

*Do you love clocks and watches as much as we do?  
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## NEWSLETTER

**December 2025**

Greetings!

After many years of discussion and planning, we are excited to announce that two major projects are now underway.

The first is the digitization of our Hamilton archive. This is a substantial collection of material that relates to the day-to-day management and manufacture of Hamilton watches in Lancaster, PA, from the late 1800s and across the 1900s. Among this collection are 352 microfilm reels and 268 boxes of material that range from meeting notes, documentation of product development, technical drawings, ephemeral material, and much more.

We are thankful to have received a \$39,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and a wonderful anonymous donation to match the IMLS funding. This archive will be made available to all via our website and will build upon a previous digitization project that scanned thousands of negatives that documented activity in the Hamilton factory. The work has already begun, and so please watch for updates in the *Bulletin*, this e-newsletter, and on our social media channels as we progress through the project.

The second is the project to restore and display the Ansonia street clock, affectionately known as Quincy. This monumental clock stands around 18.5 feet tall and is unusual in that the movement is not housed in the trunk of the clock. Instead, it was installed indoors, and the drive shafts were installed underneath the sidewalk. In that arrangement, the movement was protected from the elements and the seasonal buildup of condensation within

the cast iron structure.

We had several site meetings in November, and work to build an annex to the Public Time gallery starts today! Our contractors will be building a curved wall from floor to ceiling (to frame the clock), and once the display area is enclosed, we will be cutting into the floor to lay a slab to carry the weight of the clock and allow for the height of the clock. This will allow us to contain the dust from the construction process.

This will be an expensive project, and any donation that you are able to make will help us to see this project through to completion. Please see our [Annual Appeal](#) for more details. Donations toward the Hamilton digitization project may be directed to the [Library and Research Center's general fund](#).

If you are interested in helping with these projects or other areas of operation, please drop us a line. We would love to hear from you and welcome volunteers. There will be an organized restoration of Quincy's paint and gilding in the spring of 2026. If you are interested in helping, please contact [Tower and Street Clock Chapter 134](#), who are managing the project.

From all of us at NAWCC headquarters, we wish you a joyful holiday season.

—Rory McEvoy, Executive Director



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### This Month in Horological History

with Thomas Stocker, Librarian & Archivist

December 10, 1889



*Prentiss Clock Improvement Co. calendar clock, ca. 1895, with a brass front plate stamped "3373, Pat'd Dec. 10th 1889, Model 812." Museum catalog no. BS27.263.*

On this day, US patent No. 416804 was awarded to Henry S. Prentiss for an equalizing spring, otherwise known as a remontoire.

Prentiss stated in the beginning of his patent that this improvement is especially useful in cases where uniform motion and constant impulse are essential, such as spring motors. This also applies to clocks that have the problem of less uniformity as the mainspring loses tension. Prentiss claimed that his equalizing spring device could be applied to any well-known clock movement, not just the type shown in the patent drawing.

The Prentiss patent used double mainsprings that could run the clock for 90 days on one winding. The single winding arbor winds both mainsprings, and the equalizing spring maintains constant force on the clock train. This type of movement was used in the Prentiss Clock Improvement Co. calendar clocks.

## A Closer Look in the Museum

with Ken De Lucca, Education Director

A donation by Richard and Mary Zipf (see the [March/April 2021 Bulletin](#) article by John Cote for full details) brought a very significant Seth Thomas precision regulator into the Museum's conservation studio. What is most notable about this clock is that it has a gravity escapement—one of only three or four known Seth Thomas precision regulators that have it.

Having more than my share of recoil, half-deadbeat, and deadbeat escapements in my clock escapement background, the gravity escapement was a first for me. So, back to the books I went. I used *Britten's Watch & Clock Maker's Handbook Dictionary and Guide, 16th Edition* to fill in the blanks of my escapement theory.



*Photo by John Cote.*



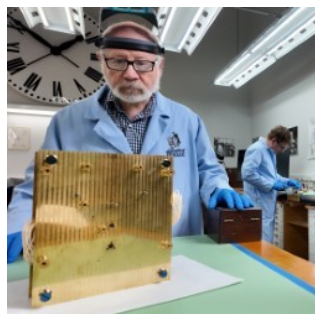
I highly recommend this book for anyone referencing watch or clock terms and applications. I refer to it in all the workshops I develop for the School of Horology. Britten states that a gravity escapement is "an escapement in which impulse is given to the pendulum by a weight falling through a constant distance" (p. 162). And, sure enough, a diagram on page 163 shows a single three-legged gravity escapement that looks very much like the escapement found in the Seth Thomas precision regulator, shown here. It is also fun to note that a *double* three-legged gravity escapement is used in a clock at the Houses of Parliament in London—a clock

many of us know as Big Ben, which refers to the bell, but that is a story for another time. Suffice it to know that gravity escapements make tower (turret) clocks and regulators a bit more precise.

The clock movement is housed in a case that probably has more iron/steel in it than most cars I have ever driven. Executive Director Rory McEvoy and I removed the movement from its cabinet, and then the process of disassembly began, with careful attention being taken with the escapement itself. I must admit, once the movement was reduced to bits and bobs, I really didn't sleep too well that night.



*The movement was placed on the workbench ready for additional disassembly.*



*The Seth Thomas clockmakers put a beautiful finish on the plates.*



*These are only some of the pieces that make up the movement of the clock.*

All of the brass pieces that make up the clock were cleaned.





Most of the pivot holes used for wheel arbors and the gravity escapement jewels had a very sticky green goo from the solidified lubricant used over the years. No wonder this clock has not been able to keep time for a long, long time. Little else had to be done to this clock to restore it to operation.

Thanks to a generous donation from NAWCC Silver Star Fellow Andrew Dervan, we were able to prioritize the project so that this rare and wonderful Seth Thomas regulator is now happily running and keeping time in our Museum. A video documenting our work in bringing the clock back to life will soon be shared on YouTube ([@NAWCCMuseum](#)).

I personally considered it a privilege to handle such a clock, as well as assist our executive director with its restoration. The project also filled a gap in my understanding of escapements and escapement theory.

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## Zoom Time: Narrated Tour of the Bulova Gallery

Mt. Rainier Chapter 135 is hosting a live Zoom event on December 14 at 1:00 p.m. (Pacific Coast Time). NAWCC member Darold Hanson, a longtime Bulova Accutron enthusiast, will speak about the items in the Museum's Bulova gallery, as HQ staffer Alex Simpkins provides real-time video of the collection.

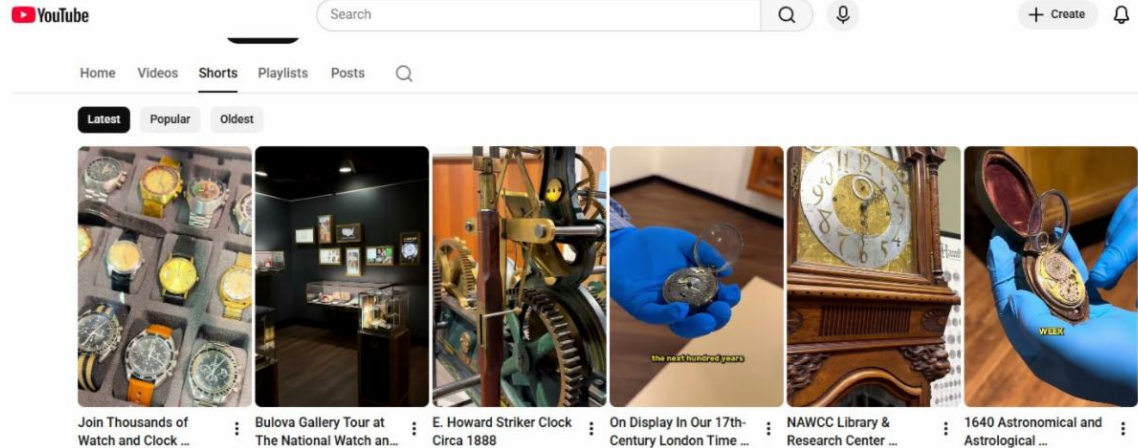
For those who haven't yet visited the Museum, you won't want to miss seeing these historic pieces, hear the expert commentary, and participate with any questions you have. Details and a link to the Zoom event are available by [Clicking Here.](#)



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## On Time ~ Online

These brisk days and cold evenings are perfect for brewing something hot and settling in to enjoy a wealth of horological content on YouTube: [@NAWCCMuseum](#). From clock servicing to symposium lectures to fun shorts —there's something for everyone!



## 2025 Partners in Time

The *Partners in Time* fundraising appeal is ongoing, and we seek your support in securing the future of the NAWCC.

People like you are the foundation of our nonprofit organization, and your generosity shows your commitment to preserving the history and artistry of timekeeping for future generations.

Your gift will directly support the Museum, the School of Horology, and the Library & Research Center. Click the button to see this year's NAWCC "Wish List" that highlights some of our most urgent needs. A donation form is included with the Wish List.

No matter the amount, every gift helps ensure that the Museum continues to grow, the School continues to teach, and the Library continues to share its rich resources. Thank you!

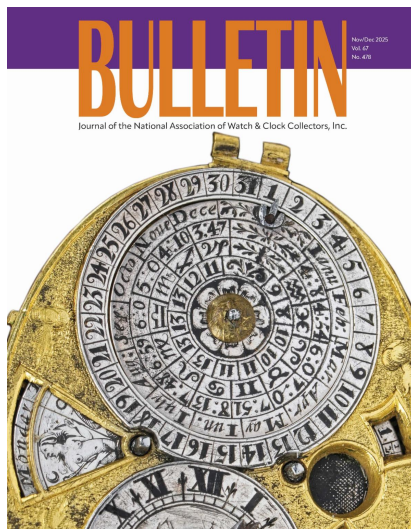


## Winterthur in Columbia

On November 21, four students in the Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware Programs in Art Conservation and American Material Culture spent a day at the Museum and School of Horology. Education Director Ken De Lucca provided hands-on experiences in a workshop on "Basic Clock Knowledge for the Museum Professional." After a brief introduction to clocks as both static and dynamic objects in a



museum, all of the participants took part in a "house call," learning how to safely work on a tall case clock. This included safe handling techniques for weights, pendulums, movements, and the case (hood and trunk). While in the Museum's Conservation Studio, the students observed techniques related to the silvering of dials, conducted by Executive Director Rory McEvoy. Future plans for the studio were discussed as was the Museum's research/study collection.



### ***Bulletin Buzz***

There's plenty to discover in the **[November/December issue of the Watch & Clock Bulletin!](#)**

Published six times a year, the peer-reviewed journal presents horological research as well as technical articles and human-interest stories. Join or renew today to access your subscription and other **[membership benefits](#)**.

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# 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION



**480+**

Mart Tables

**1300+**

Event  
Participants

**12+**

Workshops

**58+**

Program Hours

## June 25-28 — Lexington, KY

Huge Mart ~ Lectures ~ Exhibits ~ Live Auction ~  
Workshops ~ Chapter Meetings ~ Convention Luncheon  
Crafts Competition ~ Banquet

[natcon.nawcc.org](http://natcon.nawcc.org)

### Time to Learn

**Register online** for an NAWCC workshop:

**School of Horology (Columbia, PA)**

*December 6, 2025: Craft-a-Clock*

*January 30-February 1, 2026:*

Introduction to Wristwatch Servicing

**Traveling Workshops**

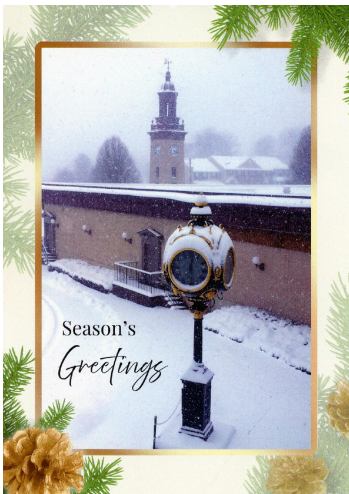
*March 5-7, 2026: F102—The French-Style Clock Movement (Shalimar, FL)*

**2026 National Convention (Lexington, KY)**

*June 25, 2026: 400-Day Torsion/Anniversary Clock Workshop*







**NEW!** Share some festive joy with our new holiday greeting card, featuring the Museum's iconic E. Howard tower clock and Seth Thomas street clock.

## Special Holiday Offers When You Shop Online

Shop for your favorite horologist (or treat yourself!) at [shop.nawcc.org](http://shop.nawcc.org) throughout December and enjoy the perks!

When you make a purchase online, you'll receive a free copy of the *Time in Office: Presidential Masterpieces* booklet, detailing 30 horological objects associated with 21 US presidents.

If you spend more than \$50 (before tax) at the online store, you'll also receive Free Domestic Shipping on your order.

Both offers are applied automatically at checkout — no code needed. 'Tis the season for easy online shopping at the [Museum Store](http://MuseumStore)!

***Your purchase supports our mission to preserve and promote the craft of timekeeping.***

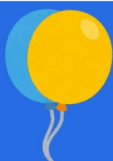


WHEN	WHERE
Wednesday, December 31 10AM - 1PM	514 Poplar Street Columbia, PA

### **HUGE Balloon Drop at Noon!**

**Face Painting • Coloring & Crafts  
Music • Live Clock Demonstrations  
Food & Drink • Wall of Time Zones  
Minute-to-Win-It Games & Prizes**

Featuring special guests Kelly Skiptunas and the reading therapy dogs & Create Columbia



Scan QR for event tickets or visit [nawcc.org/nye](http://nawcc.org/nye)



Questions? Contact [events@nawcc.org](mailto:events@nawcc.org)





Each month, you will receive more updates and the inside scoop on the latest events, exhibits, classes, and more.

Warm regards,

National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors

Help us share the story of time with everyone.

*Click to Donate Today*

**NAWCC | 717-684-8261 | [www.nawcc.org](http://www.nawcc.org)**



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

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