

**REMINISCENCES ON BRITISH HOROLOGY
IN THE POST WORLD WAR II DECADES**

Time, Time and Time Again, by Geoffrey Evans.

Published 2008 by Quinto Press, Vale of Glamorgan, UK (www.quintopress.com); hardback, dust jacket, 227 pages, 16 x 24 cm; ISBN 973-1-905960-07-1, sparsely 18 plates, 20 b&w illustrations in the Appendix; Index. Text in English. Available at www.amazon.com for \$16.50 or borrow from the Library & Research Center at the National Watch & Clock Museum.

Geoffrey Evans was well positioned to observe British horology in the second half of the twentieth century. After coming of age during World War II, Evans began his professional career as a design engineer in a watch factory in Wales, UK, rising to chief engineer of the Anglo-Celtic wristwatch factory in Ystradgynlais, Wales. Geoffrey documented more than three decades in a virtually unrecorded chapter in British horological history: The valiant, but eventually unsuccessful efforts to extend Britain's period of horological glory into the age of mass production are described in the first 100 pages and in a 30-page technical appendix. By the early 1980s Evans had become the national secretary of the British Horological Institute (BHI), putting him at a central point of the efforts to maintain professional standards in the British horological trades at a time when formal horological education was collapsing. This soon also led to his involvement with the British Watch and Clock Manufacturers Association (BWCMA) as their secretary general. BWCMA merged with the Watch and Clock Importers Association to form the British Horological Federation BHF. After serving this trade group in parallel with his duties at BHI, Evans continued part-time as secretary general of BHF after his retirement from BHI in 1995 until 2005. About 80 pages of the book recount episodes and encounters of the author while serving these professional and trade bodies. This again is a poorly documented sector of British horological history. While part of this sector is somewhat tedious reading, I am glad that these facts are preserved in this book for future generations of horological historians.

Fortunat Mueller-Maerki (NJ)

"BEAUTIFUL" CLOCKS AT BOSTON'S MFA

In a temporary exhibit closing soon at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, several rare and exotic European clocks are on display from the collection of Horace Wood Brock. Rebecca Tilles, a curatorial research associate at the museum, led me on a special private tour of the clocks and encouraged us to learn more in her detailed article—"Timepieces of Timeless Beauty"—in the March 2009 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*.

"Woody" Brock, an unusual collector whose firm assesses risk in the international economy, applies his own scientific criteria when selecting acquisitions. The hardbound lavishly illustrated exhibit catalog, sharing its title "Splendor and Elegance" with the

exhibit itself, opens with an essay in which he explains his theory on what makes objects "beautiful."

Certainly, even without applying his criteria, we can adore his horological selections. From two long-case rarities made around 1685 by Andre-Charles Boule to a 1790 "Temple" clock by Benjamin Vulliamy, the clocks display the peak of decorative arts of their periods. The furniture, porcelain, drawings, etc., which also fill the exhibit, all adhere to this ultimate standard.

The exhibit closes May 17, but the catalog will remain available from the museum. For more information, visit www.mfa.org.

Bob Frishman (MA)

CLOCKS OUTSIDE THE BOX

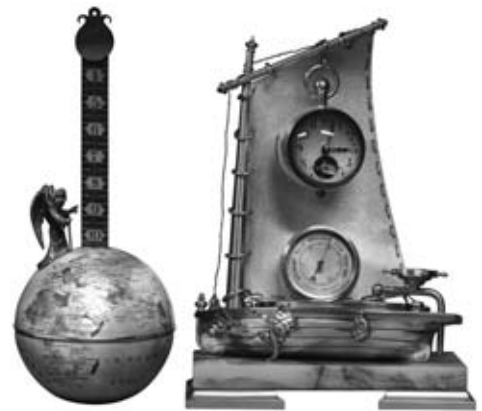
Doug Stevenson's January 2009 *Clocks Magazine* American Notebook column mentioned Roger Wood's www.klockwerks.com and www.EricFreitas.com. Both sites feature artists who make extraordinary clocks.

**SOCIETE SUISSE DE CHRONOMETRIE
ANNOUNCES SYMPOSIUM**

The Swiss technical and scientific society for time-keeping will hold its annual *Journee d'Etude* (Study Day) on September 16, 2009, in Lausanne, Switzerland. The subject is "Watches with complications – Technical and aesthetic challenges." Presentations are mostly in French, with some in German and English. For more information go to their website, www.ssc.ch.

**EXHIBITION OF RARE ANTIQUE MYSTERY, NOVELTY,
AND FANTASY CLOCKS—APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2009**

Sundial gallery no. 54 at The Manhattan Art and Antiques Center in New York City has assembled a special collection of 50 one-of-a-kind mystery, novelty, and fantasy timepieces, all for sale. Exhibition highlights include an extremely rare Swiss early twentieth-century enamel and silver annula dial clock and a very rare English silver and enamel gravity globe timepiece. As the clock runs, Father Time indicates the time on a painted and gilded black leather band from which the timepiece is suspended. A gilt, silvered, coppered, and patinated bronze and variegated marble car clock created in 1910 has moving wheels and is both a clock and a barometer. An 1895 French gilt and silvered bronze and onyx sailing compendium is both an eight-day clock and a barometer.



Left. Gravity globe timepiece.

Right. Sailing compendium timepiece.