

**From:** NAWCC <newsletters@nawcc.org>

**Subject:** Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

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**"STEEL TIME"  
COMING TO  
WATCH & CLOCK  
MUSEUM**

Gunmetal watches developed shortly after the Franco-Prussian War as a new type of less expensive watch style available to all classes of society. In creative hands, steel did much to popularize watches. A remarkable display of nearly 200 gunmetal watches opens at the National Watch and Clock Museum on Saturday, October 6, and runs through December 11. Each burnished steel piece (dated between 1850 and 1910) is unique in a variety of styles and techniques. The collection, brought together by François-Paul Journe and previously exhibited in New York, Geneva, and Tokyo, is detailed in the 300-page book *Steel Time* by Jean Claude Sabrier and Georges Rigot.

**FINDING THE  
PERFECT  
HOROLOGICAL FILM**

Dear NAWCC Member,

This month we examine some "celebrity" watches being sold at auction, take note of an amusing accident in clockmaking, note an excellent British horological event, and discuss a thrilling film starring a hero who must turn time to his favor or lose everything.

Enjoy!

**Eric Clapton Sells Ultra Rare  
Patek Philippe At Auction**



Photo: Christie's

Legendary musician Eric Clapton is selling a rare platinum-cased Patek Philippe, one of only two ever made in platinum, and the only one in private hands. The other example resides in the Patek Philippe Museum in Geneva, making this sale extremely special: this watch could fetch more than \$4 million. The official Christie's estimate for Clapton's Patek is 2.5 million-4.0 million Swiss francs, or about \$2.6 million-\$4.25 million at current exchange rates. A rose gold version of the same watch sold at auction earlier this year for \$2.8 million.

Clapton is a renowned watch collector, who even released a greatest hits album called "Timepieces." Only 349 watches of this make and model were ever released, and the two versions cased in platinum were most likely never originally intended for public sale. Clapton's watch entered the market in 1989, when it was consigned to the historical "The Art of Patek Philippe" auction and sold to a prominent European collector, who sold it to another buyer before it was purchased by Clapton.

**CLOCK DELIVERED WITH NUMBERS IN WRONG ORDER**

## PROP CAN BE HARD



Director Rian Johnson's new futuristic film **Looper** creates a realistic world of the future, home to actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt's character, Joe. Joe is a hit man who takes assignments assassinating time travelers from the future...and he carries a pocket watch.

Fortunately, James Kroning, the prop master in charge of selecting the perfect watch for Joe, collects timepieces and has amassed nearly 2,000. The search for Joe's special watch involved researching many different watch styles, and the chosen watch—a Turkish military pocket watch, circa 1840, with ornate Turkish Arabic ciphers and intricate gold filigree on the porcelain dial—has an extremely unusual look. The delicate nature of the watch made it more difficult to deal with.

"I couldn't even get watchmakers-- and I'm talking about 80-year-old watchmakers in downtown Los Angeles-- to even open it to try to adjust the time," Kroning said in a recent interview. "They said it's so old that if they took the crystal out, the whole porcelain dial might shatter into a million pieces and you'd never have it back together again."

### NAWCC LIBRARY INSTALLS NEW ONLINE CATALOG SYSTEM

The **NAWCC Library** recently installed a new digital catalog system, enabling members to submit a lending request online. Use the "Request Hold" link to the right of the book title on the



Photo: Daily Mail

Residents in the British town of Mannigtree, Essex, were recently surprised when a prominent local public clock was sent to be repaired and returned with the numbers on the dial in the wrong order. The numerical mistake was quickly noticed by the confused local residents, but the town has now decided to forego any further change and leave it in place; it has already become a minor tourist attraction.

The clock was given to the town by the Rotary Club in 1990, but it had been taken down recently after the glass was damaged by a stone thrown by vandals in August.

## Wristwatches: Look What's Coming Back Into Style!

Wristwatches are regaining popularity despite the ubiquity of clock-equipped cellphones. Though some in recent years have foretold "the death of the watch"-saying watches were hopelessly out of fashion- lately watches seem to be experiencing a renaissance. Bulky ones have shown up on red carpets and runway shows. Retro styles have popped up on TV shows such as "Mad Men" and "Boardwalk Empire." And existing watch companies are rushing out with bright colors, new designs, and high-tech varieties to suit every taste. Though cellphones go far toward eliminating the practical need for watches, watch companies are fighting back with high-tech styles with added functions. Many in the younger generations now consider such watches a new means to express themselves. Viva la watch!



## STEVE McQUEEN MOVIE PROP WRISTWATCH AUCTIONED IN LOS ANGELES FOR \$799,500

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### MEMBERSHIP ALERT

The Membership Committee has a request for any member with a truck or connection to the trucking industry. If you are a dispatcher, truck line owner, or individual truck or trailer owner, would you be willing to display a vinyl sign promoting the NAWCC on the rear or side of your truck or trailer to help recruit new members? If you own a company that manufactures vinyl signs, would you be willing to give an in-kind gift of approx. 24 signs to help us promote membership growth? If you can help with this project, contact:  
 Thomas J. Bartels  
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[tomjbartels@gmail.com](mailto:tomjbartels@gmail.com)  
 Hugh Overton  
 (417) 358-5861  
[hcoverton@att.net](mailto:hcoverton@att.net)

### MEMBER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Current members: recruit a new member and receive a \$35 voucher that can be applied to next year's dues!** The voucher must be submitted when paying next year's dues or members can call toll free 1-877-255-1849 to



Photo: Forbes

A wristwatch worn by Steve McQueen in the 1971 film *Le Mans* has just fetched \$799,500 at an auction of movie memorabilia in Los Angeles. The watch was featured during the July 2012 Profiles In History "Hollywood Auction." Originally estimated to sell at around \$300,000, the final hammer price more than doubled that number. Why is that watch so highly valued?

World renowned actor Steve McQueen was a racer, and his choice of wristwatch for the film is a matter of legend. Tag Heuer (or "Heuer," as it was known back then before merging with Tag) released the Monaco series automatic chronograph watch shortly before the movie began filming. Jack Heuer represented the brand and brought a selection of possible watches to the film set in France, where McQueen personally chose the Monaco—a rather curious square design (and among the first automatic mechanical chronograph watches ever released commercially)—as his character's timepiece.

The watch's dark blue dial (with red and silver detailing) very much evokes the style of the era. The iconic Monaco watch is still produced today and remains one of Tag Heuer's most popular sport timepieces. The watch being auctioned has been owned by several collectors. The original prop master from the film reports that this watch was one of at least two Monaco "hero" watches worn by McQueen during the film shooting; "hero" or "beauty" props are treated exceedingly well and are specifically kept flawless for purposes of photographic continuity, whereas non-"hero" props are treated much less carefully.

### 18th CENTURY HOROLOGICAL EXHIBITION SCHEDULED FOR FAIRFAX HOUSE



(Photo: WatchPro.com)

**Fairfax House** in York, England, is hosting a celebration of horology in the north of England with an exhibition that runs to the end of the year. The Keeping Time show, which starts on October 5, explores the advent of timekeeping in the late 17th and 18th centuries and the far-reaching revolutionary consequences for Georgian England of the introduction and increasingly widespread adoption of the clock.

redeem (voucher cannot be submitted online). The recruited member cannot have been a prior member. If the new regular member joins online or mails their application, they must complete the "referred by" field for the recruiting member to benefit from this incentive (cannot be used in conjunction with a gift membership, limit one voucher per year).

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Keeping Time focuses mainly on innovative clockmakers from York and Yorkshire, bringing together clocks of various sizes, shapes, and styles common to the regional clockmaking industry, with emphasis on the technical skill and brilliance of Yorkshire's greatest horological craftsmen.

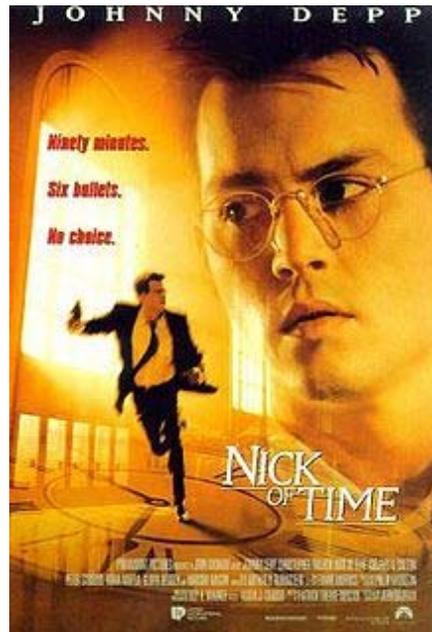
One of the greatest names in 18th-century precision timekeeping is John Harrison, inventor of the Harrison Precision Pendulum Clock Number Two. Born in Yorkshire and originally trained as a carpenter, his name is well established as one of the most brilliant minds in the history of horology.

Although mechanical clocks have been in use since the late 13th and early 14th centuries, the exhibition makes a case that not until the 18th century did the reliability and greater precision of new mechanical clocks finally eclipse such ancient standbys as the sundial.

**Keeping Time** is scheduled to run for three months. For more info, visit:

<http://fairfaxhouse.co.uk>

## Horology in the Media FILM NICK OF TIME



(Photo: Paramount Pictures)

### A DESPERATE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN FIGHTS TO RESCUE HIS CHILD AND FOIL THE MURDER OF AN INNOCENT WOMAN

**Nick of Time** (1995) - This action thriller, directed by John Badham, stars Johnny Depp as Gene Watson, an accountant who, along with his daughter, is abducted by ("Mr. Smith") Christopher Walken and ("Ms. Smith") Roma Maffia, who instruct Depp to assassinate the governor of California (Marsha Mason)-or else they will murder his daughter. Worse, he has only 75 minutes to do so. So begins the race against time as Depp must rescue his daughter, foil the assassination plot, and save the governor. Audiences are given a unique opportunity to watch as the suspenseful story unfolds in "real time." A preponderance of clocks and watches are constantly on display throughout the film to remind the audience that this is happening "right now."

Watson (Depp) manages to arrange a meeting with the governor's aide and her secretary, only to discover that the people behind the murder plot are part of the governor's own cabinet. Racing against the clock, Watson must uncover the source of this assassination conspiracy to save his daughter, but... the clock is ticking.

The film evokes the style of Alfred Hitchcock at times, mixed with a modern noir sensibility. It is guaranteed to keep a viewer glancing at his or her watch until the last second ticks down and Watson faces his ultimate fate.

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