

Horological News

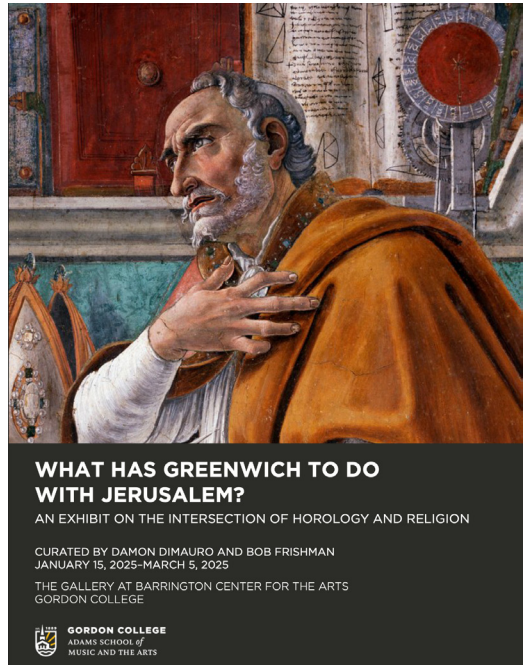
Horology and Religion: An Exhibition and Symposium

A unique and groundbreaking exhibition was on view 15 January to 5 March at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, and was accompanied by a related symposium.

The title, 'What Has Greenwich To Do With Jerusalem', is an adaptation of Tertullian's classic query, 'What Has Athens to do with Jerusalem?', whereby the second-century theologian questioned the compatibility of ancient philosophy and church teachings. The exhibition adapts the question to the intersection of horology and religion, and it featured nearly eighty artworks, early printed volumes, and antique clocks and watches from the collections of co-curators Bob Frishman and Damon Di Mauro, and from the school's extensive Vining Collection of rare books. We are not aware of any previous exhibitions and conferences specifically on this topic.

Artworks included: enlarged prints of fifteenth-century manuscript images showing St Augustine, Temperance, Chronos, and King Solomon with clocks; prints of early twentieth-century lantern-slide photographs of churches in Connecticut with clocks in their steeples (see photo); an American folk-art memento mori portrait; William Hogarth's Four Times of Day prints; Wallace Nutting's early twentieth-century hand-coloured photographs with clocks reinforcing their nostalgia themes; and a 1920s Longines watch poster featuring Father Time.

Six American tall-case clocks stood in the gallery of the college's Barrington Center for the Arts. Important makers included Edward Duffield, Simon Willard, Nathaniel and Samuel Mulliken, Moses Peck, and Ebenezer Sargent. A 'banjo' wall clock was signed Edmund Currier, and a figural cast-metal mantel clock of 'The Reaper' accompanied portraits by famous mid-nineteenth century America photographer Mathew Brady, in which the sitters were shown with that clock model. Centered in the gallery was an eighteenth-century iron-frame turret clock movement, formerly in the steeple of an historic church



The cover of the twenty-four page exhibition catalogue which is available upon request.

in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Among the displayed rare books was a 1743 German-language Bible, just the second Bible printed in North America, issued by Christopher Sauer who was also a Pennsylvania clockmaker. In the case displaying early watches, and a chronometer by Boston's William Bond, was the 1773 tome by Ferdinand Berthoud, *Traité Des Horloges Marines*.

Adjacent to the large main gallery was a small 'Maker Space' with a watchmaker's bench and assorted tools, early technical and instructional art and prints, clock movements, and a collection of original American patent drawings from the 1880s.

More than eighty attendees gathered on 1 February for a programme of four lectures exploring the theme of the exhibition. Eminent speakers and their talk titles were: Dr Jennifer Powell McNutt, Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois – 'God's Time in Our Hands: Reformation Bibles and the Reforming of Time'; Dr Sara Schechner, Emeritus Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University – 'Sundials and Matters of Faith'; Rev. Dan Benson, minister, horologist, and theologian based in



The four speakers and two curators on a snowy New England Saturday afternoon. Left to right: Dr Jennifer Powell McNutt, Rev. Dan Benson, Bob Frishman, Dr Sara Schechner, Damon Di Mauro and William J.H. Andrewes.

Toronto, Canada – ‘Beyond Paley’s Watch’; and William J.H. Andrewes, horologist, scholar, designer of public sundials, and principal creator of the Harvard University 1993 Longitude Symposium – ‘Teach Us to Number Our Days’. Following their presentations, a panel discussion among the four speakers engaged with the audience to further develop issues addressed in their lectures.

Gordon College Professor Di Mauro, in his preface to the twenty-four page exhibition catalogue (available as a PDF by writing to Damon.DiMauro@gordon.edu)

.explained that the exhibition ‘explores the relationship of timekeeping to the Christian faith. The mechanical clock had its origins in monasteries where they were used to awaken the community for nocturnal prayer. Clockwork subsequently became a powerful metaphor for the orderliness of pious living, and indeed God himself came to be characterized as a master clockmaker. Throughout the centuries, clocks have been employed to call to worship, they have had a role in missionary endeavours, and, more generally, they have served as inescapable

reminders of the transitoriness of earthly existence.'

Horologist and independent scholar Bob Frishman, lender of most of the objects in the exhibition, added 'I am honoured to share some of my artworks, some of my antique clocks

and watches, and some of my horological expertise with our exhibition's visitors. I bring to the table much of the 'Greenwich'. It is the 'Jerusalem' insights and materials, however, that make this novel exhibition so significant.'

Damon Di Mauro and Bob Frishman

Harrison event at No 11

The British Watch and Clock Maker's Guild hosted an event to celebrate the life and work of John Harrison, in the State Room at Number 11 Downing Street on Thursday 28 November.

Two Harrison experts, Jonathan Betts and Andrew King, each gave a talk, sharing their knowledge and passion for the man who created the most important timekeeper ever made – H4.

In H4 – the fourth of Harrison's prototypes – a portable timekeeper had finally been created that could keep time accurately at sea, thus solving the problem of finding longitude, which in turn saved countless lives. The first of all precision watches, it featured several innovations that are still used in watchmaking today.

The marine timekeeper, along with other important pieces that shaped the modern world of timekeeping and navigation, was on loan from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, as part of the 'Celebrating John Harrison and the Quest for Longitude at Sea' series of events.

It provided the opportunity for Guild members to get together in a memorable setting, and included representatives from all of the UK's other horological organisations – Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, Master Keith Scobie-Youngs; the Antiquarian Horological Society, Chairman James Nye; the British Horological Institute, President Alan Burtoft; and the Alliance of British Watch and Clock Makers, CEO Alistair Audsley.

For more text and photos visit bwcmg.org



Left to right: Andrew King; James Nye, Chairman AHS; Keith Scobie-Youngs, Master Worshipful Company of Clockmakers; Paul Roberson, Guild Director; Shuajb Berisha, BWCMG Chairman; Jonathan Betts, and Alan Burtoft, President of the BHI. All are Guild members.