

Harris, Markus

From: NAWCC <newsletters@nawcc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 5:16 PM
To: Harris, Markus
Subject: Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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**The 2011
Ward Francillon
Time Symposium
(October 20-22, Hebron KY)
focused on Ohio clock and watch
makers.**

The event was well attended and worthwhile from an educational standpoint. Tours and talks were enjoyable, and the Symposium display was jam packed with something of interest for all who attended. The event was a huge success-- thanks to the organizers who planned it and the infectious enthusiasm of the attendees.

Dr. George Daniels



Photo: BBC

Dr. George Daniels, senior Past Master of The Clockmakers' Company, died at his home on October 21. Hailed as the "greatest horologist of all time," the 85-year-old Daniels was responsible for important horological advancements. Dr. Daniels' most famous innovation was the coaxial escapement. Daniels authored many books and won numerous awards, including the Gold Medal of the British Horological Institute.

WATCH EXHIBITION

Dear NAWCC Member,

This month we discuss two exhibitions: one of mechanical automatons and one of historical clocks and watches; we also note the changing horological landscape, explore a "Celtic Stonehenge," and consider a nightmare future where time and money converge.

Enjoy!



Photo: A La Vieille Russie gallery

MECHANICAL WONDERS ON DISPLAY IN NYC

A magnificent collection of jeweled windup automatons is on display at A La Vieille Russie gallery on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Most of these works of art were manufactured in Switzerland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and work as snuffboxes, perfume containers, and timepieces. Clockwork mechanisms power tiny birds, boats, crystal waterfalls, magicians, lumberjacks and cupids; a bejeweled caterpillar crawls, a peasant toddles across tables, and a pearl-encrusted frog hops and croaks. A swan and a peacock emerge from nests in Fabergé eggs that Nicholas II bought as Easter presents for his mother. Birds strut, preen and nod.

The collection belonged to a Swiss pharmaceuticals heir Maurice Sandoz, who died in 1958. He collected mainly Swiss windups, as well as Fabergé. The show at A La Vieille Russie, was organized with the Swiss

SCHEDULED FOR KUWAIT CITY

The Specialized Watches Exhibition is scheduled to open at the Kuwait International Fair Ground on November 23rd to December 3rd, 2011. In addition to the latest watch and clock models there will be workshops and seminars focusing on new maintenance and service technologies available to industry professionals.

JAMES TYSON CARSON

Longtime NAWCC Member James Tyson Carson, 86, passed away on April 20, 2011. James joined the NAWCC May 1, 1947; his member number was 406. He was one of six members still with us who joined in the 1940's. He left the NAWCC a 1903 Mannhardt (German) tower clock that he had sent back to the states when he was fighting in Germany with the 14th Armored Division during World War II.

PHOTO EXHIBIT DISPLAYS RARE TIMEPIECES



In the new exhibit **A Journey Into the Time of the Maharajahs**, visitors can view priceless timepieces worn by Indian royals. In a collaboration with art organisation Tasveer, Swiss watchmaker Vacheron Constantin is displaying two rare watches that belonged to Sir Bhupindra Singh, Maharaja of Patiala. These include a 1916 women's watch featuring intricate engravings and a 1909 pocket watch, which has an alarm and chronograph with a minute counter, both worn by the Patiala royalty. The watches have been brought to India from the Vacheron Constantin Heritage department in Geneva. The exhibition, which began in **New Delhi**, will remain in

watchmaker Parmigiani Fleurier and runs through Nov. 26. (Admission is \$15.)

Leaning Tower of London?

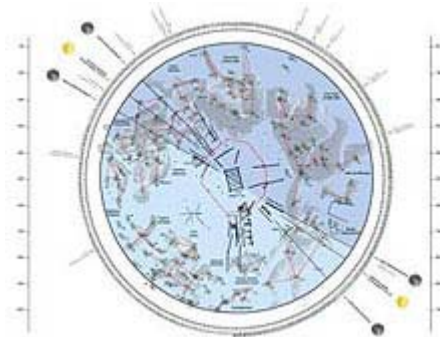


Photo: Reuters

British landmark Big Ben is leaning to such an extent that the tilt can now be seen with the naked eye, according to a report commissioned by London Underground and the Parliamentary Estates Department.

The famous clock tower of the Houses of Parliament, known colloquially as Big Ben, the name of the great bell it houses, is sinking unevenly into the ground, causing it to lean towards the northwest. Although not considered unsafe, the tilt has accelerated since 2003. According to the report, years of underground development have contributed to the tilt, including the construction of an underground parking structure and an extension of the London Underground. Changes in ground conditions are another cause.

In addition to Big Ben, other consequences include the formation of cracks in the walls and ceilings of parts of the House of Commons, including the Minister's Wing. The Palace of Westminster, also known as the Houses of Parliament, is the site of Britain's House of Lords and the House of Commons.



Early Celtic burial mound & constellations.

Photo courtesy of Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum

EARLY CELTIC STONEHENGE DISCOVERED IN GERMANY

A huge Celtic calendar construction has been discovered in the royal tomb of Magdalenenberg, nearby Villingen-Schwenningen in Germany's Black Forest. This discovery was made by researchers when they evaluated old

Mumbai till October 29, then will travel to **Ahmedabad** (Dec 16-25), **Bangalore** (Jan 18 - Feb 9) and **Kolkata** (Mar 16-23).

HISTORIC WATCH TO BE AUCTIONED

A historic wristwatch once owned by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will be auctioned in November as part of a collection of rare timepieces at Sotheby's.

Dr. Prasad's watch is estimated at between \$222,000 and \$444,000 and has never before appeared on the market.

The Geneva auction features a selection of rare timepieces dating from 1574 to today, including a Rolex owned by the first German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer.

CHARITY AUCTION RAISES \$6 MILLION

International horology lovers gathered at the Hotel Hermitage in Monaco in September to attend a charity auction as the final stop of a summer-long traveling exhibit of timepieces. Connoisseurs bidding on the 40 innovative watches included Prince Albert II of Monaco and Rolling Stones' Ronnie Woods.

International participants raised \$6.2 million to combat Muscular Dystrophy.

NAWCC APPRAISAL COURSES

The NAWCC now offers both **Watch and Clock Appraisal Courses**.

Clock Course Dates:
May 4-9

Watch Course Dates:
May 11-16

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Our online home for auctions, trading, and classifieds now has over 1,400 registered members and continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Auction fees are 1/3 the price of similar online

excavation plans. The order of the burials around the central royal tomb fits exactly with the sky constellations of the Northern hemisphere.

Although Stonehenge was oriented towards the sun, the burial mound of Magdalenenberg was oriented towards the moon. The builders positioned long rows of wooden posts in the burial mound to focus on the Lunar Standstills, which happen every 18.6 year and were the "corner stones" of the Celtic calendar.

The position of the burials at Magdeleneberg represents a constellation pattern that can be seen between midwinter and midsummer 618 BC, making this location the earliest and most complete example of a Celtic calendar focused on the moon.

Julius Caesar reported in his war commentaries about the moon-based calendar of the Celtic culture. Following his conquest of Gaul and the destruction of the Gallic culture, these calendars were completely forgotten in Europe.



Photo: Admiral Cochrane's pocket watch was a gift from his father when he joined the Royal Navy.
© National Museums Scotland.

COCHRANE EXHIBIT TO DISPLAY POCKET WATCH OF "MASTER AND COMMANDER"

Admiral Thomas Cochrane inspired Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey and C.S. Forester's Hornblower; he even appeared as a character in one of Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe novels, but you may never have heard of him.

The nineteenth century naval hero, who was well known to Napoleon, praised by Sir Walter Scott, and envied by Lord Byron, has been largely forgotten by history. However, a new exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland gives him the recognition he deserves.

The exhibition brings together a range of documents and artifacts, including the pocket watch that Cochrane's father gave him when he joined the navy.

Exhibition: Admiral Cochrane - the Real Master and Commander, National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, until February 19 2012.
Open 10 am-5 pm daily. Admission free.

auction websites. NAWCC members can sell and trade; non-members are welcome to browse and buy.

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Photo: Wall Street Journal

FAMED NYC CLOCK TOWER BUILDING BOUGHT BY MARRIOTT

Marriott International, Inc., has agreed to buy Manhattan's famous Clock Tower building. The company signed a contract earlier this month to pay \$165 million to Africa Israel USA for the property.

Marriott joins a long list of big names in the real-estate industry that either owned or agreed to buy the Clock Tower with dreams of converting the 1909 office building into a hotel or luxury residence.

The clock tower was built 102 years ago for insurer MetLife, Inc., and was modeled after the Campanile di San Marco in Venice. At 700 ft. it was the world's tallest building until 1913, when it was surpassed by the Woolworth building in lower Manhattan.

HOROLOGY IN THE MEDIA

FILM

IN TIME:

**THE CHASE IS ON THROUGH A FRIGHTENING
FUTURE WHERE TIME--LITERALLY--IS MONEY**



Photo: New Regency Pictures

In Time comes from writer/director Andrew Niccol and tells the tale of Will Salas (Justin Timberlake), a man from the wrong side of the tracks who is wrongfully accused of murder. In this dystopian future the aging gene is switched off and people stop aging at 25, but they are genetically engineered to live only one more year after that unless they can buy more time. Time is a currency traded for luxuries and necessities. The rich can live forever, while the rest try to negotiate with the police, or "Timekeepers," to extend their lives.

Falsely accused and pursued by a corrupt Timekeeper (Cillian Murphy), Salas is forced to go on the run with beautiful hostage Sylvia (Amanda Seyfried). Living minute to minute, the duo's love for one another becomes a powerful tool in their war against the system as they embark on a quest to make those in power pay.

In this cinematic world time is infinitesimally measured and dispensed as a spendable commodity--a nightmarish inversion of free will sure to haunt the horologist in everyone.

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