



The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc.

# Philadelphia Chapter One

*Chartered November 1, 1943*

The next Chapter One Meeting will be held on:

**December 7, 2014** At the **Holiday Inn**

Philadelphia North/Fort Washington

432 Pennsylvania Ave. Fort Washington, Pa. 19034

**The Speakers for the Dec. 7th 2014 Meeting will be:**

The Workshop Presenter will be Lee Davis. His topic will be "Gold Leaf on Glass"

The Luncheon Speaker will be Markus Harris. His topic will be "NAWCC Online, Sharing our Horological Resources with the Digital World"

The meeting dates for Chapter One for the remainder of the 2014 - 2015 year are:

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015      May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.      Summer Picnic

The Summer Picnic will be held at Merritts Antiques again this year. The date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

## HOROLOGY IN HOLLYWOOD by Janet Fox

As we have seen horology can be a key element to a movie. It can also be in the background. Next I'd like to discuss a movie, in which the horologic piece marks the different phases of a character's life in the movie. This is the case in the 1985 film "Out of Africa". It starred Meryl Streep as Baroness Karen Blixen and Robert Redford as Denys Finch-Hatton.

The story begins in Denmark 1913. Karen Dinesen has a friend Bror Blixen. She is pressed by family and society to get married. Bror is an aristocrat but broke. She asks him to enter into a marriage of convenience with her. He willingly does so for her wealth. She moves to British East Africa (Kenya) to start a dairy farm with him.

She marries him promptly upon her arrival. She begins friendships with the colonial residents. In particular she becomes friends with Denys Finch-Hatton, an Ivory Hunter. But her life turns out far differently than she anticipated. Without consulting her, Bror has purchased a coffee plantation with her money. He takes off to go big game hunting, leaving her to start up the farm herself. As Karen unpacks, we see all her possessions from Europe including her china and crystal. Her possessions stand in stark contrast to the culture and poverty of the native Africans. After she takes her cuckoo clock out from the crate and places it on the mantle, it cuckoos. The native head servant stares at it curiously. This marks the beginning of Karen's life in Africa.

World War I breaks out. The men of the colony head off to defend it from invaders. Bror leaves her again. She is left alone to work the farm and write. She is a story teller. As she is writing the clock again cuckoos. The native children have all gathered to see this. Little does Karen know that her life is going to dramatically change again. While Bror is away from her he has an extramarital affair. She contracts syphilis from him. She has to return to Denmark for treatment with arsenic.

Upon her return to Africa, she asks Bror to move out. An affair begins with Denys. She wants it to become a lasting relationship, maybe even marriage. But she realizes that Denys is as untamed as the animals that he hunts. Meanwhile, her coffee harvest is destroyed by fire. She will have to return to Denmark. Denys flies off in his biplane. He promises to return before she leaves. Penniless, Karen has a rummage sale of all her possessions. The cuckoo clock sits silently on the goods table. It is the end of Karen's life there. Later that day, Bror returns with news that Denys has died in a plane crash. Karen now has lost everything.

She returns one last time to Denmark. There she writes her memoirs about her life in Africa. She never returns there.

# Philadelphia Chapter One

Registration For the Meeting: December 7th, 2014

Advanced Registration (All participants must pay these entrance fees to the MART)

NAWCC Member/ Spouse / Guest \$18.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Child (Age 5 – 17) \$9.00 per child # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL STAY FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_ I WILL NOT STAY FOR LUNCH \_\_\_\_\_

MART TABLE: \$20.00 EACH # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EARLY BIRD (This fee is in addition to the \$18.00 /person entrance fee)

1 or 2 Members only + Spouse or Children \$15.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3 or 4 Members only + Spouse or Children \$23.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names for the Badges (Please Print Clearly)

1) \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC # \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ NAWCC # \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR THE "One Day Class \$10.00/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter One Membership Dues 8/31/2014 to 9/1/2015 \$10.00 per year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: David Gorrell 1179 Dicus Mill Rd. Millersville, Md. 21108

By filling out this form the payee/s agree to adhere to all Chapter One NAWCC, Inc., Mart Room Rules and By Laws.

NO REFUNDS AFTER 12 NOON THE SATURDAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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Meeting Schedule

Saturday December 6th "One Day Class" – "Repairing American clock movements Part 3 and Repairing French clock Movements" "

Sunday December 7th

7:15 A.M. Registration Opens – In the Lobby of the Holiday Inn

7:30 to 8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room set up Table Holders and Early Birds Only

8:30 A.M. -- Mart Room opens to all other registered participants

10:30 – 11:30 -- Workshop in the Luncheon area. Presenter Lee Davis "Gold Leaf on Glass"

12:00 -- Noon Mart Room Closes. No Security, the Mart Room must be cleared 12:15 to 1:45 – Luncheon Speaker, Marcus Harris, "NAWCC Online"

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## **The One day Class for Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

The One Day Class will be held on Sat. Dec. 6th starting at 10:30 AM. and lasting until 5:00PM. The class will include the lessons on Repairing American Movements Part 3 and repairing French “Pendule de Paris” movements. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term Pendule de Paris it is used by the French when referring to the small round standard French clock movements of the 18th,19th and 20th centuries. The Repairing American Clocks Part 3 will concentrate on assembling and adjusting the striking mechanism of the movements. The participants should bring an American clock movement and a French Pendule de Paris. They should bring whatever tools they feel that they will need. As always, if you do not have either of these movements the instructor will supply them. . As usual the last hour or so of the class will be dedicated to the “Open Bench” phase of the class. This is where any participant can bring in any watch or clock that they have been struggling with. Every effort will be made to solve your problems.

### **The menu for the Dec. 7th Meeting will be:**

**Fresh Fruit Salad    Garden Salad**

**Baked Chicken/ Sliced Sirloin with Mushrooms**

**Rice Pilaf**

**Fresh Vegetables, Rolls and Butter**

**Assorted Cakes**

**Coffee, Hot Tea, Decaf, & Iced Tea**

### **Advertising your Shop or Service**

Any Chapter One member who has a Watch or Clock Shop or provides a Horological service is encouraged to advertise in the Newsletter or on our website. Just let us know and we will gladly supply you with the details. Contact the Secretary if you are interested.

## Clock Dials by Carol Buonato

Carol Buonato was nationally known and most likely, internationally known, for her beautiful and exquisitely painted clock dials. Whether it was restoration for a client or painting a dial for someone from a blank, Carol was the best.

The William Penn Chapter Historical Society of Early American Decoration is proud and honored to announce the exhibition and silent auction of dials painted by Carol. These dials will be on exhibition from Friday, April 17, 2015 from 3:00 PM, through Sunday morning, April 19, 2015. There will also be silent auction bid sheets with each dial. The winning bid on each dial will be determined by the highest bidder at 11:00 AM on April 19, 2015.

The William Penn Chapter HSEAD invites you to see this wonderful exhibition, the last time you will be able to view this outstanding collection of dials by Carol Buonato. The location of the exhibition and silent auction is the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA.

We, the members of the William Penn Chapter, are honored to be able to present this outstanding collection of dials. Our sincere thanks to Nick Buonato for sharing Carol's work with us.

Pat Oxenford  
William Penn Chapter HSEAD  
Chairperson 2012 - 2015  
HSEAD Guild No. 1995  
NAWCC Member NO. 50254

## Interesting tidbits:

**Why are there 4 I's on a clock dial instead of the proper VI? Here are a few theories I found online that might provide an answer. Unfortunately, I am not sure that any of them are the definitive answer we are looking for, but it gives us something intelligent to say when a customer poses that question.**

**W. I. Milham:** "There is a story that a famous clockmaker had constructed a clock for Louis XIV, king of France. The clockmaker had naturally used IV for four. When the clock was shown to the king, he remarked that IIII should have been used instead of IV. When it was explained to him that IV was correct, he still insisted, so that there was nothing to do but change the clock dial. This introduced the custom of using IIII for four. This is probably only a story, however, as IIII occurs long before the time of Louis XIV. And this same story is also told in connection with other monarchs. There is one reason why IIII is preferable to IV, and it may have caused the change. On the other side of the clock dial the VIII is the heaviest number, consisting of four heavy strokes and one light one, as it is usually made. It would destroy the symmetry to have the IV with only two heavy strokes on the other side. Thus IIII with four heavy strokes is much to be preferred. The change may therefore have been made for reasons of symmetry." From *Time & Timekeepers*, W. I. Milham, The Macmillan Company, New York

**Joerg Haus, alt.horology:** There was a long discussion about that in a German watch- magazine ('Uhrenmagazin', for those who may know it). The widely accepted argument for '4' being displayed as 'IIII' and not as 'IV' (as it would be correct!) is the following: Imagine a watch face with roman numerals, and look at the numerals opposite to each other - all of them are in perfect balance, except for the 'heavy' VIII and the 'light' IV; optical balance is re-established by printing an also 'heavy' IIII. This may sound rather silly, but for a similar reason you'll see many watches/clocks displayed on photographs with their hands showing 10:09; it's simply the 'most friendly' clock face :).

**Ray Mialki, alt.horology:** The reason isn't all that far fetched. Using four I's instead of IV for the "four" is due to the casting process of the numerals. Since some numerals were cast out of metal, or carved out of wood or bone, you need 20 I's, 4 V's, and 4 X's, even numbers of each, if you use four I's for "four". The molds would produce a long centre rod, with 10 I's, 2 V's, and 2 X's on each si

**Tom Frank, Clocks:** According to my high school Latin teacher (it was long enough ago that she may have been there personally), the reason clocks use IIII vice IV is out of respect for the Roman God Jupiter, whose name, in Latin, begins IV (the V being the U we now use, the I the J; sort of an abbreviation). This convention would, of course, go back to the days of sundials (as an aside, I am also interested in them, mostly how best to make them...although living in New England they don't work very well!), and in my travels I have never seen a sundial made prior to the 19th century which had IV on it, always IIII. Sounds just odd enough she might have been right. Any ancient Roman/Greek scholars out there to offer some further insight.

**Jeffrey A. Harvey:** This is trivial, but some of you might not have noticed... On Roman clock faces, "IIII" is often used in place of "IV" for the "4 o'clock" (excuse me... 04:00 or 16:00 per ISO9000 :) !). This is apparently because "IV" is an abbreviation for "Jupiter" in Roman times. So they decided to use "IIII" so that their public clocks didn't have "1 2 3 GOD 5..." written on them. I find it interesting that this bit of knowledge has been missed by some architects with their big, pompous monuments\_to\_themselves proudly displaying a giant "IV" just like a cheap imported clock.

**Alan Heldman, alt.horology:** Yes, all of those theories have been mentioned. But the one not mentioned in the last post is the one that strikes me (four times) as the most likely: Classicists who have studied old Roman inscription of marble monuments etc. say that IIII was very often, perhaps predominantly, the form that was used in classical times. In a book picturing hundreds of tower clock dials, I found that about 95+% of them were in the IIII form. Interestingly, though, the most famous tower clock in the world, Big Ben, uses the IV form. There is also a hypothesis that the first clocks to use the IV form were clocks which had the rare feature of "Roman Striking." This used two bells, a higher pitch bell representing a one and a lower pitch bell representing a five. Thus four o'clock would be struck by one stroke of the small bell followed by one stroke of the big bell; six would be struck by one stroke of the big bell followed by one stroke of the small bell. This is a very efficient system, but died out almost entirely in the early 18th c

**Guus van Pelt** Like so many others I wondered about the presentation of the number four on roman dials. I think that there might be another explanation for using the IIII form, an explanation I have never read so far. What about the simple explanation that using IIII would build a dial that has four hour-indications using a I; four indications that use a V and four indications that use an X. Isn't that beautiful and symmetrical?

**Best In Show Contest. Oct. 12, 2014**

**Unfortunately the photos of this Meeting's entries were not available for publishing.**









