

## Harris, Markus

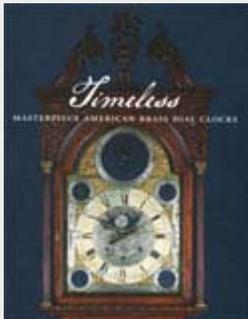
**From:** NAWCC <newsletters@nawcc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 1:56 PM  
**To:** Harris, Markus  
**Subject:** Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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### A Timeless Membership Offer



Upgrade your NAWCC membership to the Silver contributory level or above and receive *Timeless: Masterpiece American Brass Dial Clocks* by Frank Hohmann III. This clothbound 376-page book features over 500 full-color images of clock cases and movements of the very finest American clocks dating from about 1720 through 1785. Essay topics in this book include clock accuracy, their role in society, workshop organization and business, clock case stylistic evolution, and others. This special opportunity to receive *Timeless*, which retails for \$125, is made possible through the generosity of author Frank Hohmann, an

Dear NAWCC Member,

Summer is just a few days old, vacation season is well underway, and the longest, hottest days of the season are upon us.

This month we examine a recent auction; discuss an award-winning horological play; consider the connection between a common wristwatch and an international threat, and top it all off with an informative jaunt through the theater scene and a movie comedy.

Enjoy!

### RARE WATCH COLLECTION OF FAMED AUTOMAKER SOLD AT AUCTION



1918 Vacheron Constantin chronograph. Photo: Christie's

Christie's June 15 auction in NYC realized sales of watches from the near-legendary watch collection of auto tycoon James Ward Packard.

The Packard watches are notable for uniqueness and pristine condition; they were locked out of sight for over half a century. On public display for the first time in June, some were unknown before the sale.

Packard was an American auto manufacturer and inventor who worked directly with manufacturers and designers, including Patek Philippe and Vacheron Constantin.

In 1918 Vacheron Constantin created a unique gold, open-face chronograph pocketwatch for Packard that included a customized set of complications: trip minute-repeating, grande and petite sonnerie, chronograph, and half-quarter repeating functions. It sold in June for \$1.8 million dollars. That was one of several custom timepieces in the

NAWCC member since 1996. The \$250 Silver contributory-level membership includes an Associate membership, an annual reception, and a recognition pin. [Click HERE](#) for information about all contributory membership levels. Call member services at 877-255-1849 to upgrade your membership and receive *Timeless*.

### CHRISTIAN MARCLAY'S 24-HOUR ART FILM *THE CLOCK* COMES TO BOSTON

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts recently announced the acquisition of Christian Marclay's revolutionary time-telling video *The Clock* (purchased jointly with the National Gallery of Canada) to screen September 17-18 at the MFA's 24-hour opening celebration for its newly renovated Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art.

[Learn more](#)

### Congratulations CANADIAN CLOCK MUSEUM

Last October Allan Symons received a Lifetime Achievement Award of Excellence from the Ontario Museum Association for his contributions to the museum community in Ontario. Visit the **Canadian Clock Museum** in Deep River, Ontario.

[Canadian Clock Museum](#)

### SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

If you live near the NAWCC national campus in Columbia, PA, and would like to take part in our seasonal volunteer activities, please contact Katie Knaub:

[kknaub@nawcc.org](mailto:kknaub@nawcc.org)

sale, all of which fetched astonishing prices.

Packard was the inspiration for a generation of serious watch collectors. He combined skills as a mechanical engineer with connections to the best Swiss watch companies of his day to produce unique timepieces created to his own demanding specifications. Many have never been matched or duplicated.

Packard's style, evident in the automobiles created by his company, is seen in the design and styling of the watches he created and collected.

[Read more about the sale](#)

### CASIO WRISTWATCH LINKED TO AL-QAIDA



#### Inexpensive Digital Wristwatch Known To Be A Favorite Of Terrorist Bomb Makers

The Casio F-91W wristwatch, an inexpensive, widely available quartz digital wristwatch, has been identified by leading terrorism experts as an item in use by agents of al-Qaida.

Briefing documents used to train anti-terrorism personnel at Guantánamo Bay advise that possession of the F-91W-- available online for around \$10-- may indicate the wearer has been trained in explosives handling and bomb making by al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

The report states: "The Casio was known to be given to the students at al-Qaida bomb-making training courses in Afghanistan at which the students received instruction in the preparation of timing devices using the watch.

"Approximately one-third of the JTF-GTMO detainees that were captured with these models of watches have known connections to explosives, either having attended explosives training, having association with a facility where IEDs were made or where explosives training was given, or having association with a person identified as an explosives expert."



### LOST NAPOLEAN CLOCK SOLD

A rare and historic clock believed to have been designed for Napoleon's



### CHE GUEVARA ART CLOCK

This unusual artwork illustrates the limits of time as reflected by the life and death of the famous revolutionary.

The dial has no hands; the clockwork maintains accurate time.

[View the installation](#)

### Photo-OP Advertising

#### MART & HIGHLIGHTS PHOTO OP SPECIAL!

Any member who has not advertised in the Mart since 2007 can place a photo and text display ad for a special price of \$49.

[Click for more info](#)

### 66th ANNUAL NAWCC NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors hosted its 66th annual national gathering at the Overland Park Convention Center in Overland Park, KS, June 8-12, 2011.

The keynote address of the convention was given by Tom Splitter, a noted authority on tall clocks. Many activities were open to the public, including the highlighted British Horology Exhibit and a wide assortment of workshops supporting our ongoing mission to educate and further the horological arts.

#### ISOBEL RAMBO

Longtime NAWCC member **Isobel Rambo** passed away at her home in Pequea, PA, on June 24. After graduating from the Ezra Bowman Technical School in 1982, she became a well-known fixture in the watch and clock community of south central PA, serving as secretary of **NAWCC Chapter**

'Exposition publique des produits de l'industrie Francaise' in 1801 was sold at auction at Bonhams on June 28, 2011. The clock was lost in storage for the past 200 years and has only recently been unearthed. Designed by French clockmaker, Hartmann, it uses the French Republican calendar, a decimal time system established in 1793 by Napoleon.

Napoleon instituted the "exposition" in 1798 to showcase France's resurgent industry in the wake of the French Revolution. The 1801 exposition was held in the courtyard of the Louvre, and Hartmann is recorded to have gained an honorable mention for "a clock with eight dials which showed the rising and setting of the sun and the moon phase." It is almost certain that the clock shown by Hartmann to the Emperor in 1801 is the same clock as that sold at Bonhams.

The clock is signed *Hartmann, Paris, invenit et fecit*. The eight enamel dials were made by the foremost dial maker of the day, Joseph Coteau. One of the dials features the months, which were named according to the prevailing conditions, such as "grape harvest," "foggy," "snowy," and "frosty." The new calendar proved unpopular in France and was abandoned by 1806.

## HOROLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### THEATER

#### *HICKORYDICKORY:*

#### AWARD-WINNING PLAY PREMIERES IN CHICAGO



A scene from *Hickorydickory*. Photo: Jeff Pines, [Chicagoreader.com](#).

In Marisa Wegrzyn's play (a script that won her the Wendy Wasserstein Prize in 2009, see [eHappenings Jan 2010](#)) the overriding premise is that embedded within each of us is a "mortal clock," a pocket watch on a chain, preset for the final moment of life. Most people remain unaware of this, but a few gain knowledge of their clock and undergo painful extraction operations to gain advance knowledge of when they will die or attempt to alter the time mechanism. Should a mortal clock stop too soon, an individual doesn't die but is frozen at his or her age at that moment, remaining ageless until the clock is repaired. This work of magical realism is told across three generations of a contemporary family who operates a neighborhood watch and clock repair business.

The world-premiere production was set in three acts, running two hours and 40 minutes. Director Russ Tutterow directed a five-person cast amidst Simon Lashford's storefront scenic design, brimming with clocks and tools. The sound design is by Barry Bennett.

The fictional setting of the play is the "Hickorydickory" clock shop, located in a northern Chicago suburb. Employee Jimmy (played by Thomas Gebbia) has an unusual sideline passed down from his parents:

7 (*The Earl T. Strickler Memorial Chapter*) and receiving the **1998 Volunteer of the Year Award**. She will be missed.

## NEW CLASSROOMS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Construction began in June on new classrooms in the lower level of the Museum building in Columbia, PA. These classrooms will be used for workshops and instructional seminars hosted at National. Special thanks to **Florida Gold Coast Chapter 60** for their generous contribution to the project, as well as **Chapter 140, Chapter 81, Chapter 26, Chapter 124, and Chapter 22**. Donations from **Cadmus and Frank Del Greco** have also funded this project, which is close to being fully funded. If you'd like to help, click below:

[Click here to donate!](#)

## CORRECTION



In the May issue of eHappenings the last name of new youth member **Bella Grimm** was misspelled in the text of the article.

Sorry, Bella! We apologize for the error.

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He can, in certain circumstances, do things to mortal clocks. They can be removed like metallic pocket watches, and he can manipulate the remaining time on the springs.

The play's themes are resonant, asking "is the duration of life a matter of love or willpower, rather than biology?"

[Learn More](#)

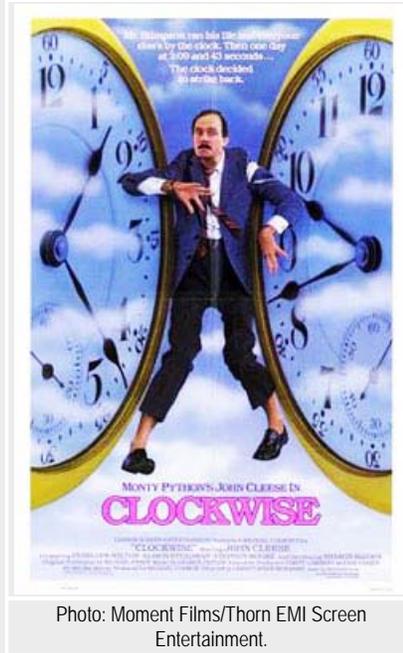


Photo: Moment Films/Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment.

## FILM

### CLOCKWISE:

#### A STERN BRITISH SCHOOLMASTER TRIES TO BEAT THE CLOCK, WITH HILARIOUS RESULTS

*Clockwise* is a 1986 British comedy film directed by Christopher Morahan and starring John Cleese, Penny Leatherbarrow, and Howard Lloyd-Lewis.

Brian Stimpson (Cleese) is the headmaster of **Thomas Tompion Comprehensive School**, a high school in England. Having been habitually late and disorganised as a young man, Stimpson has grown up to become fastidiously punctual and obsessed with time, and he runs his school "like clockwork."

He sets himself, his staff, and pupils, to very high standards. But on his way to a conference at which he will be speaking, he boards the wrong train, loses the text of the speech, and suffers all manner of disasters, each one more hilarious than the last.

For his performance in the film, Cleese won the 1987 Peter Sellers Award for Comedy at the Evening Standard British Film Awards.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Stimpson's school was named after **Thomas Tompion** (1639-1713), the famous clockmaker regarded by many as the father of English clockmaking. He constructed some of the first spring-balanced watches, and some of his timepieces are operational today.

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