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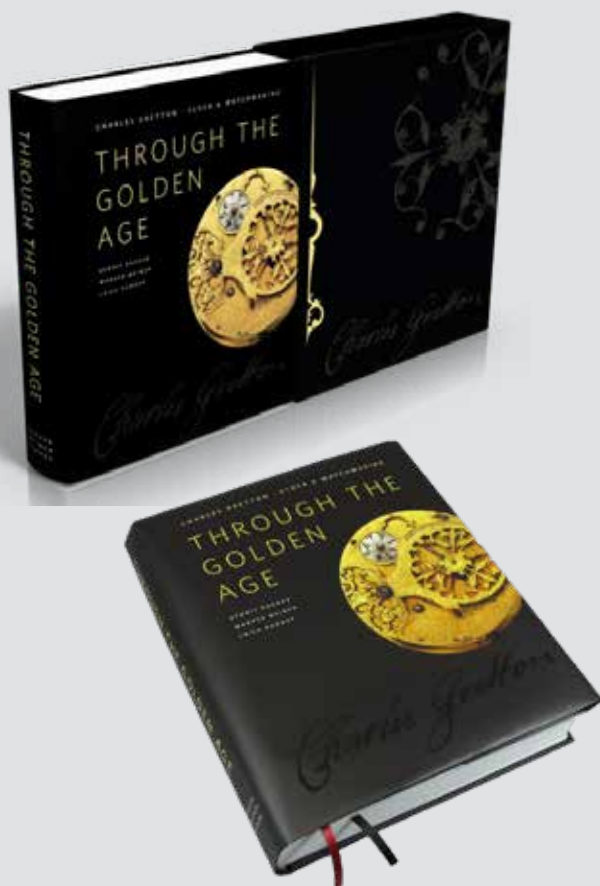
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Some years ago we started publishing our annual indexes to *CLOCKS* on our website. The idea was to make them searchable as a group, so instead of searching through each individual

index for the maker or topic of interest, readers would be able to do what computer geeks call a 'global search', meaning that you just need to enter a search term—the word or words that describe what you are looking for—and all indexes would be searched in one operation. It would make the whole process orders of magnitude easier.

And it worked. Currently on our website you simply need to enter your search term and hit return to ask the system to search all of our 30-odd indexes.

Another part of the plan was to index volumes which had never actually been indexed in the first place. For example, the first five volumes of the magazine had never contained an index of any kind. It has taken a long time, I know, but we now have online indexes for three of the five and are currently working on the other two.

Recently, however, one or two readers have got in touch with us lamenting the fact that we were no longer publishing paper indexes in the December issue of each annual volume. We then took a straw poll of some of our readers and found that a significant portion were not comfortable with the online index and preferred the paper variety.

For that reason I am delighted to say that this issue sees the return of the annual index printed in the magazine, see pages 47 to 50. It's been a bit of a squeeze to get it in without compromising the rest of the content but I think we've done a reasonable job.

The indexes will still be published on our website as well as in the magazine, and the search facility will still be available. In fact I hope that by the next time I am writing here about indexes all 40 volumes of the magazine will have been done and will be fully searchable on our website. That will be a year from now, and we'll have the index for Volume 40 published in the pages of the December 2017 issue as well.

John Hunter, Editor
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Editor
John Hunter

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Lecluse family

I am trying to trace any member of the Lecluse family, who originated from France, as I have a large quantity of Lecluse family photographs.



Felix Lecluse had a clock and watch making business in Frith St, London, which he passed on to his sons. One son was Alphonse and he ended up with a shop in the Fulham Road (number 228). It is from his only daughter Blanche and her cousin Sheila that I have ended up with these photographs, Sheila being my aunt.

I would be grateful for any help.

Yvonne Coxall

seagull47@me.com

Station clocks

We read with interest Robert Swain's article on the railway station clock at Carnforth in the September 2016 issue.

The earliest railway station clock we discovered while writing our book *JOYCE OF WHITCHURCH CLOCKMAKERS 1690-1965*, was made in 1849—a timepiece with anchor escapement and a 'unique' double framed layout. This is still hand wound and drives a single dial in a tower at the front of Shrewsbury Station.

Around seven years later, the first small single three-leg gravity flatbed timepieces were developed. The one at Hereford Station (1856) was later altered to double three-leg but has since been superseded by two electric clocks. Next came the single four-leg gravity flatbed timepieces—these drove larger installations, as at Holyhead Station where the clock drove four dials, originally in a very exposed location beside the harbour. Also of this design, is believed to be the clock from Lime Street Station, Liverpool.

Robert described the Carnforth clock as a Joyce A-frame. The company did make such clocks for railway stations,



The Stalybridge movement.

but had readers been able to see a photograph of the Carnforth mechanism, they would have seen a flatbed timepiece with pinwheel escapement. This was a type of clock we believe was commonly installed in railway stations during the 1890s. A clock of this model, originally located at Stalybridge Station, has been erected in an office at the National Railway Museum, York, and is now auto-wound.



The Carnforth movement.

Another, formerly at Mirfield Station has been recently restored by Edward Bacon of York and erected, with its original brackets, bob and pulleys, etc, to drive a double drum on a platform at Pickering Station on the North York Moors heritage line. We know of another clock to this design in a private collection, but its former location is unidentified. There are small differences in castings and layout, but these four are clearly the same type and were designed to do similar jobs in similar locations.

Robert also pondered on the clock's date, suggesting that it may have been installed second-hand, even though it was described as a new clock in a local newspaper report back in December 1895.

Unfortunately, the dates of all four of

these railway clocks cannot be confirmed by looking at the records of J B Joyce & Co. However, a similar clock made for the Eastgate, Chester, has a date on its setting dial.

This is partially rubbed, but is either 1896 or 1898. (It was installed in 1899 after delays in the construction of the gate and clock tower.) Joyce pinwheel escapements, apart from a few experimental models, only found their way into the product range after 1889. Having this knowledge suggests the installation date of 1895 would have also been the date of manufacture, making it more than likely that all five clocks were



The Chester movement.

made during the 1890s.

Robert also stated that the clock may not have been installed by J B Joyce & Co. This is plausible as clocks made for locations distant from Whitchurch were often installed by local firms acting as agents—Robert suggested Bells of Lancaster. We have seen another clock, not very far from Carnforth, which was made by T Cooke & Sons of York, but installed by Bell & Atkinson of Lancaster in 1872. Whitchurch railway station is near to the Joyce factory, so it is more than likely that the clock was despatched from Whitchurch by train, via Crewe, and thence directly to Carnforth Station.

We hope that the details above and the photographs included will clarify this clock's history. No documentary evidence has been found suggesting otherwise, so it is our belief, based on the other clocks we have seen, that the clock was made for Carnforth and was new when installed at the station. It is included in our book, mentioned above, pages 227-229.

Steve and Darlah Thomas

Aussie town gets steampunk clock

The Blumbergville Clock by Christopher Trotter sits in the heart of Boonah, an hour south-west of Brisbane, Australia.

The idea for the clock was born at a meeting between Christopher Trotter and David Bland, a clock repairer in Boonah. Christopher mentioned that the current town clock apparently didn't keep time. David was in charge of maintaining the clock and it was due to receive an upgraded movement to fix its problems.

Within a month or so the two men

'I wanted to create a clock with classic lines referencing the German ancestry of the region,' says Christopher Trotter. 'Using my architectural design skills, I designed a pedestal that was reminiscent of Old World architecture and grandfather clock design—but with a bit of magic from the Black Forest.'

The main component that forms the clock body is an 1800s riveted steel firebox from a portable steam engine. These steam engines worked within the Boonah region back in the days when it was known as Blumbergville.

'After some searching I was unable to acquire one locally and placed an ad in an old machinery magazine to see what was available. I ended up purchasing a wreck sourced from Portarlington, Victoria. The portable engine was made by Richard Hornsby and Sons.

'I wanted visitors to get a sense of the Boonah region as they viewed the clock and so I included a number of animals and features inspired by the local environment—including sounds.'

The clock has two slave dials run from a master clock in a nearby council building. The master clock is synched to a sound module which runs a stationary engine exhaust whistle and plays pre-recorded sounds on the quarter hour, the half hour, the three quarter hour and the hour.

For more information on the Blumbergville Clock contact Christopher Trotter at chris@trotter.com.au or visit the website www.trotter.com.au.

had approached the local councillor with the concept of creating a new town clock, one that would be iconic and draw tourists into the town. The councillor was aware of other public art projects that Christopher had worked on over the last 20 years and within a few months the council was able to fund the project through a grant from the Australian government.

The community was notified of the project and was asked to donate locally sourced discarded objects. This process, it was reasoned, would help give the community a sense of ownership over the timepiece plus telling local stories.

Open day at West Dean College, which runs courses in horological restoration, is holding an Open Day for prospective students on 2nd December. The day will feature an informal presentation on Historic Craft Practices and the Conservation Programme by David Dorning, Head of the School of Conservation, and a tour of the facilities. There will be open workshops throughout the day. For more information contact the Registry Office on +44 (0) 1243 818 291 or email admissions@westdean.org.uk.

