exhibit of Presidential Timepieces among which was President Harry S. Truman's Gallet Flight Officer wristwatch. While conducting research for the exhibit, and fielding requests from media for information on the objects in the exhibit, the Museum contacted Gallet to learn more about the watch. This seemingly routine process led to a unique partnership between Gallet Watch Group and the National Watch & Clock Museum.

"We were really interested in learning as much as we could about President Truman's watch" states Poirier, "We never anticipated, or quite frankly knew of, Gallet's long history of supporting museums like ours."

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The Museum Edition Flight Officer, powered by Gallet's in-house manufactured MultiChron "Duo-force" calibre G330, is the world's

Edition Flight Officer," considered by many in the watch industry to be the most accurate and highly developed mechanical pilot's watch ever made.

Gallet has a long history of supporting the preservation of the history, art, and science of timekeeping. The company provided funds in 1899 to build the renowned Museum of Watchmaking in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, and has maintained a 111 year tradition of supporting institutions that preserve the history and educate the public about the noble art of timekeeping. Since first working with the National Watch & Clock Museum in 2008, Gallet has consistently supported the Museum's exhibit schedule by providing financial assistance for other exhibits and projects. Gallet is raising the bar of its commitment to the Museum by providing this new, extraordinary timepiece in a limited edition as a direct benefit to the National Watch & Clock Museum.

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first self-winding split rattrapante chronograph to be powered by twin mainsprings. Besides the extended duration of 72 hours between winds, this unique synthesis of features insures the highest level of chronometer accuracy, regardless of whether the watch is only utilized for telling the time, or when one or both timers are activated.

As the ultimate pilot's wristwatch, the Museum Edition Flight Officer is designed to provide the wearer with the ability to calculate the time across all 24 of the world's time zones. The Museum Edition Flight Officer is also equipped with an extra large date feature and housed in a 42mm diameter case, water resistant to 100 meters or 328 feet, with screw down winding crown and screw-lock activation pushers.

Each timepiece is painstakingly hand assembled, inspected, and tested numerous times throughout the assembly procedure. From start to finish, each Museum Edition Flight Officer requires numerous weeks of assembly, as well as the time involved in certification by the Official Swiss Chronometer Testing Institute (Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres).

Every Museum Edition Flight Officer will be beautifully engraved on the reverse with the Museum logo and the edition number. This edition number is also included on the accompanying official registration documents and Certificate of Authenticity.



David Laurence, Gallet's chief of operations and head of North American operations, says, "Gallet is 'the real thing,' not pretentious or frivolous in its design and features. We follow a strict adherence to the principle of form following function. The Museum Edition Flight Officer is understated, utilitarian, and incorporates the very best of what is needed for the professional user.

"Gallet watches are designed to professional standards. It's the watch worn by professionals, and people who appreciate professionalism," Laurence said.

**For more information, visit**  
<http://www.GalletWatch.com>

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