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HAPPENINGS
JANUARY 2009

New Outreach Programs for Chapters!

[Youth Activity Kits for Your Chapter Events](#)

[Create Your Own Exhibits with Museum Exhibit Panels and Your Chapter's Artifacts](#)

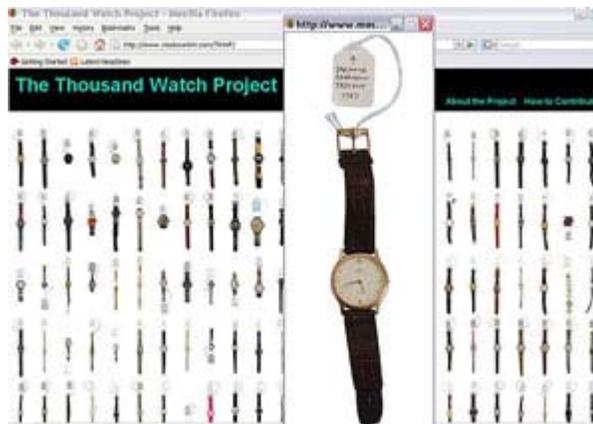


Time & Exploration: Earth, Sea & Space is coming to the Museum this spring! The exhibit will highlight the importance of time and timekeeping to the fields of exploration and navigation and will present navigational instruments and stories from the world's explorers, both modern and historical. Objects will include astrolabes, marine chronometers, compasses, sextants, surveying equipment, chronometers, GPS devices and more.

Dear NAWCC Member,
Best wishes to you for 2009! This issue highlights watches past and present: [a nineteenth-century pocket watch](#) that was mistaken for a demon and thrown into a moat and [a new virtual home](#) for the watch you can't bring yourself to just throw away. See the sidebar at left for NAWCC programs and opportunities and find information on [2009 School of Horology Workshops and Field Suitcase Workshops](#) below.
Enjoy!

Watches we never wear . . . but just can't bear to throw away!

A Thousand Watches Find Permanent Home in Online Collection



Boston architect Keith Moskow received the Omega watch above as a graduation present from his mother. When it was accidentally damaged after going through a washing machine wash cycle, he couldn't throw it away. Now his watch has a permanent home as No. 4 on The Thousand Watch Project website. Keith and his partner Robert Linn developed the watch project after a few years of amassing a collection of their own and client watches in a box at the office. They realized that if they had watches that couldn't be thoughtlessly disposed of, others had the same problem. They advertise on Craig's List and have received media coverage as far away as Australia. Their mission is explained on the site:
"Our goal is to create a 1000 watch commemorative collection of old, discarded wrist watches. Each watch will receive an epitaph written by the owner and can be visited in our online gallery at www.MoskowLinn.com/TKWP.
"To add your watch to the collection, send it to Moskow Linn Architects with a 10 word epitaph including your name. The watch will be cataloged, numbered and put away for posterity."

**Have you visited
the newly
upgraded NAWCC
Message Board?**

[Take a Look!](#)

And so the site grows, with irresistible little tags affixed to each watch that offer a teasing glimpse of former owners: the bright yellow Cheerios watch tag reads, "Timepiece worn for years by 50-something engineer"; and an expandable-band Timex tag reveals, "last thing found in attic when grandpa sold the house." One large donation, from retiring watchmaker J.R., was donated via a rendezvous in a store parking lot. It was a big, jumbled boxful of watches. Moskow said, "he told me he could never stand to throw a watch away-even the broken ones."

Young staff members at MoskowLinn tell time via cell phone, but Moskow doesn't feel dressed without a wristwatch, even though it may be just a Swatch. In a telephone conversation he said, "Maybe we are witnessing, in the wristwatch, something that's passing. Why can't we throw them out? They're too personal-they become a part of us. But now there's the cell phone, which is like a pocketwatch-you pull it out of your pocket and flip it open to tell the time. We're going forward . . . yet going backward . . . at the same time."

"Chattering" watch thrown into moat but defies watery fate

This newspaper clipping, dated September 18, 1899, was found in the front of a copy of *American Horological Journal* donated to the Library and Research Center.



For years Dr. Allan, the Scottish physician, was suspected of being a wizard, an opinion which was considered all but confirmed when, in 1630, he provided himself with a silver watch of the regulation size and style. Chancing to stop with a neighbor over night and it being somewhat cold, he laid the watch near his body and covered it with the bed-quilts so that the chilly weather would not affect the works. Next morning he arose rather abruptly, and left the house without removing his treasure from its cozy nest in the bed.

In fixing up the room the servant discovered "the infernal chattering thing," and immediately concluded that it must be the old doctor's "familiar spirit," conclusions which she hardly arrived at before she had fled wildly from the room. Other servants were called and the whole array charged the "chattering thing" in the bed. Club and tongs were freely used, but the case was strong and the thing still chattered defiantly. One of the girls, more courageous than the others, finally agreed that she would take the tongs and carry the thing to the moat and drown it, a proceeding fraught with danger, but at last decided upon. The others followed at a respectable distance with hoes, clubs and shovels, with which they proposed to pounce on the thing should it attempt to attack the heroic girl. When the old doctor returned for his watch he was informed of what had been done, one of the servants leading the way to where

the thing had been drowned. It was found hanging on a bush on the bank of the moat. The failure to beat or drown the thing to death fully convinced the servants that it was in reality the old wizard's spirit, and they could not be persuaded to touch it.

The story is related simply to show what rarities watches must have been even at that late period of the seventeenth century.

Time to take advantage of the many offerings at the School of Horology and of the Field Suitcase Workshop Program



If your New Year's Resolutions includes the wish to learn something new, why not treat yourself to a weekend workshop. The School of Horology has workshop programs designed for beginner and advanced students interested in learning more about and caring for timepieces. Through hands-on learning the program builds confidence and skill in watch and clock repair and maintenance.

[Weekend Workshop Information](#)

If the School of Horology location is out of your travel area please consider the Field Suitcase Workshops for 2009. The excellent instructors in this program are committed to providing outstanding training in technical repair and restoration.

[Field Suitcase Workshop Classes for 2009](#)

Comments or Suggestions?

Please email:

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