THE CROLL TESTIMONIAL

By Scarlett Hutchin, Metalwork Conservation Department, West Dean College

The Croll Testimonial is a parcel gilt silver rosewater fountain designed as a table centrepiece and presented to the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in 1883 by Colonel Angus Alexander Croll. He was Renter Warden of the Company in that year and Master in 1877 and 1884. Col. Croll was Chairman of the United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Company and, in 1870, negotiated its sale to the Government. This was of great financial benefit to the shareholders and in gratitude, they presented him with a silver Testimonial worth 1,000 guineas.

The fountain, elaborately decorated on the theme of transatlantic telegraphy, stands nearly 1.2 metres high, just under a metre wide and weighs approximately 42 kilos. It is formed of 112 components, not counting the individually hallmarked silver nuts used to assemble the piece or the elegant pump mechanism.

The Testimonial has not been fully assembled for many years and in October 2011 it was packed in boxes taken to West Dean College, near Chichester in West Sussex. West Dean is a specialist college with only 85 students, offering Diplomas and Master’s degrees in the conservation or making of Metalwork, Clocks, Furniture, Ceramics, Books and Stringed Musical Instruments, as well as Creative Writing and Visual Arts.

I have been leading a team of Metalwork Conservation students supervised by Senior Tutor Jon Privett. There was some minor repair work but the main challenge has been removing the aged, yellowed lacquer. The object was coated sometime in the past with what we believe is ‘Monarch Shield’, a lacquer which is heat cured after application, making it very tough and almost impossible to dissolve. We softened the lacquer using a solvent gel and removed it from the surface using a steam cleaner; a slow and painstaking process but the best option for removing the lacquer without damage to the historic gilding.

The Testimonial was heavily re-polished during restoration work following bomb damage in World War II, leading to the total loss of the frosted white finish originally used to contrast the figures with the bright polished and gilded components. This finish has now been recreated using matt fine silver plating and the piece is now being coated with a protective lacquer designed for silver and formulated to be easily removable. It has now been re-assembled, packed into a new, purpose built, wooden travelling crate and returned home to London.

By Scarlett Hutchin, Metalwork Conservation Department, West Dean College

Scarlett at work © Katrina Redman 2011

The Testimonial © Abigail Uhteg 2012

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 22 Jun to Sun 23 Sep</td>
<td>Butcher Baker Candle-Stick Maker Exhibition - 850 Years of London Livery Company Treasures - at Guildhall Art Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 25 Jun</td>
<td>Election of Sheriffs at Guildhall &amp; lunch for Liverymen at Pewterers’ Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Jul</td>
<td>Midsummer Court &amp; private lunch for the Court at Salters’ Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11 Jul</td>
<td>Lady Liverymen &amp; Lady Freemen Summer Lunch at Gray’s Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18 Jul</td>
<td>Diamond Jubilee Swan Upping on the Thames (Hurley &amp; Henley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22 Aug</td>
<td>Charter Day and Sun Dial Walk (St Margaret’s / Museum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 27 Sep</td>
<td>Michaelmas Court Dinner &amp; Harrison Lecture at Salters’ Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1 Oct</td>
<td>Election of Lord Mayor at Guildhall &amp; lunch for Liverymen at Pewterers’ Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2 Nov</td>
<td>Diamond Jubilee Livery Dinner at Mansion House with The Lord Mayor &amp; The Sheriffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 13 Dec</td>
<td>Clockmakers’ Carol Service probably at St Mary at Hill, Billingsgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28 Jan</td>
<td>Installation Court, Choral Evensong &amp; Dinner at Painters’ Hall &amp; St James Garlickhythe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The community of West Dean is mentioned in the Domesday Book and today West Dean College is flourishing under the auspices of the Edward James Foundation which was established by the last of the family who had owned the house since the 18th Century.

The Foundation is devoted to the crafts and is one of the foremost centres where apprentices and similar students can learn their various trades. The Chairman of the Friends of the Clockmakers’ Museum, Past Master Peter Linstead-Smith who had served a two-year introduction to the art of antique-clock conservation and restoration at West Dean, arranged a visit in March for the Trustees to view the work being carried out on the Croll Testimonial which the Friends of the Museum have kindly financed.

The massive silver table centre, is fitted with a clockwork fountain which plays into two highly decorated basins of silver. The ornamental parts of the design are gilded, set with semi-precious stones and surmounted by a figure of Mercury, Messenger of the Gods and God of Trade. Several groups of figures are illustrative of telegraphic science – a group of boys is shown signalling from Great Britain to the East and West and female figures depict the various sciences and industries connected with Colonel Croll’s career. The centre of the Testimonial contains a hemisphere engraved with a map of the various telegraphic systems in use in 1871.

On arrival, the Trustees were ushered into a room where the component parts of the Testimonial were laid out, (it had been some task to dismantle them for transportation to West Dean) where Matthew Read, Programme Leader of the College introduced the people working on the project. The visitors were then taken through the intricacies of the lengthy process of removing old lacquer, (an extremely time-consuming job), treating, re-assembling and again re-lacquering.

This was followed by a visit to the workshop of the Clock Department to see the fountain mechanism. Though simple in design, it is beautifully made which says much for the expertise of the original craftsman considering that it is hidden from view.

The visit ended with lunch given by Robert Pulley, the Principal of the College, to whom the Trustees were extremely grateful for their fascinating tour.

This extraordinary piece of silver work is on show in the Exhibition Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: 850 years of London Livery Company Treasures at the Guildhall Art Gallery until September 23rd.
Over the last twelve months, the Trustees of the Clockmakers’ Museum & Educational Trust have been involved in a number of projects. The Harrison Fund has been spent in its entirety. This was the surplus from the Harrison events which culminated in the unveiling of the new memorial in Westminster Abbey. It has been used to contribute towards the purchase of a number of important papers, once in the possession of John Harrison, from the Allix sale at Dreweatt’s in February 2012. These manuscripts are from two of the most interesting periods in John Harrison’s life and struggles with the Board of Longitude. The first lot (125) dates from the early 1760s and relates to the period immediately following H4’s first successful trial when Harrison was trying to explain its success to his supporters, MPs, The Board and anyone who’d listen. The second group dates from the mid-1770s and relates to the period at the end of Harrison’s life when he was trying to persuade the Board to award him the remainder of the Longitude prize money. This group also includes three lots that are written by Harrison himself and relates to his theories on the musical scale.

The Trustees have also been able to make a significant grant to an apprentice clockmaker out of the Tappenden Education Fund.

Another important event of the last year, however, concerns the future. The Museum has been in Guildhall since 1873. It is there by invitation of the City of London Corporation. As one of the major clock collections in the world, it makes a significant contribution to the cultural and heritage centre that is Guildhall, attracting about 10,000 visitors a year, free of charge. For the last three years, we have paid a service charge, representing the City’s assessment of our share of the services we receive by being in Guildhall. This arrangement ceases at the end of 2014 and the City has indicated that the Museum can only stay in Guildhall after that date if we pay them rent. They are asking for a figure approaching £50,000 per annum and will no doubt want to review that rent in the future.

This is an annual sum the Trust cannot afford to pay out of its present income and would have to expend capital - on which we rely for most of our income - to meet it. Accordingly, the Trustees and the Company are going to negotiate with the City to see if a more affordable sum can be agreed but at the same time, a search is being undertaken to ascertain if there is anywhere else in or near the City where the Museum can be housed. We would not wish to leave our home of 170 years, but this may be forced upon us. Watch this space!
The Pancake Races in Guildhall Yard celebrating Shrove Tuesday must be one of the craziest things we get up to in the City of London, but in such a serious world we might be forgiven for letting our hair down a bit once a year! It is organised by the Poulters’ Company, and always attended by either the Lord Mayor or a past Lord Mayor. This year we were privileged to have our Clockmaker Past Master and ex Lord Mayor Sir Michael Savory presenting the prizes. He is also a Past Master of the Poulters’ Company so it was particularly appropriate that he should do it.

The Livery Companies take it all very light-hearted but the Remembrancer’s and other Corporation departments take it very seriously and even deign to practise beforehand! They are forgiven however because they certainly field the prettiest teams, but the rules are very strict and skirts have to be of a “respectable” length.

Masters and Liverymen run in their Livery gowns adorned with cooks’ hats but their plimsoll foot wear is rather more comfortable than usual. Our friends The Cook and The Butler sponsor the event and provide the pancakes and aprons etc. The Clockmakers’ Clerk is the official time keeper. The Glovers insist that everyone wears their white gloves that they provide; the Musicians Company sing a celebratory song specially written for the occasion; and the Gunmakers’ Company fire a canon to start every race.

Whilst the Clockmakers have supported this event for several years even being the official timekeeper had not helped us win any races! This year however was a triumph for the Clockmakers and the Master, Mark Elliott, won the Master’s race.

However it didn’t stop there with the Charity race being won by James Stratton. The contestants had to race with attire that reflected one of the Lord Mayor’s charities and so James naturally had a boat with oars and sail as his headgear!

HMS Protector

This year has seen HMS Protector, with whom the Clockmakers’ Company is affiliated, complete her first year as the Royal Navy’s ice-patrol ship in the Antarctic. For the final deployment of the season she sailed in March to conduct further survey work and to carry out inspections of the scientific bases around the Antarctic Peninsula.

The first call was to the British Antarctic Survey Station at Rothera, the furthest south the ship had ever been (67° South), to deliver fuel and other vital stores necessary to withstand the approaching winter. From there the ship continued on to Arthur’s Harbour where they provided the Americans with survey data of the area around the proposed jetty at Palmer Station. Protector then sailed north to Discovery Bay in the South Shetland Islands where she had to shelter for the night as ice blown from the Weddell Sea threatened to close in and trap her. At this point it was decided to cut short the patrol and leave Antarctica. The ship then headed towards the Patagonia Canals, crossing the perilous Drake’s Passage, eventually berthing in Valparaiso. From there she continued through the Panama Canal, undertaking survey tasks in the Caribbean and returned home to Portsmouth in late June.

HMS Protector will deploy south again in September after a short period of maintenance and survey work around the UK.
For those people with a hankering for a distinctive piece of horological ingenuity, Robert Loomes & Co of Stamford has started work on a batch of one hundred entirely English-made wrist-watches.

Robert designs and makes watches from his distinctive Lincolnshire workshop. The building houses four floors of horological expertise, with craftsmen working on the restoration of antique domestic clocks and the servicing and repair of both vintage and modern watches.

Liveryman Robert Loomes grew up working with his father, horological author and clock dealer Brian Loomes, HonFBHI, in North Yorkshire. In 1991 Robert moved to Stamford to open his own workshops. Years of repairing modern watches left him frustrated that, with the exception of the hand-made creations of George Daniels or Roger Smith, there seemed to be an unwritten rule that everything else had to be Swiss. Robert Loomes & Co. had spent years designing and producing small batches of wristwatches using imported movements but, although customers admired their efforts, they consistently asked for an entirely English-made watch. The quest to manufacture every single part in England therefore began and Robert has managed, through careful batch production, to deliver an English-made watch at a price of £4,650 - from the Sheffield stainless steel case to the frosted, rhodium-plated, brass dial. The final part of the jigsaw was finding a firm who could cut, dome and polish sapphire crystals; their machinery dates back to the 1940s and was originally used for polishing Coventry watch glasses.

The movements have been significantly enhanced, re-jewelled, decorated and upgraded from their 1940s design to get the best possible performance and appearance from a simple movement.

Said Robert “One of the joys of an eighteen-thousand-beat watch for us, is that it takes skill to poise and adjust it to obtain really good timekeeping. We reverted to chronometry handbooks written by English watchmakers in the 1930s and 40s: chaps like Camm and Player on how to prepare watches for Kew chronometer tests. “Imagine my surprise when I discovered that Joseph Player’s grandson lives just outside Stamford! How many today remember that in 1909 Player made a minute repeating, chronograph, one-minute tourbillon for the banker J. P. Morgan? English watchmaking has always been the best in the world - otherwise why would Breguet have sent his son to London to learn how to do it properly. We have just never been awfully good at telling people.”

Robert Loomes is proud to Steward for us this year and also to see his wife and business partner Robina Hill admitted to the Freedom of the Company. Hopefully Robert will be better behaved than the last Loomes to belong to the Company. Back in the 1650s and 60s, Thomas Loomes was a notorious troublemaker in the Company. He complained to the Lord Mayor about the behaviour of the (then largely Royalist) Company Court of Assistants; he was fined by the Company for having too many apprentices. On one occasion, after the Restoration, he was arrested for hiding “two of the most dangerous (Republican) fellows in the North”.
As we gathered in front of Squerryes Court the clouds rolled back, the sun shone, and everything seemed to augur well for the thoroughly enjoyable day it indeed turned out to be.

After coffee and biscuits we began our conducted tour of this extremely attractive 17th Century red-brick house set in rolling Surrey countryside just outside Westerham and under the North Downs. The present house was built during the 1680’s and its current owner is a direct descendent of the original John Warde who bought the house in 1731. After nearly 300 years of Warde-family occupation, in spite of being filled with antique paintings, furniture, clocks, and porcelain collections, the house has evolved into a relaxed family home.

Among the clocks which aroused interest was an ebony-cased nursery clock dated 1770, by John Cotton, a Freeman of the Clockmakers’ Company; a longcase clock circa 1718 by Daniel Quare (Master of the Company in 1708); and a lantern clock by William holloway of Stroud, from the late 1680s.

In celebration of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Livery Companies gave a Luncheon on Tuesday 5th June at Westminster Hall in the presence of Her Majesty, The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Henry.

The guests invited by the Livery Company Masters were representative of the “good causes” that each Livery Company supports. Clerks were asked to ensure that the guests represented as wide a cross section of society as possible, and they were to be drawn from activities such as trade apprenticeships, training, schools and other educational institutions, a wide spectrum of charitable causes and Armed Services affiliations. Great importance was attached to maximising the geographical spread of invitees and to securing a composition which was seen to reflect a cross section of society, including age and background.

The Master’s guests were Laura Turner, a student of Horology at BCU and the recipient of a Clockmaker’s ‘Harrison Bursary’. She gained the second highest results in her first year, and is now in her second year; Lieutenant Commander Andrew Storey RN, Operations Officer on HMS Protector; Scarlett Hutchin a Postgraduate student in Conservation of Metalwork at West Dean College - who led the restoration of the Croll Testimonial Fountain; and Jason Murphy. While a student at Staffordshire University in 2011 studying Graphic Design he entered the Clockmakers’ “Picturing Time” competition and won third prize for his entry “Space Age”.

In celebration of The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the Livery Companies gave a Luncheon on Tuesday 5th June at Westminster Hall in the presence of Her Majesty, The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Henry.

The guests invited by the Livery Company Masters were representative of the “good causes” that each Livery Company supports. Clerks were asked to ensure that the guests represented as wide a cross section of society as possible, and they were to be drawn from activities such as trade apprenticeships, training, schools and other educational institutions, a wide spectrum of charitable causes and Armed Services affiliations. Great importance was attached to maximising the geographical spread of invitees and to securing a composition which was seen to reflect a cross section of society, including age and background.

The Master’s guests were Laura Turner, a student of Horology at BCU and the recipient of a Clockmaker’s ‘Harrison Bursary’. She gained the second highest results in her first year, and is now in her second year; Lieutenant Commander Andrew Storey RN, Operations Officer on HMS Protector; Scarlett Hutchin a Postgraduate student in Conservation of Metalwork at West Dean College - who led the restoration of the Croll Testimonial Fountain; and Jason Murphy. While a student at Staffordshire University in 2011 studying Graphic Design he entered the Clockmakers’ “Picturing Time” competition and won third prize for his entry “Space Age”.

As we gathered in front of Squerryes Court the clouds rolled back, the sun shone, and everything seemed to augur well for the thoroughly enjoyable day it indeed turned out to be.

After coffee and biscuits we began our conducted tour of this extremely attractive 17th Century red-brick house set in rolling Surrey countryside just outside Westerham and under the North Downs. The present house was built during the 1680’s and its current owner is a direct descendent of the original John Warde who bought the house in 1731. After nearly 300 years of Warde-family occupation, in spite of being filled with antique paintings, furniture, clocks, and porcelain collections, the house has evolved into a relaxed family home.

Among the clocks which aroused interest was an ebony-cased nursery clock dated 1770, by John Cotton, a Freeman of the Clockmakers’ Company; a longcase clock circa 1718 by Daniel Quare (Master of the Company in 1708); and a lantern clock by William Holloway of Stroud, from the late 1680s.

Following a delicious lunch at Tandridge Golf Club, we were off to Titsey Place, one of the largest surviving estates in Surrey. It was originally bought in 1534 by John (later Sir John) Gresham of the great London mercantile family, future Lord Mayor of London and founder of Gresham School in Norfolk from where the family originated.

The present residence was built in 1775 as a fairly conventional Georgian country house, replacing an earlier building. In the 1820s some rooms were remodelled in the Regency style and in 1856 a small tower was built at one end of the house. The grasshopper crest of the Greshams appears over the front door.

This house contains a somewhat larger collection of antique clocks than Squerryes but our guide had been unable to uncover much historical information about any of them. She apologised for this and suggested that members of the group might like to do some investigations of their own; any information would be gratefully received.
Sadly we are going to have to move our office out of the Salters’ Hall before the end of 2013, since it is to be refurbished and will be closed for two years. We have no firm plans as yet. We are extremely well looked after by the Salters’ Company and will always be very grateful for their efficiency and kind hospitality.

The Master has suggested I mention election to the Livery and to the Court, and the opportunity to serve on Committees or Panels of which there are several that have Livery involvement. Members of the Company should feel free to mention in confidence to the Clerk if they would like to be considered for election to the Livery or the Court, or assist in some other way. In a comparatively big company like ours, there is a possibility that someone is passed over in error, and it is a help to the Master and the Clerk to know when someone wants to get more deeply involved in one way or another. It is important that members of the Livery are involved in the running of their company. There are so many things that we need help and advice with, and the Clerk will always welcome some help from time to time.

It seems that more and more of you are now clicking into the web-site. We can monitor web-site usage and it is clear that there is a lot of interest in what we do, not just from within WCC but 28.8% of it is from abroad. We regularly get around 800 to 900 hits a week.

Sadly I am approaching a big birthday and will be handing over the baton to a new Clerk in the Spring of next year. So may I ask you please to put the word around both within the Company and without, that we are seeking someone suitable for the position. We will start recruiting in the Autumn of 2012.

Over 270 friends and colleagues from the Company and far flung countries gathered on April 16th at St. George’s, Hanover Square, to celebrate the life of Past Master Dr. George Daniels. His beloved 12-cylinder Grand Prix Itala dating from 1908 stood guard outside the church.

The Service was conducted by the Master’s Chaplain, the Revd. Hugh Bearn and the Rector of St. George’s, the Revd. Roderick Leece. The Organist was Philip Rushworth, Director of Music at Chichester Cathedral and a personal friend of George Daniels. The choir led by Simon Williams, Director of Music, sang most beautifully. Liveryman David Newman gave the first Reading which was followed by three amusing and informative Appreciations by Deputy Master Andrew Crisford, watchmaker Roger Smith, and one-time apprentice to George, and Roger Collings, a Past President of the Vintage Sports Car Club. The Order of Service contained photographs of the Space Traveller’s watch and George and his cars: the back cover had a wonderful photograph of him at Brooklands in his Birkin Single Seater Blower Bentley.

A fitting Service for the Master Watchmaker of the 20th Century which was followed by a reception at Sothebys where George had been horological Consultant for over 40 years.
On March 29th, Melvyn Bragg’s weekly broadcast, In our Time, was a fascinating 45 minutes on The Measurement of Time. The discussion centred on the various methods used for measuring time from the early civilisations to the present day. His guests were the Renter Warden, Jonathan Betts, Senior Curator of Horology at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Kristen Lippincott, Former Director of the Royal Observatory and Jim Bennett Director of the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford.

Congratulations to The Hand Engravers’ Association of Great Britain

Their recent Lottery bid applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £34,000 with support from The Clockmakers’ Company was successful.

PAST STEWARD’S DINNER

Bakers’ Hall once again provided an excellent venue for the Past Stewards’ Dinner. With over 60 attending one of the less formal dinners, an enjoyable and entertaining evening ensued. The Master proposed the toast to the Stewards which drew upon records of Stewards activities from the earliest days of the Company. The origins of our table plans may well have dated from 22 July 1664 when it was recorded that “for the prevention of disorder and exception the Clerk shall make a list in writing of the Assistants and Stewards according to their priority according to which they and their wives shall be called by the Clerk and placed at the table”. The response was given by one of our current Stewards, Jon Leech, who gave a fascinating insight into the build-up to this year’s Olympics where he is a judge in the shooting events at Woolwich Arsenal.

Congratulations to Renter Warden Jonathan Betts on being awarded the MBE for Services to Horology in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. Congratulations also to Liveryman Inigo Woolf on being awarded the BEM for Serving the Community in Hampstead, North West London.

We much regret to record the following deaths:

Liveryman Laird Mellard Ketchen
Past Master Michael John Prince
Liveryman Elsie Mary Bliss
Past Master Frank Anthony Mercer
Liveryman Aubrey Bernard Brocklehurst

The Smiths of Derby
A Journey Through Time
by max craven

Available from Smith of Derby Group Ltd.
112 Alfreton Road, Derby DE21 4AU,
Tel. 01332.551634
Email. enquiries@smithofderby.com

We welcome the following new Freemen

Belinda Jane Baber
Catherine Jill Baber
James Angus Bell
Michael Roger Blayney
Pendrick Zane Brown
Phillip Westcombe Elliott
Robina Elizabeth Hill
Matthew Sebastian Hopkinson
Keith Geoffrey Isaacson
Joanne Elizabeth Lewis
Joanne Elizabeth Llewellyn
Christopher Bernard Potter
Christopher Francis George Thomas
Nicholas Paul Townndrow

We congratulate the following Freemen on being raised to the Livery

Charles Edward Carey
Scott Jamieson Dobbie
Robert Michael Donaldson
Salvatore Martin Gatto
Geoffrey Norman Knight
William Evans Sunderland

The Clockmaker July 2012
Editors: Tina Millar, Brenda Blackburn and The Clerk | Designer: Adam Bernard

www.clockmakers.org