



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

Philadelphia Chapter One

Chartered November 1, 1943

Summer Picnic

Sat. August 1, 2015

Will be held at the

Amity Watch and Clock Fair

Merritt's Antiques

1860 Weavertown Rd.

Douglassville, Pa. 19518

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Picnic Schedule:

8:30 A.M. Set up for table holders

9:00 A.M. Fair opens to all, the public is invited.

9:30 A.M. Registration and cataloging of items for the Auction

10:00 A.M. Lecture "So you want to buy a clock: the very basics". Concentrating on what to look for, and what to avoid, when purchasing a clock. *

12:00 Noon Lecture "Pocket watches and wrist watches, vs the Cell phone or Ipad" The lecture will emphasize the "Why and the How" of watch collecting. *

1:00 P.M. Luncheon is served to all registered and paid Chapter One Members and guests.

2:00 P.M. Auction (This auction will allow minimum bids and reserves. However, owners may not bid on their own items.) Merritt's will be donating to this auction.

3:00 P.M. Fair closes, the Picnic ends.

Entrance to the fair and Picnic is Free

All Chapter One Members and their Guests are invited.

All Chapter One members must register. See the Registration form on page 7.

There will be a \$5.00 charge for all Lunches.

You may NOT bring your own tables and chairs

Those interested in renting tables may do so through their Registration.

Eight Foot tables are \$25.00 each.

Tables and spaces will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

HOROLOGY IN HOLLYWOOD By Janet Fox

Thanks to an astute observation by one of our Chapter 1 members, Lee Davis, I'd like to revisit "Castaway" starring Tom Hanks. During his four years on the island, Noland lives in a unique cave. It has a hole in the roof where the sun can shine through. The sunlight crosses the cave and hits a certain point on the wall. Over the years, Noland has marked the position of the sun as it changes over time. In astronomy, when the position of the sun is recorded at a fixed location, always at the same time of day, a figure-eight pattern of points is produced. This pattern is known as an analemma.

When the porta-potty is washed in with the tide, Noland makes a plan to construct a raft using the plastic wall to help him cut through the strong waves and get out to sea. He also uses it as a makeshift shelter from the sun. During his planning stage, Noland uses the analemma as a calendar. He determines that he needs to complete the raft within a month and a half. This will be when the high tides and ocean breezes will give him the optimal chance of getting out into the shipping lanes, and thus be rescued. For four years, time had stood still for him. He suddenly is racing against time again. This time, however, time is not money but freedom.

The Meeting of May 31st.

Our second meeting at Williamsons was well attended and a good number of clocks and watches changed hands. The Silent Auction was back- up and running with several nice items going to new owners. The Best In Show Contest had three entries, two very beautiful clocks and a very interesting watch gear cutting engine. The two clocks, one a Seth Thomas Ships clock with nautical striking in a beautiful wooden case lost out to a terrific wooden and glass cased Gustave Becker 400 day torsion suspension clock from the late 1800's. The watch gear cutting engine was a pristine example of Horological technology and won the prize in the "Other" Category. Sadly there were no entries in the "Watch Category". The workshop by Lee Davis on "Stenciling Clock Splats" was well attended. The after luncheon speaker Allen Richardson's talk on "Personalized 315 year old dials" kept the audience's attention throughout and stimulated an active question and answer session at the end. The One Day Class had ten participants. The topic, "Casting small metal case parts" went well despite having to remove ourselves to the parking lot to handle the molten metal.

The Chapter One meetings for the rest of 2015 will be:

October 4, November 15, and December 6

These meetings will be held at:

Williamson's Banquet and Events Center

500 Blair Mill Rd.

Horsham, Pa. 19044

215 675 5454

Cell phones vs Watches: the challenge of the 21st Century

Jean-Antoine Lepine

There is no denying the fact that for the most part the watch, both wrist and pocket, has been supplanted by the ubiquitous cell phone and the ever present Ipad. However, one need only peruse the magazines published today to find no less than 10 to 12 large format, therefore expensive, advertisements for watches, both men's and ladies'. This leads one to conclude that watches, often very expensive ones, are still an item of great interest to the public. For those of us who are cursed, or blessed, (depending on your point of view or your spouse's), with a love of all things Horological, this is no surprise. The beauty and precision of a good, well made pocket watch is a wonder to behold. Few of us realize the debt we owe to the early innovators who made that thing of beauty possible, and an object of value to be desired and owned, even today, when it serves only a limited function. That is the topic that we will be pursuing over the next few issues of this Newsletter.

The first innovator that we will consider is one of the most important men in the history of horology. He made the modern pocket watch possible and he laid the groundwork for the future of mass produced watches achievable. I am talking about Jean-Antoine Lepine; Born November 18, 1720 in Challex, France he was recognized as a talented mechanic early in his career. As a young man he was placed under the direction of Mr. Decroze, the manufacturer of Saconnex watches in the suburbs of Geneva Switzerland. In 1744 he then moved to Paris where he was employed by Andre-Charles Caron, the horologist to King Louis XV. He, in 1756, made another undoubtedly good career move - he married the boss' daughter

and become the partner of Mr. Caron. In 1762 he received his Maitre horloger, (Master's Certificate), and it seems that in the same year took on Abraham- Louis Breguet as a student. In 1766 he was appointed Horologer du Roy, (watchmaker to the King). In 1766 he succeeded Caron and established himself in Paris on the rue Denis. In 1793, with his eyes failing him, he turned the business over to his son in law Claude-Pierre Raguette; however he remained active in the trade until his death on May 31, 1814. Lepine's most noted contributions to horology are numerous and impressive. He is credited with developing the slim disc shaped movement we so admire today. This innovation called the Lepine caliber supplanted the thick round bulky movements that were manufactured previously. He did this by abandoning the fusee power system and verge style escapement. He accomplished this by using a longer mainspring whereby the actual power was derived from a small fraction of the spring length where it was most efficient, thereby eliminating the bulky fusee and the need for a fragile fusee chain. He also eliminated the inaccurate and bulky verge escapement and made use of, and improved, the "virgule escapement" developed by Jean Andre Lepaute. He also made use of the Cylinder Escapement invented by Thomas Tompion and improved by George Graham in 1726. He is believed to have invented the "Hunter Case" with spring loaded covers and the Moon Style hands often mistakenly referred to as "Breguet Hands". He was the first to use Arabic Numerals on his dials and the first to develop a winding system that did not require a key. Lepine not only made watches for the kings of France and the aristocrats and wealthy members of French society, his reputation were well known in America as well. In 1789 the American emissary to France Gouverneur Morris purchased two Lepine watches, one for himself and one for President George Washington. In short Jean-Antoine Lepine was the premier watch maker of his day and the creator of the modern watch. This was an achievement that in no small way lead to the development of the watch industries of world and to the enjoyment of the watches, both pocket and wrist, that so many of us today experience as we own, collect, and repair them. It is believed in some circles that Lepine turned out about 6,000 watches in his lifetime. According to Adolphe Capiro, author of "Jean Antoine Lepine, horologer (1720 - 1814)", the most definitive work on Lepine to date, only about 200 those are now known. Most of them are located in Museums or in private collections. There are a few that are on sale today. However, they range in price from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each and since all of Lepine's watches were placed in solid gold cases that price range is probably on the low side these days.

Jean Antoine Lepine 1720 to 1814.



A Lepine for sale recently for \$5,000



Lepine watch for sale \$10,000



2015 Summer Picnic Registration Form

I/We will be attending the Chapter One Summer Picnic on Aug. 1, 2015

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Lunches: Number _____ at \$5.00 each Total remitted _____

Tables: Number _____ at \$25.00 each Total remitted _____

I am submitting _____ clocks, _____ watches _____ tools etc. to the auction.

Send this form with your remittance to:

David Gorrell Sect. /Treas. Chapter One

1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, MD, 21108

410 987 5915 or email at [djgclocks @ aol.com](mailto:djgclocks@aol.com)

The dead line for registration for tables and/or lunches is Saturday July 25th.

We look forward to seeing you all there!!!!