

**Harris, Markus**

**From:** NAWCC [newsletters@nawcc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2010 1:19 PM  
**To:** Harris, Markus  
**Subject:** Horological Happenings from the NAWCC

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



### 1943 VETERANS CLOCK RESTORED



This "Veterans Clock," dedicated in 1943 to those who were serving in WWII, reads "Lest We Forget" on two sides and "Those Who Served" on the other two sides, all in stained glass. The clock, which had not worked for 25 years, was recently completely refurbished and will be rededicated in Granville, NY, on September 18th.

### Autumn Clock Appraisal Course Scheduled

Our latest NAWCC sponsored ISA-approved clock appraisal course has been scheduled for **November 15-20, 2010**.

Click [HERE](#) for more info.

### HOW THE WATCH WAS WORN

Dear NAWCC Member,

This month we note that the World's Biggest Clock is up and running, a famous Washington, D.C., landmark receives attention, and a Pulitzer Award-winning novel explores a horologist's inner life.

Enjoy these stories and more in this issue!

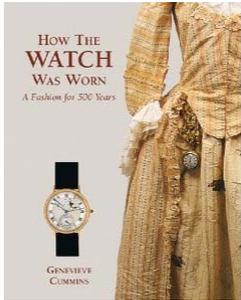


Photo: AhluBayt News Agency

### Saudi Arabia Unveils World's Biggest Clock

The Saudi Arabian city of Mecca is building the biggest clock in the world, a massive 1,983-ft. tower sporting four dial faces, each 151 ft. in diameter. It is an impressive piece of architecture, bearing some resemblance to London's Big Ben but with several uniquely Arabic touches. The clock displays text in the local script reading "in the Name of Allah" beneath the clock faces, as well as 21,000 green and white lights that flash five times daily to call the faithful to prayer (and which are intended to be visible from more than 18 miles away). The Mecca clock is an amazing example of horological architecture.

**MYSTERY OF THE OLD CLOCK**  
**The Ohio Clock has stood watch over the United States Senate for 193 years. It is the subject of rumor, curiosity and misinformation.**



A successful museum exhibit this summer featured dazzling artifacts described in this excellent work by NAWCC member Genevieve Cummins, copies of which are still available through the NAWCC Library and gift shop!

Click [HERE](#) for more info.

### TRIO RAPPEL DOWN BIG BEN FOR REPAIRS



Workers for British height-safety specialists TaskMasters recently rappelled down the clock faces (each 23 ft. in diameter) of the tower that houses Big Ben to find and repair damage to the glass panels.

The trio (two height-safety specialists and specialist heritage glazer Tony McGilbert) descended each of the four sides of the clock face at a height of around 315 ft. They wore ear protection. The clock continued to strike while they worked; their tasks took several hours.



PHOTO CREDIT: Alex Brandon / Associated Press

The regal "Ohio Clock" is now making its first journey outside the Capitol for a much-needed renovation.

The 11-ft.-tall timepiece is a Capitol landmark. Press conferences and impromptu gatherings are held in its shadow, and members of the press and Capitol newcomers quickly learn that "OCC" means "Ohio Clock corridor."

It stood in the old Senate chamber from 1817 until 1859. Since then it has resided outside the modern-day chamber's south door.

The majestic clock will soon be transported to Boston, MA, where restoration specialists will refurbish the dark wooden case and a master clockmaker will overhaul the working parts. The clock has been repaired and revarnished on site since the 19th century, but it has never been decommissioned long enough to be professionally conserved.

The clock, lubricated regularly and wound weekly, has kept accurate time for nearly two centuries. Engineers recently concluded "that the clock was running on borrowed time and an overhaul of the working parts was in order."

No one knows how this clock came to be associated with Ohio. It was made in Philadelphia (as is clearly shown on the clock face), and it reportedly came straight to Washington from its maker.

Some theorize that the clock commemorates Ohio becoming the seventeenth state, because the shield carved on the clock case has 17 stars. But no records support that story, nor is there an explanation for the apparent delay in its acquisition: Louisiana had already become the eighteenth state before the clock was built.

There is also a legend that, before 1859, senators supposedly hid jugs of whiskey in the case for fortifying nips during long senate sessions. There's

**Ursula Celestia (Neuwirth) Metsker** passed away Thursday, August 26, 2010. Ursula retired after 40 years as an accountant; horology was her avocation and lifelong interest. She served on the NAWCC Council, was an NAWCC Star Fellow, served on national committees, and was chapter president of Sunflower Clock-Watchers Chapter 63. She repaired timepieces and traveled the world enjoying horological sites with her husband Paul. To sign a guest book or leave a condolence see [cochranmortuary.com](http://cochranmortuary.com).

### **CLASS OF 2014 MINDSET LIST DISMISSES WRIST WATCHES**

(Source: DINESH RAMDE  
Associated Press Writer)

For students entering college this fall, e-mail is too slow, phones have never had cords and the computers they played with as kids are now in museums. Few incoming freshmen know how to write in cursive... or have ever worn a wristwatch.

Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released the Beloit College Mindset List as a reminder to faculty to be aware of dated references, and the rapidly changing worldview of each new generation.

Item 28 on this year's list states that most incoming college freshmen have:

**"...never recognized that pointing to their wrists was a request for the time of day."**

Meanwhile, there has been a recent upsurge in pocket watch use by young celebrities, and digital belt-clip fob watches seem to be all the rage.

no proof of that, although reporters are known to have stashed booze there when temporarily stationed in the corridor in the late 1940s.

The clock has seen its share of battle damage. In 1983 the blast from a terrorist bomb planted just outside the Senate chamber broke the glass covering the clock dial. A new glass will soon replace the heavy glass currently protecting the clock dial.

The chimes, which stopped working years ago, are one item on the clock that won't be fully restored. Workers will repair the clock's bell, but it won't be activated lest the sound interferes with news conferences and other events in the corridor.

When the refurbished clock returns to the Capitol in October, it will once again assume its rightful place as a center of activity.

After all, as Senate curator Diane K. Skvarla notes, "Everybody says 'Meet you at the Ohio Clock.' They don't say 'Meet you at the George Washington portrait.'"

### **1728 Jonathon Swift Pocket Watch For Sale**



Photos courtesy of Rau Antiques

New Orleans-based antiques store Rau Antiques has an interesting new acquisition: A pocket watch that was given as a gift by the English writer Jonathon Swift to fellow Englishman John Gay, also a writer and dramaturgist. An engraving on the case allude to "The Scriblerus Club," a literary group of which both men were members. The pocket watch was given by Swift to Gay upon the completion of his work "The Beggar's Opera." The personal engraving is located on the outside edges of the watch case and reads "*JG [John Gay] may ye not be a Beggar after the opera, your confidant, Jonathon Swift Scriblerus Club, 1728.*"

The pocket watch, a quarter-repeater in a pair case with blued-steel hands, is probably English. The case is 18k gold, the dial is porcelain, and it has a beautifully decorated diamond-jeweled movement. An interesting example of artful watchmaking, the engraved message ties the watch to literary history.

## **Horology in the Media TINKERS**

[Click HERE to view the full list](#)

**COLLECTOR'S  
WEEKLY  
INTERVIEW:**

**GARY SULLIVAN ON  
TALLCASE CLOCKS**

[Read the interview HERE](#)

**WILLIAM PHILLIPS  
POCKET WATCH TO  
BE DISPLAYED**



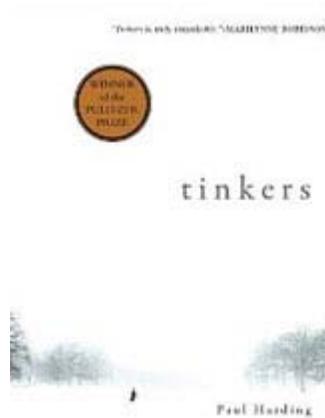
Photo: Sabrina Schaeffer.  
A pocket watch once owned by Revolutionary War officer Maj. Gen. William Phillips is on display at the Blandford Visitors' Reception Center in Virginia.

Phillips may be the highest-ranking military man buried at Blandford Cemetery. Surprisingly, he was English, not American.

Phillips, a highly regarded British artillery commander, was an acquaintance of Thomas Jefferson and had been a dinner guest at Monticello. Jefferson remembered him as "the proudest man of the proudest nation on earth."

**4Sale\$NAWCC  
OPENS TO THE  
PUBLIC!**

Our new online home for auctions, trading, and classifieds is now officially open to the general public. Buyers who are NOT



**TINKERS**

By Paul Harding

Publisher: Bellevue Literary Press, 192 pages

*Tinkers* is the winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the first work of fiction from a small publisher to win the award in 30 years. The novel details the emotions and observations in the last few days and weeks of a clock repairman named George Washington Crosby, who lies dying in a "rented hospital bed, placed in the middle of his own living room."

George drifts in and out of consciousness with memories of his childhood and his father, Howard Aaron Crosby, while his family attends to his minor requests, like winding his precious clocks and giving him a drink of water.

Harding's use of metaphor and imagery are effective, melding George and his clocks, the objects that are so much a part of his life. When George realizes that the clocks he had regularly wound have now stopped, he is dismayed: "When he imagined inside the case of that clock, dark and dry and hollow, and the still pendulum hanging down its length, he felt the inside of his own chest and had a sudden panic that it, too, had wound down."

Howard's and George's narratives are continuously interspersed and even include a fictional 18th century clock repair manual called The Reasonable Horologist.

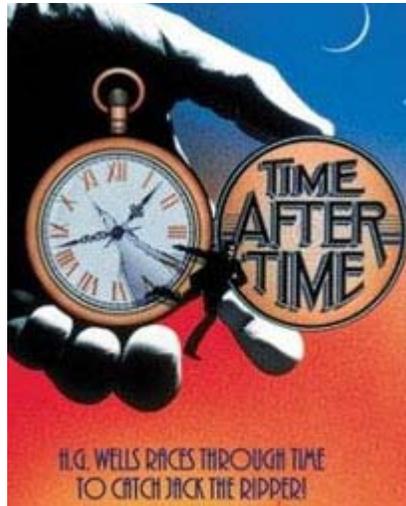
The author's knowledge of horology is impressive, and the book includes extensive descriptions of clock repair. This novel may be a wonderful gift for the clock repairman in your life.

NAWCC members may register to browse and buy (but not to sell-- **only card-carrying NAWCC members are allowed to sell items via this site**).

Members and non-members are welcome to access the site, and browse and purchase the items offered.

[Click HERE To Visit 4Sale\\$NAWCC](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



### **TIME AFTER TIME: Visionary Victorian Author Pursues a Legendary Serial Killer into the Future World of the Late 1970's**

**Time After Time** is a 1979 film directed by Nicholas Meyer and starring Malcolm McDowell, Mary Steenburgen, and David Warner. In 1893 London, visionary author H.G. Wells (McDowell) believes the future holds a Utopian society that can be reached via time travel. He invents a time machine and displays it to a group of skeptical friends, including surgeon Dr. John Leslie Stevenson (Warner). Unknown to Wells and his other friends, Stevenson is the infamous Jack the Ripper. Just as the police are about to capture Stevenson, he uses the time machine to escape; only Wells knows where the culprit has gone. Telling only his trusted housekeeper, Wells uses a duplicate time machine to follow Stevenson, intent on bringing him to justice. Stevenson has gone to 1979 San Francisco. Followign, Wells is dismayed to find that the future is not the Utopia he envisioned. He meets a young bank clerk named Amy Robbins (Steenburgen), who teaches him about life in the 1970s, while they pursue Jack. As Wells and Amy search for Stevenson, Stevenson conversely seeks Wells, to obtain the master key to the time machine. Stevenson enjoys the more violent society of the future, and he continues his murderous activities. He will stop at nothing to achieve his desires, which places Amy, who has fallen in love with Wells, in danger.

A thoroughly entertaining adventure fantasy dealing with the intricacies and perils of time travel!

[Forward email](#)

[✉ SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to mharris@nawcc.org by [newsletters@nawcc.org](mailto:newsletters@nawcc.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors | 514 Poplar Street | Columbia | PA | 17512-2130