

Another Fifty Animated Dial Clocks

by

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When my article, "Fifty Animated Dial Clocks," appeared in the August 1967 issue of the BULLETIN, I thought I had covered the subject fairly thoroughly, as I had had a difficult time rounding up fifty examples of these interesting little clocks to use as illustrations. However, since the article was published, several collectors have come to light and new and different animated dial clocks have been brought to my attention. Some are shown here and others will appear in a later article.

What is an animated dial clock? I define it as a clock with a lever escapement that has an elongated escape wheel arbor or lever arbor that gives a rotary or oscillating motion to cut-out figures or objects on a plane different from the plane of the dial.

The moving objects are usually related to an overall scene printed on the dial. Many are alarm clocks.

Most of the clocks illustrated here fit this definition, but a few that do not are included because they have similar features.

The most interesting of these clocks are the ones having the most complicated animation. In addition to rotary and oscillating motion, some have other types of animation, such as intermittent movement or articulated figures. A few examples have two, or even three, animated objects. These more complicated models were obviously made before World War I, labor costs since have made producing such articles unprofitable.

This type of clock was first made in the United States in the 1870's, and

during the late 19th and early 20th centuries they were also produced in Germany, France, England and Scotland. Most of them were only novelties, but others were designed to carry an advertising message. They were probably not produced in large quantities, as they seldom appear in manufacturers' catalogs, although some show a manufacturer's name.

As novelties, the clocks were inexpensive. To keep prices low, manufacturing costs had to be kept to a minimum; as a result, timekeeping and animation mechanisms, as well as dials and figures, were fragile and prone to deterioration. Today, old animated dial clocks that have survived the trash heap and are in reasonable condition are rare and are eagerly sought by collectors.



Fig. 53 Junghans Trade Mark (Germany)
Trapeze performer on a gymnastic field
background (Different background from No.
18)

Articulated performer

(F.H.G.)

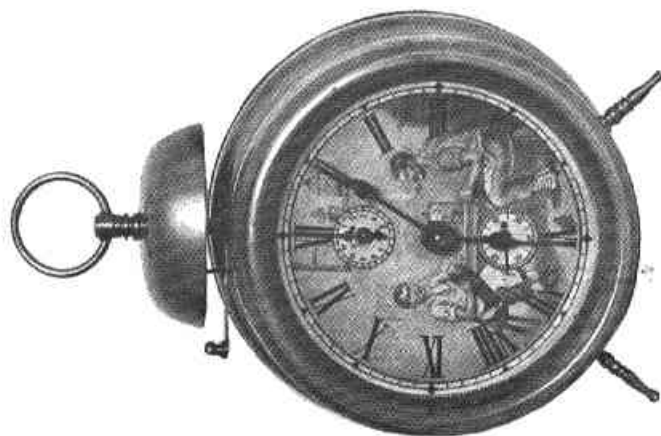


Fig. 54 Kienzle Trade Mark (Germany)
Bootmakers

Double independent animation: sewing
arm, intermittent action — boot polisher's
arm — sustained action

(F.H.G.)

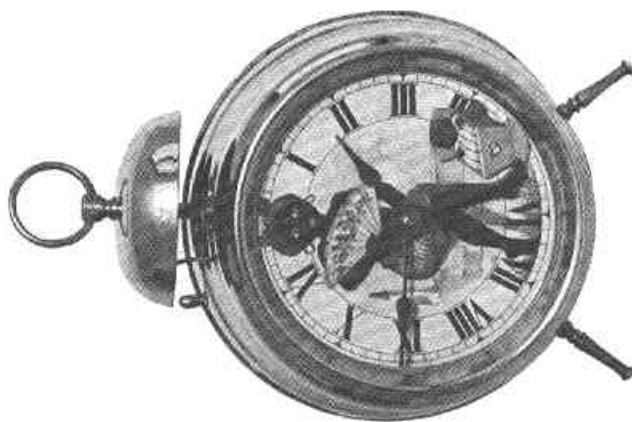


Fig. 55 No markings (Germany)
Black woman with baby in cradle
Woman's leg and cradle

(F.H.G.)

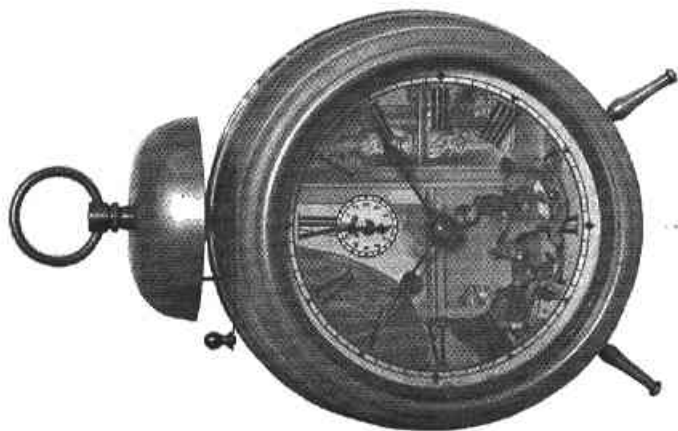


Fig. 57 No markings (Germany)
Hobby horse
Double animation: boy's arm and hobby
horse (hobby horse pulls arm)
(F.H.G.)

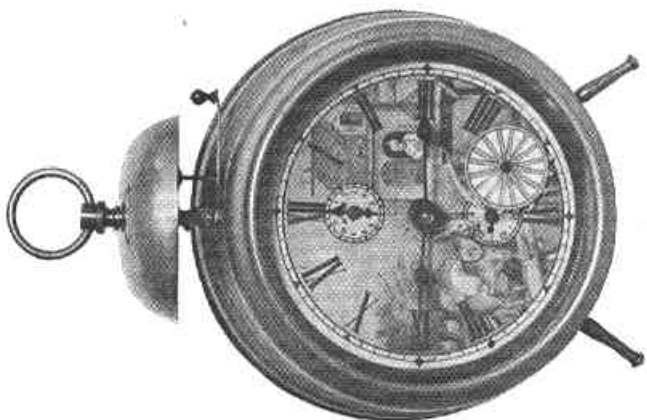


Fig. 56 No markings (Germany)
Old Mill
Double animation: mule's head and mill
wheel
(F.H.G.)

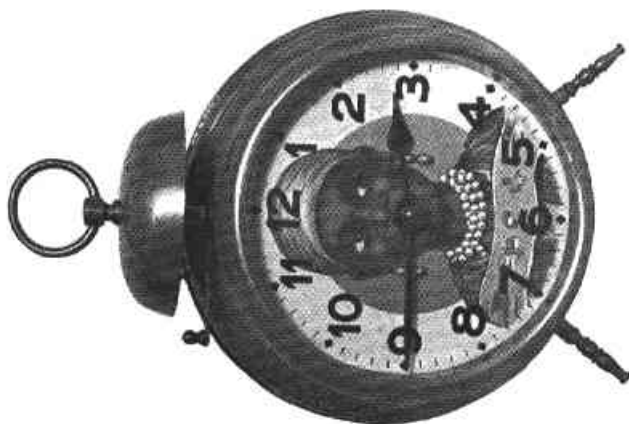


Fig. 58 No markings (Germany)
Black girl's head
Eyes
(F.H.G.)

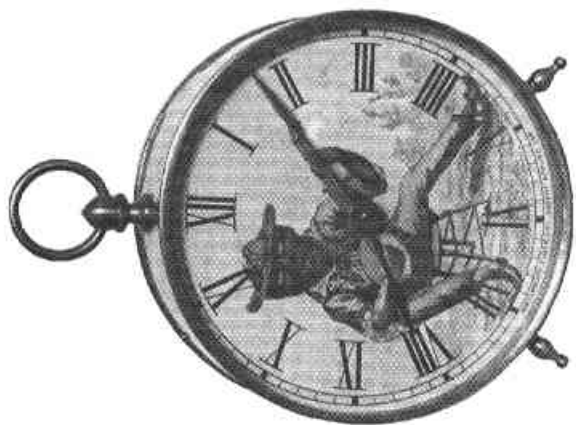


Fig. 61 Waterbury Clock Co. Patent Applied For (U.S.)

Patented Sept 11 1877, Jan 15 1878

Banjo player

Triple animation: eyes, mouth, arm (F.H.G.)

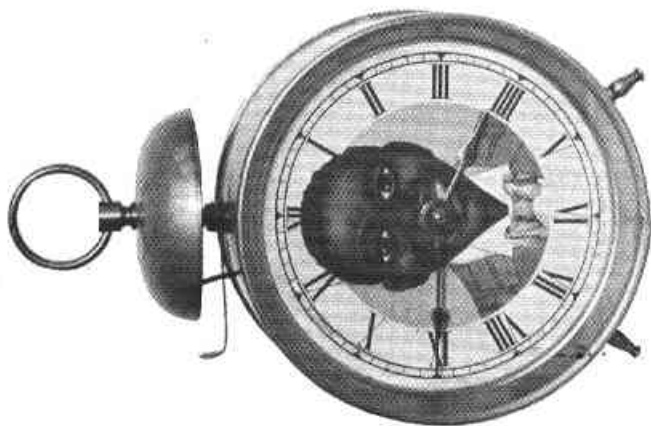


Fig. 60 K. C. Co. (Kienzle Clock Co.)

Black boy (Quite different from No. 14)

Eyes

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 59 No markings (Germany)

Dancing girl

Girl's leg

(F.H.G.)

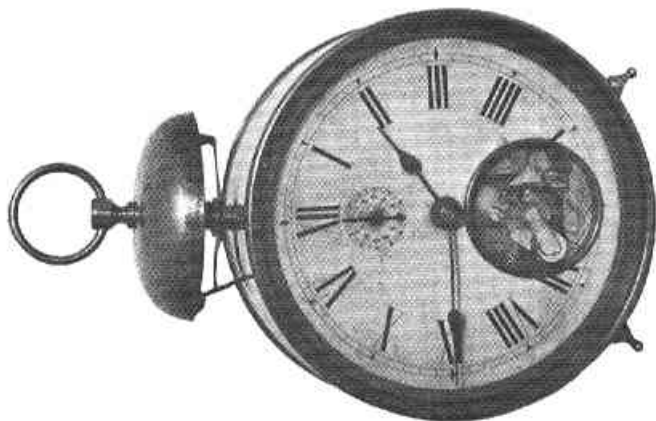


Fig. 64 No markings (Germany)
Clockmaker
Intermittent action: arm with hammer
(F.H.G.)

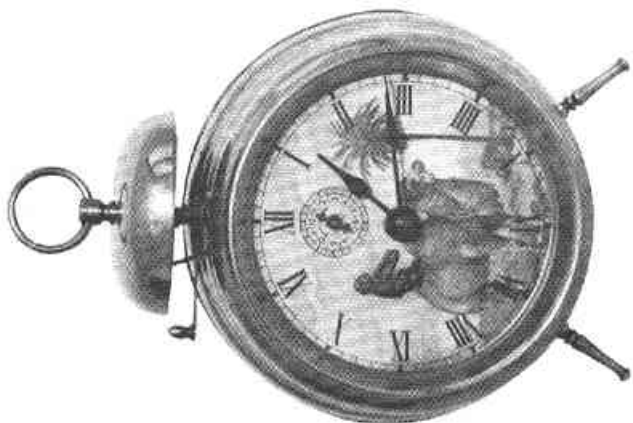


Fig. 63 No markings (Germany)
Camel and monkey
Monkey
(F.H.G.)

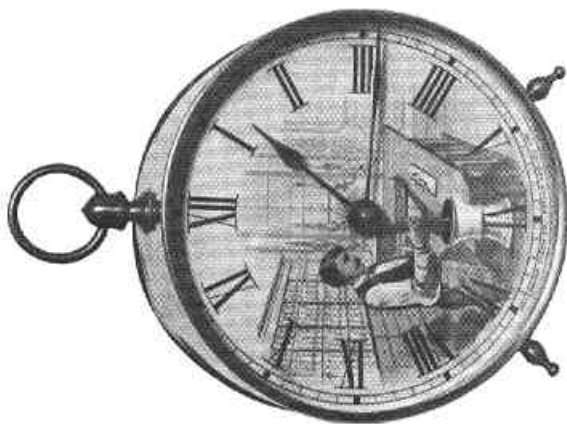


Fig. 62 Waterbury Clock Co. Patent Applied
For (U.S.)
Patented Sept 11 1877, Jan 15 1878
Pharmacist
Arm with pestle
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 67 Patented Mar 2 1886 (U.S.)
Woman playing stringed instrument (Man-
dolin Player)
Arm
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 66 Bennett, Sloan & Co's Mocha &
Java Coffee (Germany)
Woman sipping coffee
Arm with spoon
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 65 Pat Mar 9 1886. Pat Nov 22 1887
Manf'd in U.S.A.
Girl with fan (Flirting Girl) (In different
case from No. 4 and shows fan)
Hand with fan
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 70 Chew Virgin Leaf Tobacco
Patented Mar 2 1886 (U.S.)
Tobacco Chewer (eyes staring)
Chewing action

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 69 Chew Friendship Cut Plug
Patented Mar 2 1886 (U.S.)
Tobacco Chewer (eyes staring)
Chewing action

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 68 Patented Mar 2 1886 (U.S.)
Tobacco Chewer (cross-eyed)
Chewing action

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 71 No markings (Germany)
Bullfighter
Bull's head
(F.H.G.)

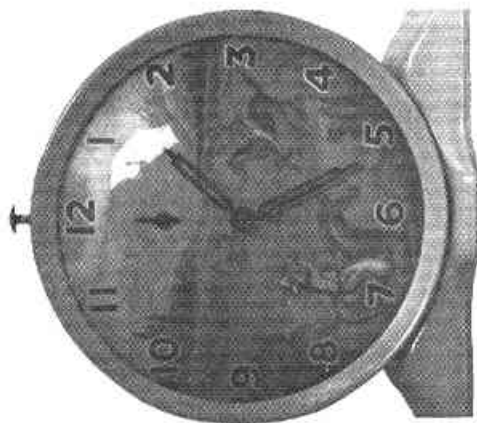


Fig. 72 Smith Alarm Great Britain
Cowboys
One cowboy on horse
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 73 Smith Alarm Made in Great Britain
Birds in Trafalgar Square (Feeding Bird)
Feeding bird
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 76 Smith Alarm Made in Great Britain
Hi Diddle Diddle
Dog

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 75 Smith Alarm Made in Great Britain
Schoolmaster
Double animation: hand and pointer, figures change

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 74 Smith Alarm Made in Great Britain
Tumbling Clown
Clown (tries three times to turn and fails; makes it on the fourth try)

(F.H.G.)

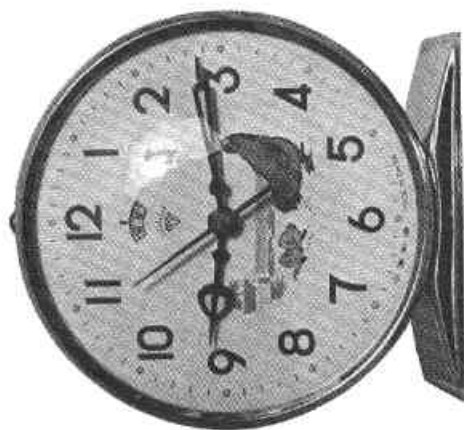


Fig. 77 Chinese characters (Made in China)
Feeding Chicken
Chicken's head

(F.H.G.)

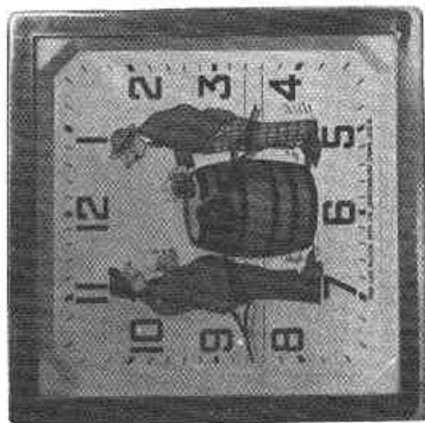


Fig. 78 Happy Days The Lux Clock Mfg Co
Waterbury Conn U.S.A. (Made before repeal.
No. 13 has "3 point 2" added)
Two drinkers and barrel
Arm with glass of beer

(F.H.G.)

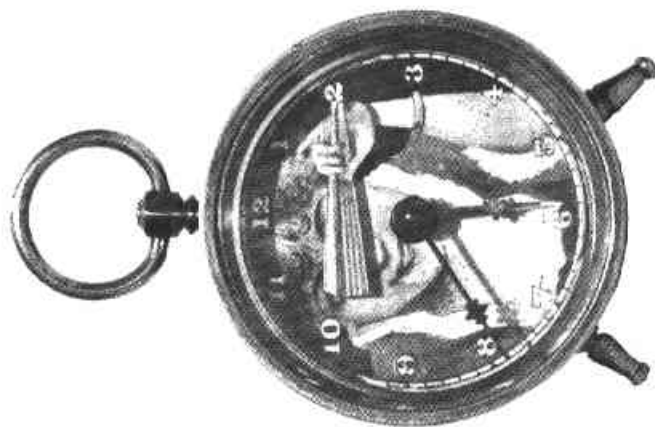


Fig. 79 No markings (Germany)
Girl with fan (Flirting Girl) (This is a min-
iature version of Nos. 4 and 65)

Hand with fan

(F.H.G.)

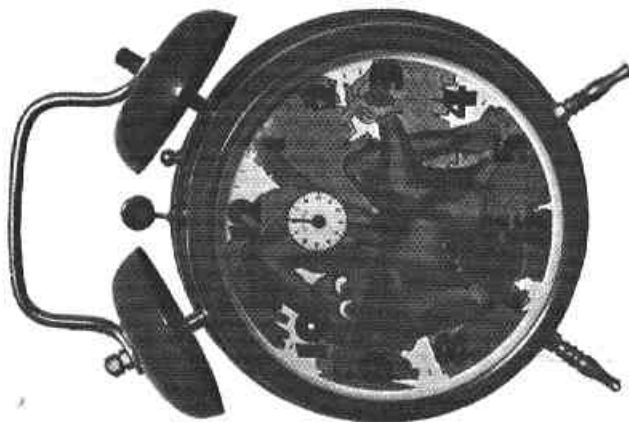


Fig. 80 Made in Germany
Mother and baby apes
Baby ape

[C.T.]

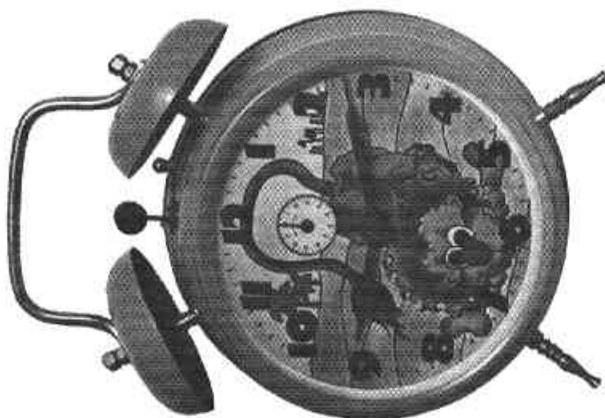


Fig. 81 Made in Germany
Desert scene
Lion's eyes

[C.T.]

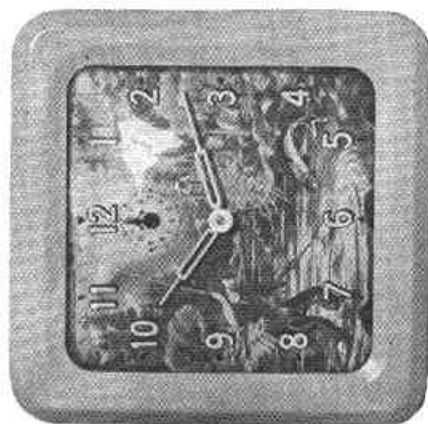


Fig. 82 Ingraham Made in Bristol Conn
U.S.A.
Fishing scene
Fish

[F.H.G.]



Fig. 83 August C. Keebler Co Chicago Ill-
nois (U.S.A.)
Butcher
Arm with cleaver
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 84 The Lux Clock Mfg Co Waterbury
Conn (U.S.A.) (Different case from No. 11)
Peanut Vendor
Arm turning crank
(F.H.G.)

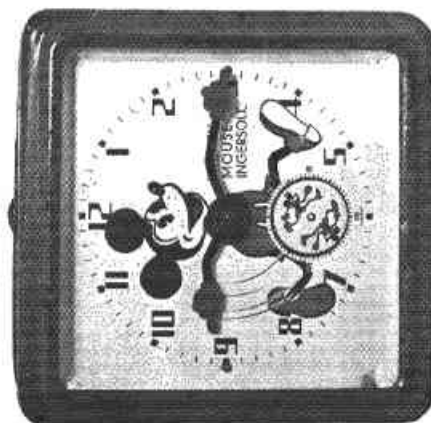


Fig. 85 Mickey Mouse Ingersoll Foreign
Mickey Mouse
Rotating disc shows two mice chasing each
other
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 86 (c) Walt Disney Productions
Phinney-Walker West Germany
Mickey Mouse
Eyes rotate

(F.H.G.)

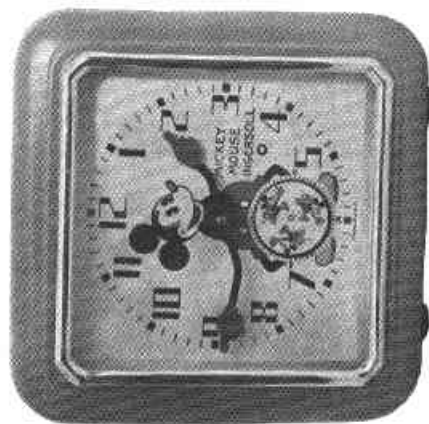


Fig. 87 Mickey Mouse Ingersoll Made in
U.S.A.
Mickey Mouse
Rotating disc shows three mice chasing
each other

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 88 Ingersoll Made in U.S.A.
Mickey Mouse
Head

(F.H.G.)



Fig. 89 Mickey Mouse Ingersoll 1933 W.D.
Prod. (U.S.)
Dancing Mickey and Minnie Mouse (A pro-
duction model)
Dancing couple
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 90 Waterbury Clock Co Patented May
8 1888
Patented Sept 11 1877, Jan 15 1878 (U.S.)
Washerwoman
Body above waist
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 91 No markings (Germany)
Windmill
Vanes of windmill
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 92 United Electric Clock Co Brooklyn
NY (U.S.)
Boat deck with steersman (Storm) (Different
case from No. 31)
Arm and wheel
(F.H.G.)



Fig. 94 Peter Made In Germany
Western scene
Cowboy
(C.T.)



Fig. 93 Peter Made in Germany
Soccer Player
Player's leg
(C.T.)

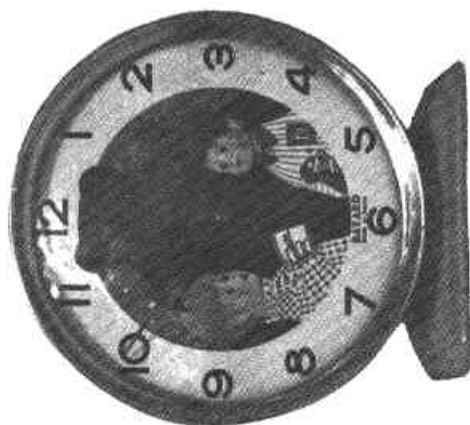


Fig. 97 Boyard Made in France Par RTE
Bear and two children
Bear's head

(F.H.G.)

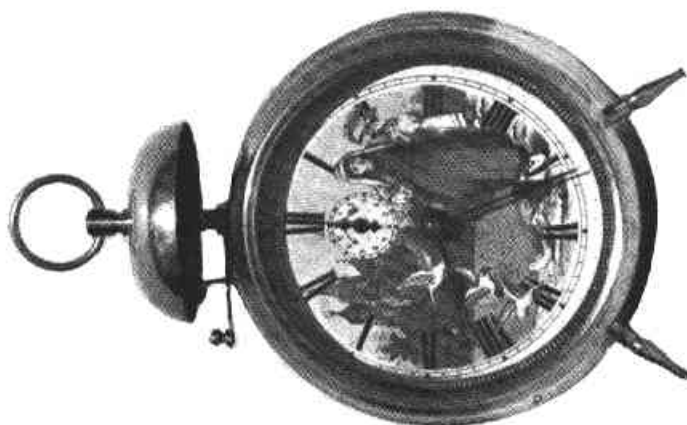


Fig. 96 Made in Germany
Turkish woman feeding doves
Double animation: arm and dove

(F.H.G.)

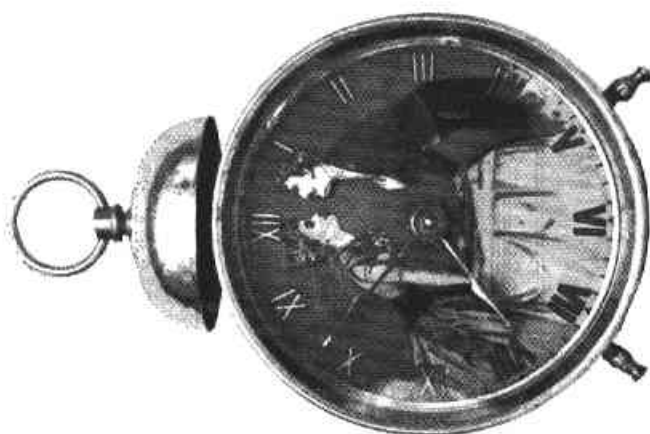


Fig. 95 No markings (Germany?)
Kissing couple
Man bows from waist

(F.H.G.)

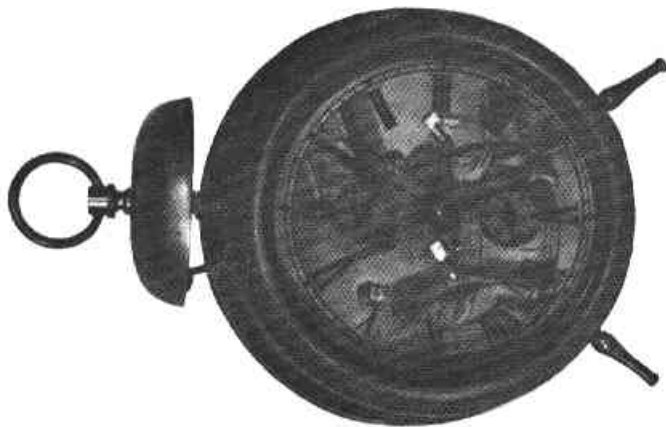


Fig. 98 No markings [Germany — Probably Kienzle]
Coopers
Double animation: arm with axe and arm with mallet
(C.T.)

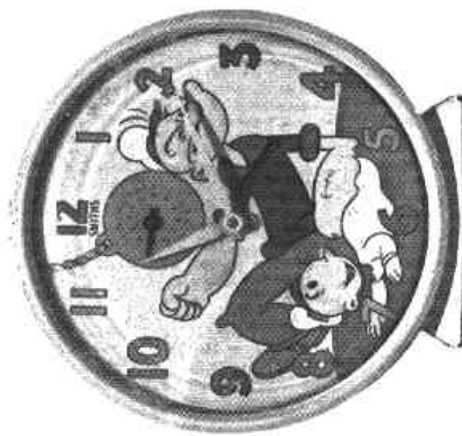


Fig. 99 Smith Made in Great Britain
Popeye
Sweet Pea
(F.H.G.)

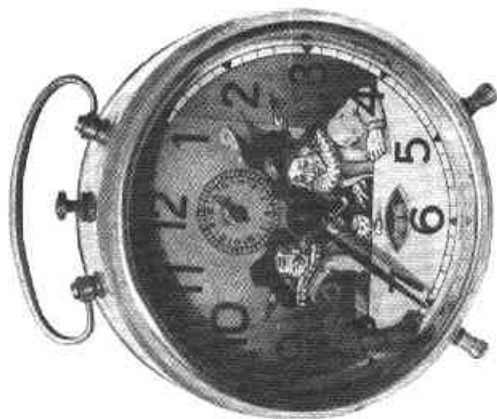


Fig. 100 Junghans Trade Mark (Germany)
Gamblers
Double independent animation: Arm with cup — intermittent action; drum with dice — sustained action. (Drum has spring that "throws" dice to new positions)
(C.T.)

A Special Letter from the Editor

In 1943 an enthusiastic group of watch and clock collectors founded the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. During the years that followed, the Association grew slowly as other enthusiasts learned of it and entered into its fellowship. A publication, dedicated to the sharing of knowledge among members, was begun and it has grown into the world's largest publication in horology. Even though we are pleased with the BULLETIN, and proud of the strength and stature that it gives to the NAWCC, we are always looking for steps that can be taken to improve its effectiveness or increase its readership. Such a step is being tried now.

Unlike the membership NAWCC had 30 years ago, there are now many members who are only starting to develop an interest and expertise in this avocation. Basic knowledge that the early authors took for granted as they wrote for the BULLETIN is not necessarily shared by many of the newer members. The time has come when those of us who have enjoyed this hobby for years, and during those years accumulated fundamental information, make the effort to teach it to our eager young collectors. It has long been my hope that we could devote some BULLETIN space toward the primary aim of *bringing the new collector up to speed*. Last April's survey verified that this is a popular idea.

The Editorial Committee and I have begun cajoling (pestering?) knowledgeable members to contribute to this educational series of articles. At present I am trying to get material of three types: (1) How to do it, wherein some of the methods learned by the experienced are transmitted to the inexperienced. (2) Comprehensive expositions on some of the more readily collectable clocks and watches so that *good* collections can be generated without enormous expenditures. (3) Pictorial tours through first class pieces that are rarely seen on the market today so that all collectors can enjoy *horology at its best*. I have extracted promises of some exciting material to come.

Along with this preview of things in the future, let me append a plea to anyone who can contribute to our ambitious goal. You don't have to do research to get into the act — you just have to have some worthwhile slice of horology that you think would benefit or interest a novice. (To an extent, we can even help you with the writing.) Jim Gibbs (Chairman, Editorial Committee), any member of the Committee, or I would be glad to hear from you.

Initially, I had thought to give this feature a name to set it apart from other sections of the BULLETIN. I have now rejected that idea because I think that this feature is an integral part of the BULLETIN and deserves as much visibility and dignity as the other articles that appear. With your help and support, I'll use this new program to give our BULLETIN another quantum jump upward.

Doug Shaffer, Editor