

Harris, Markus

From: NAWCC [newsletters@nawcc.org]
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To: Harris, Markus
Subject: Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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Our new online home for auctions, trading, and classifieds boasts over 500 registered members, and grows daily. Special auction features prevent "lurking" and "sniping" tactics by automatically extending bidding deadlines to better accommodate last-minute bidders. NAWCC members can sell and trade; non-members are welcome to browse and buy.

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NAWCC WATCH APPRAISAL COURSE

The NAWCC is now offering a new, exclusive Watch Appraisal course. Participants learn basic fundamentals of watch appraising, and the best basic research materials and books needed for identification and research; hands-on demonstrations show how to identify and research watches.

**Watch Courses are
scheduled for:**

May 9-14, 2011

September 19-24, 2011

Dear NAWCC Member,

This month we report on a high-tech watch investigation, explore the phenomenon known as Steampunk, and look for horology in the film adaptation of a Victorian classic.

Enjoy these stories and more in this issue!

X-RAY ANALYSIS UNLOCKS POCKET WATCH Modern forensics pierce 350 years of rust to reveal the inner beauty of a recovered treasure.

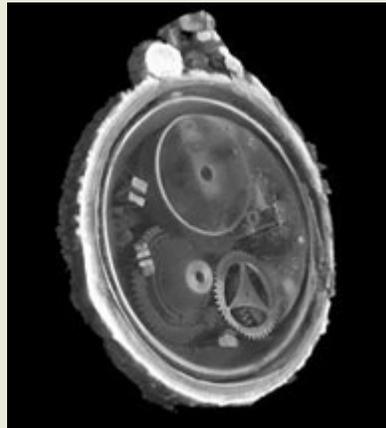


PHOTO CREDIT: Alex Brandon / Associated Press

Stunning details of the internal mechanism of a salvaged pocket watch have been revealed by state-of-the-art X-ray forensics. Cutting edge computer technology, combined with high-powered X-ray scanning equipment, have revealed the internal mechanisms of a corroded, barnacle-covered pocket watch recovered from the wreck of the *Swan*, a small warship that sank off the west coast of Scotland during a violent gale on 13 September 1653. To the naked eye, the rust-covered watch appears to be little more than a lump of rock, but the scans reveal that the mechanism inside is beautifully preserved. The researchers even found the maker's name: an engraving on the watch's top plate, visible via x-ray, reads "Nicholas Higginson of Westminster."

Researchers from the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh used the x-ray images to construct a three-dimensional virtual reconstruction of the watch's lost workings. They hope to use the technique to probe the internal structure of other archaeological artifacts, especially those salvaged from underwater sites. The watch and three-dimensional reconstruction are now on display in the Treasured exhibition of the National Museum of Scotland until 2011.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more

NAWCC CLOCK APPRAISAL COURSE

The NAWCC clock appraisal course, developed and taught by Joe Cohen (FNAWCC), includes an overview of clock types and appropriate terminology, and establishes criteria for making value judgments based on comparative analysis.

Clock Courses are scheduled for:

May 16-21, 2011

September 12-17, 2011

Click [HERE](#) to learn more

Sotheby's Auctions Collection of Important Watches and Clocks



Photo: Sotheby's

A recent Sotheby's auction, entitled [Important Watches and Clocks](#), featured an amazing variety of extremely fine watches, wristwatches, and clocks. Auctioned items included 18th-century enamel watches, snuff boxes, music boxes, and various other mechanical and timekeeping treasures... tourbillions from modern horological masters among them. This collection encompassed nearly every category of horological collecting. Another similar auction, entitled [Important Watches](#), will be held by Sotheby's on Nov. 14.

If you have news of an important horological auction email us [here](#).

"Steampunk" Celebrates Clockwork Horology from a Different Angle



Nemo Nautilus Salon Pressure Clock.
Photo: www.steampuffin.com

All over the world a new generation of alternative horologists are donning waistcoats and Prince Albert chains, sporting Victorian-era fob watches, studying and re-creating intricate clockwork mechanisms, and re-imagining the golden age of mechanical horology in a whole new way. What has spawned this recent wave of interest in antique clocks and watches? A new shared artistic esthetic called Steampunk.

Steampunk is a subgenre of science fiction, alternate history, and speculative fiction that describes an era or world where steam power is still widely used (usually the 19th century and often Victorian-era Britain) and features anachronistic technology or futuristic innovations as Victorians may have envisioned them. This technology may include fictional machines like those found in the works of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne or real technologies (like computers) envisioned as they might have existed had they developed in an earlier era.

Steampunk literature and media portrays a fictionalized Victorian past full of atomic locomotives, coal-powered flying boats, ornate submarines, and Victorian dialogue, and has inspired many fans to modify modern utilitarian objects into a pseudo-Victorian mechanical "steampunk" style. The goal of such projects is to use appropriate Victorian-era materials (such as polished brass, iron, wood, and leather) with design elements and craftsmanship consistent with the Victorian era, applying it instead to modern devices and equipment.

One example of this artistic fusion is artist Tim Wetherell's 2009 wall sculpture for Questacon, representing the concept of the clockwork universe. This steel artwork contains moving gears, a working clock, and a movie of the moon's terminator in action. An incredible example of clockpunk art.

2010 WLE SYMPOSIUM

DU MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL D'HORLOGERIE

November 19-20

Salle Hans Erni,
Musée international
d'horlogerie,
La Chaux-de-Fonds

The 2010 Symposium of the Musée international d'horlogerie will discuss the modern principle of interchangeability within modes of production, which revolutionized the 19th-century clock and watchmaking world.

www.mih.ch

Big Ben's Sister Turns 100

The Ayer Mill Clock Tower in Lawrence, MA, second largest four-faced chiming clock in the world and sister clock to the world famous Big Ben, recently celebrated its centennial anniversary. At 267 ft. high, the Clock Tower rises above the restored mill on South Union Street in Lawrence. On Sunday, October 3, exactly 100 years to the minute since it was first set in motion, the clock bell rang 100 times to mark its centennial year.

Visit www.lawrencehistory.org to learn more.

TAG Heuer and Parsons Announce the 'Art of Watchmaking'

Swiss luxury watch company TAG Heuer and NYC's Parsons The New School for Design recently announced the "Art of Watchmaking," an eight-week design competition during which teams of Parsons students redesign one of Tag Heuer's classic watches, culminating in the selection of three winning timepiece designs. Many aspects of the timepiece are open to interpretation, including the material choice, color and design of the dial, subdials,



'A Clockwork Universe' by Tim Wetherell. Photo by platypusart.com.

What is Clockpunk?

A subgenre of Steampunk, Clockpunk is characterized by advanced technology based on premodern designs, but rather than the steam power of the Industrial Age, the technology used is based on springs and clockwork mechanisms. Both Steampunk and Clockpunk have recently become thriving artistic subcultures among urban twenty-somethings.

From October 2009 through February 2010, the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, hosted the first major exhibition of Steampunk art objects, curated by Art Donovan and presented by Dr. Jim Bennett, museum director. The exhibition proved to be the most successful in the museum's history and attracted more than eighty thousand visitors.

The National Watch & Clock Museum will be hosting a Steampunk event, "The Steampunk Horologia Festival," next September.

Interesting Steampunk and Clockpunk links:

steampunkworkshop.com

klockwerks.com

insectlabstudio.com

Actor Embroiled in Scandal Over High End Watch

hands, indexes, and folding buckle.

A panel of executives from TAG Heuer and LVMH Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton, as well as others, will judge the completed designs. The public may vote for favorite creations on TAG Heuer's Facebook page. Awards will be made in mid-November to the first-, second-, and third-place winning teams.

MEMBERS ONLY FUN "TIME" PENNSYLVANIA TOUR

APRIL 28-MAY 1, 2011



Antique Auto Museum in Hershey
National Watch & Clock Museum
NAWCC Headquarters
NAWCC School of Horology
Bube's Brewery

Learn about Lancaster County farming. Amish Dairy Farm. Kreider Farms
Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant for a potpie-making demonstration,
home to Lancaster County, PA's original Amish Farm Feast.
Mt. Hope Estate Winery for a formal wine tasting.

[CLICK for more info](#)

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Patek Philippe 5970
Photo: Patek Philippe Watches

Hollywood actor Charlie Sheen was photographed wearing his incredibly rare Patek Philippe 5970 while dining in a New York restaurant on October 26, the night the watch disappeared.

Sheen and his date, a 22-year-old actress, left the restaurant to go to his suite at the Plaza Hotel. When the actor noticed that the watch was missing, he reportedly became distraught and blamed the actress.

Sheen is still missing his expensive wristwatch and has been charged with holding the actress hostage while attempting to recover the missing timepiece.

The Patek Philippe 5970, which sells for \$150K, is sought after by celebrity collectors.

Court documents reveal that Mr. Sheen's timepiece collection is valued at 5.5 million dollars.

Horology in the Media

THE TIME MACHINE: H.G. Wells' Original Classic Introduces Time Travel as a Victorian Obsession



The Machine. Photo: D. Cardle.

The Time Machine is a science fiction novella by H. G. Wells, published in 1895 for the first time and later adapted into several feature films, television programs, and multiple adaptations, novels, and stories. Wells' original story is credited with the popularization of the concept of time travel, using a vehicle that allows an operator to travel purposefully and selectively. The term "time machine," coined by Wells, is now universally

used to refer to such a vehicle.

1960 film adaptation "**H.G. Wells' The Time Machine**" is a British science fiction film in which a man from Victorian England constructs a time traveling machine and visits the future. It starred Rod Taylor, Alan Young, and Yvette Mimieux and was produced by George Pal. The film received an Oscar for time-lapse photographic effects.



The Time Traveler's Clock Collection reveals his obsession with horology. 1960. Photo: MGM

On January 5, 1900, four friends arrive for a dinner in London, but their host, H. George Wells (Rod Taylor), is absent. Suddenly George staggers in, exhausted and disheveled. He recounts his adventures since they last met.

A week earlier, George had shown them a tiny machine that he claimed could travel in time, stating that a larger version could carry a man "into the past or the future." When activated, the device blurs and then disappears. Most of his friends dismiss it as a trick. Filby warns George that if it is not a trick, it is not for them "to tempt the laws of Providence." They agree to meet again next Friday.



One wall of the Time Traveler's Study. 1960. Photo: MGM

George heads to his laboratory and pilots his full-scale model into the future, where he encounters evidence of future world wars and ecological disaster. He finally halts the machine on October 12, 802,701, in a seemingly idyllic pastoral paradise. There he encounters a young woman named Weena (Yvette Mimieux) and her people, the Eloi. George is surprised to find out that the Eloi have no government, no laws, and no civilization to speak of. He returns to where he had left his time machine, but it has been dragged into an underground structure by parties unknown. Weena warns George against creatures she calls "Morlocks," bizarre monstrosities. In the days that follow, George learns that in the wake of a centuries-long nuclear war, one group of survivors remained underground in the shelters and evolved into the Morlocks, while the other, which became the Eloi, remained on the surface.

Weena and other Eloi are lured underground by the Morlocks. George enters the subterranean caverns to rescue them and discovers that the Morlocks are cannibals who feed on the Eloi. George does battle with the Morlocks, successfully leading the Eloi back to the surface and safety.

While trying to retrieve his machine, he is attacked by Morlocks. George manages to activate the machine and escape, first to the far future and then back to January 5, 1900.



The Time Traveler's bedside table. From the 2002 remake. Photo: Warner Bros.

George's friends scoff at his story and leave; only Filby believes him. Filby turns back, but by the time he reaches the laboratory, George has set out in his time machine, intent on returning to the future—this time, forever.

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