

Jeffrey Formby Antiques & Horological Books



40 RARE BOOKS

Catalogue 2

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JEFFREY FORMBY ANTIQUES

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Andrews (H.C.): A Hertfordshire Worthy - John Briant Bell-Founder and Clockmaker 1749 - 1829

O/P £150.00 Ref. K1534

95 pages, 11 plates, 1930. A biography of John Briant who worked in Hertford, together with a detailed list of his bells, turret clocks and longcase clocks. This is a very rare book. A good copy, the card covers a little worn, bruise to bottom of spine.

Atkins (C.E.): The Company of Clockmakers: Register of Apprentices 1631 - 1931

O/P £325.00 Ref. K12

339 pages, 18 plates, 1931. A scarce and useful reference book which is now very hard to find. A very good copy but frontispiece a bit foxed, top of spine a little rubbed.

Atkins (S.E.) & Overall (W.H.): Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers of the City of London O/P £325.00 Ref. K13

346 pages, 9 illustrations, top edge gilt, privately printed, 1881. An historical account of the Company and its working practices with information about early makers. A very good copy of the standard brown cloth edition with gilt lettering to front and spine, pages clean and bright, corners lightly bumped. Now scarce.

Baillie (G.H.): Watches: Their History, Decoration and Mechanism O/P £90.00 Ref. K17

383 pages, 75 plates, 1st edition, 1929. This is still a respected reference book on the subject and well worth reading, part of the Connoisseurs Library series, the red cloth binding with gilt lettering and tooling to the spine and blind tooling to the front cover. The book covers the history of 4 centuries of watch development with 189 b&w and 35 colour photographs, together with 82 line drawings of mechanisms. Essential reading. A good copy, top edge gilt, light foxing throughout, a few pencil annotations, light wear to cloth on corners.

Beckett (Sir Edmund): A Rudimentary Treatise on Clocks and Watches and Bells

O/P £75.00 Ref. K1089

xiii, 400 pages, 81 figures, 1 folding plate, 7th edition, 1883. A well-known work with lots of information on the Westminster clock and turret clocks in general, as well as all aspects of escapements, pendulums, dials and chiming work. This edition has thin cloth covered boards. In good condition, original green cloth, paper label on spine very worn with some loss, binding tight.

Berthoud (F.): L'art de conduire et de régler les pendules et les montres, ..

O/P £250.00 Ref. K4251

xvi, 188 pages, 5 folding plates, 5th edition, 1828. The title translates as How to manage and regulate Clocks and Watches for those who have no knowledge of horology. This was probably the first owners' manual for watch and clock owners and provides an insight into looking after domestic clocks in the 18th century. A very good copy, the pages and plates generally clean and bright with only minor foxing to a few pages, Modern full calf binding with raised bands and gilt red labels to spine. [French language]

Britten (F.J.) : Old English Clocks - The Wetherfield Collection O/P £295.00 Ref. K52

xii, 114 pages, illus., 1st edition, number 128 of 234 copies, 1907. Measuring 15 x 11½ inches, this is a pictorial record of the Wetherfield collection with notes on the makers of the clocks included. A good copy, original cloth, clean & bright internally, endpapers a little foxed, binding tight, cloth boards worn to edges and corners, small split to cloth hinge at top & bottom of spine, minor loss of cloth at top & bottom of spine. A rare book and this is the best copy in its original binding that I have seen for some time.

Camus (M.): A Treatise on the Teeth of Wheels: demonstrating the best forms which can be given to them for the purposes of machinery, such as Mill-Work and Clock-Work O/P £65.00 Ref. K2491
102 pages, 17 (of 18) plates, 3rd edition, 1868. Translated from the French by J. I. Hawkins, this book is one of the classical books on epicycloid gearing and the design of gear trains. The plates are numbered 23 to 36, 38 to 40 - plate 37 is missing (note: 18 plates numbered 23 to 40 would be a full set - see the preface to the second edition for an explanation). A very good copy, original cloth now worn through on two corners.

Cescinsky (H.) & Webster (M.R.): English Domestic Clocks O/P £175.00 Ref. K742
O/P. 354 pages, 407 figures, 2nd edition 1914. The classic work on English clocks, no enthusiast should be without a copy as most of the book is still relevant and of use today. A very good copy still in its original half calf and green cloth binding, very clean internally with light staining to page edges. Unlike most copies the leather is still in very good condition making this a very attractive copy.

Chapuis (A.): Le Grand Frédéric et Ses Horlogers: Uné emigration d'horlogers Suisse au XVIII^{me} siècle, Un demi-siècle d'horlogerie berlinoise (1760 - 1810) O/P £85.00 Ref. K3100
95 pages, 53 figures, 1938. Frederick the Great of Prussia sponsored the establishment of a watch and clock making industry in Berlin using the skills of Swiss Huegenot immigrant watchmakers. Good copy, small stain to top margin of a few pages, minor foxing to some page edges. Card covers. [French language]

Chapuis (A.) & Gelis (E.): Le Monde des Automates, Etude Historique et Technique
O/P £975.00 Ref. K2340
2 volumes, 348 pages + 352 pages with 540 figures and 7 plates in total, original card covers bound in, 1928. Limited edition, copy number 606 of 1000 copies. The classic work on all types of automata and their makers which has never been bettered. This book is a comprehensive study ranging from simple ancient Egyptian articulated heads to the complex androids of Jaquet-Droz. There are six chapters about clocks with automata and there is even a chapter on the history of mechanical artificial limbs! The later work by Chapuis & Droz (in 1949/1958) was written as an update to, and not a replacement of, this book. A nicely bound copy in quarter grey calf with marbled boards, with ribbed and gilt tooled spine (now a little rubbed). A very good copy of a rare and valued book. [French language]

[Clockmakers' Company]: Catalogue of the Library of the Clockmakers' Company of London
O/P £95.00 Ref. K687
205 pages, 2nd edition, 1898. An interesting historical listing of documents and books which may still be consulted at the Guildhall Library in London. A very good copy (2 corners a bit bruised) in original green cloth with gilt armorial of the Clockmakers Company to front cover.

Crom (T.R.): Horological Shop Tools 1700 to 1900 O/P £295.00 Ref. K744
678 pages, 1302 illustrations, 1980. This excellent volume is the standard work on horological tools by an expert who researched the subject thoroughly in Europe and America. This classic book is hard to find and recommended to all who are interested in the subject. A fine copy.

Gould (R.T.): The Marine Chronometer its History and Development O/P £395.00 Ref. K420
287 pages, frontispiece + 39 plates, 85 figures, 1st edition, 1923. The classic work on marine chronometers and, over 90 years later, still the best reference work on the subject with a detailed history of the chronometer and its pioneers - John Harrison, Thomas Mudge, Thomas Earnshaw and John Arnold. A good copy of the first edition, very clean internally, end papers foxed, corners a little bumped, cloth a little worn to bottom of spine and corners.

Green (F.H.): Old English Clocks O/P £650.00 Ref. K2586

89 pages, 51 plates, with errata slip, first edition, number 123 of 300 copies, 1931. A rare book limited to 300 copies, on handmade paper, uncut, with black leather spine and green cloth boards. A very good copy, crisp and clean internally, the leather spine very rubbed as usual. This book has become rare and collectable.

Henslow (T.G.W.): Ye Sundial Booke O/P £30.00 Ref. K3591

422 pages, 2 plates, illustrated, 1914. Sketches of sundials (mainly in Great Britain), verses for sundials, the setting of a sundial and a brief history of the sundial. Generally a good clean copy, light foxing to first few pages, corners bruised, paper covering boards worn and splitting along front hinge line.

Henry (C.): Huygens et Roberval Documents Nouveaux O/P £45.00 Ref. K3197

43 pages, 1880. Letters and documents written by the famous 17th century scientists Christiaan Huygens and Gilles Personne de Roberval. Some of the Huygens material relates to pendulums. Binding poor, pages clean and unopened, paper covers very worn with some loss. [French language]

Hodgson (J.): An Introduction to Chronology: Containing an Account of Time

O/P £75.00 Ref. K3003

85 pages, 1747. The first part of the book explains the divisions of time used by earlier civilisations and in other countries, as well as cycles, era's, epoch's etc., used by the church to determine the date of moveable feasts. The second half of the book is about the difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars and if, and how, England should adopt the latter. [Britain changed to the Gregorian calendar in 1752]. A good copy, light foxing to some pages, small worm holes to many pages (not affecting text), rebound in the early 20th century, small split to front hinge.

Immisch (M.): Prize Essay on the Balance Spring and its Isochronal Adjustments

O/P £125.00 Ref. K1762

50 pages, 7 figs., 1872. The prize winning essay, on the watch balance spring, in a competition organised by the British Horological Institute - the prize being given by Baroness Burdett Coutts. Baroness Burdett Coutts, a prominent supporter of the BHI, was a Victorian heiress who spent much of her fortune on philanthropic causes. An excellent copy with good tight original binding, minor wear to corners, minor stains to rear cover.

Kaltenböck (F.) & Schwank (O.): Watch-Keys - Three Centuries of History and Development

O/P £150.00 Ref. K4279

109 pages, illustrated, 1983. A pioneering study on pocket watch keys, and now hard to find. The luxury edition, limited to 20 copies and beautifully bound in black full morocco, all edges gilt, gilt lettering to the spine, in original deluxe cloth-covered box. The book and box are in as new condition.

[Kendrick & Davis Co.]: Catalog of Staking Tools and How to Use Them 1910

O/P £50.00 Ref. K4287

163 pages, illustrated, 1910. An illustrated catalogue, with prices, of the staking tools produced by Kendrick & Davis, followed by a very useful section on how to use them. It's nice to have the original 1910 publication in stock as it includes descriptions, illustrations and prices of the tools then in production - all this is omitted from the later reprints. A good copy, hardback.

King (H.C.): Geared to the Stars, the Evolution of Planetariums, Orreries & Astronomical Clocks

O/P £295.00 K4160

442 pages, illus., 1978. An excellent book that is always in demand by clock enthusiasts. A fine copy with good dust jacket (faded to spine).

Laycock (W.S.): The Lost Science of John "Longitude" Harrison O/P £350.00 Ref. K413

159 pages, 144 figs., signed by author, 1976. Laycock investigated and explained the theory behind many of Harrison's ideas used on his wooden regulators and his marine clocks. As Harrison's own writings are very difficult to understand, Laycock's analysis of his ideas is of value to all enthusiasts. A very good copy, with good dust jacket (wear to top of spine, spine faded), of a scarce book.

Lyman (I.P.): Railway Clocks O/P £275.00 Ref. K1664

359 pages, 700+ photographs, 2004. An excellent book, a detailed study of the mechanical clocks used by the railway companies of England, Scotland and Wales. This book is essential reading for railway clock enthusiasts, railway buffs and English dial clock enthusiasts. Now hard to find. A fine copy with fine dust jacket.

Maitzner & Moreau: Comtoise Clocks - The Morbier, the Morez O/P £275.00 Ref. K2541

449 pages, 22 colour plates, 474 b&w photographs, 1st English language edition, 1991. A very good book about the clocks from the Franche-Comté region of eastern France, near the Swiss border. The book opens with a history of Comtoise clocks and their development with details of escapements and striking mechanisms. Many different mechanisms, from many periods, are described and illustrated which will be of great help to restorers. The book concludes with a detailed listing of Franche-Comté makers, a guide to dating clocks from their features and a bibliography. A fine copy with very good dust jacket, still in publisher's cardboard box.

Mercer (A.): Mercer Chronometers - Radical Tom Mercer and the House he Founded

O/P £350.00 Ref. K2713

xxiv, 251 pages, 24 colour plates, 68 b&w illus., 2nd edition, signed by author, 1978. This is an excellent book, much better in my opinion than the later book by the same author with a similar title. The last 100 pages are an essential research tool being a listing of all known Mercer chronometers sold to retailers, ships chandlers etc., including date of sale, price and retailer's name and serial number as engraved on the chronometer dial. A very good copy of a scarce book, with good dust jacket (light wear to edges, one small tear).

Mercer (V.): The Life and letters of Edward John Dent Chronometer Maker and some account of his Successors O/P £485.00 Ref. K718

829 pages, 154 plates, 1st edition 1977, complete with the supplement: pages 830 - 893, plates 155 - 176, 1983. This is the standard reference work on the life and work of Edward John Dent the famous chronometer maker, with details of his successors in the business right up to the time the book was written. This book is increasingly harder to find. A very good copy with complete but good (but a bit creased) dust jacket, the supplement good, card covers.

Moore (A.J.), Rice (R.W.) & Hucker (E.): Bilbie and The Chew Valley Clock Makers

O/P £250.00 Ref. K1535

412 pages, 180 illustrations, 1995. A book predominantly about the Bilbie family who worked in Chew Stoke (Somerset) and Cullompton (Devon), throughout the eighteenth century. The book describes the Bilbie's bell founding as well as clockmaking activities. Many of their clocks are described and illustrated thus showing the chronological progression of dial and case styles. Other clockmakers of the Chew Valley include: The Quarman family of Temple Cloud; The Brock's of Axbridge and the Badman's of Compton Martin. This book has become very hard to find and is always in demand. A very good copy, card covers, spine faded.

Morison (W.A.): The Crystal Clock O/P £50.00 Ref. K3697

11 pages, figs., 1930. An important paper as the author, who worked for Bell telephone Laboratories in New York, built the first clock controlled by the constant frequency of the oscillation of a quartz crystal in 1927. The development of solid state electronics in the 1980's led to quartz timekeepers becoming the most common form of timekeeper. Very good copy. Card covers.

Pritchard (K.H.): Swiss Timepiece Makers 1775 - 1975 O/P £550.00 Ref. K954

2 volumes, about 1800 pages, illustrated, 1997. A detailed alphabetical listing of over 2000 Swiss pocket watch and wristwatch makers including cross references for brand names and USA importers. Each entry contains full details of that manufacturer sometimes with illustrations of trademarks and contemporary advertisements. This major work is an essential reference book for all Swiss watch enthusiasts as it is the only book of its type and very comprehensive. A fine copy, with very good dust jackets, in original slipcase, which is in fine condition. Since it went out of print this book has become very hard to find.

Symonds (R.W.): Thomas Tompion His Life and Work O/P £550.00 Ref. K293

320 pages, 272 plates + 2 folding plates, first edition, 1951. The deluxe edition, printed on handmade paper, top edge gilt, limited to 350 copies, burgundy half calf binding and gilt lettering, with red cloth covered slipcase. This copy, unusually, is not numbered or signed by the author. An important book about England's most famous clock and watch maker. A fine copy, bookplate on ffep. Slipcase very good, the cloth a little worn to edges.

Tardy: Dictionnaire des Horlogers Français O/P £265.00 Ref. K3771

760 pages, illustrated, 1972. 2 volumes in 1. A very useful book which lists French clock and watchmakers with place of work and working dates, many entries also have additional information. This essential reference book is now very scarce. A very good copy, card covers a little worn (front cover with 1.5 cm split on hinge line). [French language]

Tardy: French Clocks the World Over (4 volume set) O/P £850.00 Ref. K2174

Part 1: 5th edition, 1981. Volume title: From their beginnings to the Louis XV - Louis XVI Transition period.

Part 2: 5th edition, 1981. Volume title: From Louis XVI style to Louis XVIII - Charles X period.

Part 3: 5th edition, 1982. Volume title: From the Louis-Philippe style to the Modern clock and the French provinces.

Part 4: 5th edition, 1985. Volume title: Northern, Middle, Eastern and Mediterranean Europe; Japan.

This is a large and comprehensive work, the four volumes have 356 pages, 392 pages, 524 pages, 618 pages respectively and a wealth of illustrations. Volume 3 also has chapters on clocks from the Netherlands, Belgium, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Unites States and Canada. An essential book for collectors of French decorative clocks with lots of illustrations. Since the publisher died some years ago this book has become very hard to find and the English language version (as here) even more so. This is a very good set, each volume in its original hardback binding complete with original dust jackets. Condition of all volumes is very good or better with owners name inside front cover of first 3 volumes. Overall the best set I have seen for several years. Dust jackets of volumes 1, 2 & 4 are very good with a few small tears, volume 3 jacket basically good but with a small area of loss and several small tears.

Thomson (A.): Time and Time-Keepers O/P £95.00 Ref. K2997

195 pages, illus., 1842. Adam Thomson has premises in New Bond Street, London and a watch paper of his, describing him as a watch maker, is used as a bookplate at the front of the book. The book opens with time and the calendar and moves on to the development of clocks and watches including temperature compensation and striking work. The later sections, on horology in France and England in the 18th century, marine chronometers, and the construction of clocks and watches are more interesting. A good copy for its age, ffep missing, binding a bit loose.

Tremayne (A.): One Hundred Years After - Being a Little History of a Great Achievement O/P £75.00 Ref. K3034

20 pages, portrait, illustrated, 1912. Published by Dennison Watch Case Company this is a brief biography of Aaron L. Dennison (born in 1812), followed by a description of the Dennison Safety Watch Bow and a catalogue of watch cases. A very rare item, in very good condition, covers a little faded.

Ullyett (K.): English Clock Masterpieces O/P £285.00 Ref. K4017

238 pages, 51 illustrations, [1946]. This is one of the rarest horological books in existence as the publisher had to withdraw it from sale and destroy all copies. This was because Ullyett had copied extensively from 'Masterpieces of English Furniture and Clocks' by R.W Symonds. For more information about this book's infringement of copyright and withdrawal from sale see the article by Jonathan Betts in the December 2003 edition of 'Antiquarian Horology' (volume 27 issue 6, page 677). A very good copy, spine faded.

Ungerer (A.): Les Horloges Astronomiques et Monumentales les plus Remarquables de l'Antiquité jusqu'à nos Jours O/P £150.00 Ref. K667

O/P. 514 pages, 458 illus., 1931. The classic work on church & turret clocks from before 1300 up to 1930. This book describes and illustrates some fascinating clocks from Europe and America including many in England. A very good copy with card covers as issued (light wear to bottom of spine). [French language]

Vernay (A.S.): The Wetherfield Collection of English Clocks O/P £75.00 Ref. K3290

64 pages, 99 clocks illustrated, New York, 1928. A rare book which documents the portion of Wetherfield's collection which went to America. Internally the pages are good, pages 7 - 10 loose, boards worn and very marked, the paper covering is starting to split on the spine; binding tight. Sold at a sensible price because of condition.

Waltham Watch Company: The Perfected American Watch by the Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass., U.S.A. O/P £25.00 Ref. K4284

[40 pages], illustrated, 1907. A rare and interesting marketing brochure, published specifically for the British market, promoting the quality of the product and the desirability of owning a Waltham watch. Very good copy, card covers now a little worn.

Whittle (E.S.): The Inventor of the Marine Chronometer: John Harrison of Foulby (1693 - 1776)

O/P £25.00 Ref. K4288

32 pages, illustrated, 1984. A non technical account of John Harrison's life and his great achievement. A very good copy, card covers.
