Industry moves on

1800 to 1900

Select the caption you wish to read from the index below or scroll down to read them all in turn

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- 1 Equestrian Portrait of William Stephens 1836
- 2 Flintlock coaching pistols
- 3 Exeter Turnpike Trust ticket
- 4 Barnstaple Turnpike Trust tickets
- 5 Flintlock coaching blunderbuss with sprung bayonet
- 6 Glass beaker
- 7 Silver footed salver
- 8 Bracket clock movement
- 9 Portrait of Thomas Gray, the Railway Pioneer
- 10 Leather hat case
- 11 Silk top hat
- 12 Bowler hat
- 13-27 Pocket watches with verge escapements
- 28-39 Pocket watches with lever escapements
- 40 Pocket watch with cylinder escapement
- 41 Pocket watch with patent escapement

- 42 Pocket watch with duplex escapement
- 43 Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement
- 44 Quarter repeat watch with duplex escapement
- 45 Split seconds chronograph with lever escapement
- 46 Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement
- 47 Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement
- 48 Deck watch with lever tourbillon escapement
- 49 Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement
- 50 Chronograph with lever escapement
- 51 Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement
- 52 Silver perpetual calendar
- 53 Pocket watch movement with cylinder escapement
- 54 Pocket watch movement with verge escapement
- 55 Pocket watch movement with verge escapement
- 56 Chronograph watch with lever escapement
- 57 Pocket watch with patent rack lever escapement
- 58 Musical repeating watch with cylinder escapement
- 59 Chronometer / deck watch with spring detent escapement
- 60 Deck watch with lever tourbillon escapement
- 61 Skeleton Clock
- 62 Musical Table clock
- 63 Carriage parasol

64 - Carriage parasol

1 - Equestrian Portrait of William Stephens 1836

James Loder 1836, oil on canvas

2 - Flintlock coaching pistols

About 1770-1780 Made by William Strode, England

Inscribed with the mail coach name: 'The Quicksilver 1' and '2' and on the grips: 'J. CLINCH NEW LONDON INN EXETER 1814'. In the late 1700s improved roads and coaches enabled faster journeys. By 1790, London could be reached from Exeter in 24 hours. Even so, on country roads, firearms were carried for safety.

3 - Exeter Turnpike Trust ticket

1829

Payment at the Heavitree toll gate allowed passage through it and seven other gates in the city, including Loggerheads near Countess Wear, and Pin Pound in Pinhoe.

4 - Barnstaple Turnpike Trust tickets

1806-1809

The Barnstaple Turnpike Trust was one of over 30 operating in Devon. These tickets were issued on the road between Bishop's Tawton and New Bridge, near Barnstaple.

The toll fee varied according to the number of horses and people per cart, the goods carried, and the straightness of the cart axles.

5 - Flintlock coaching blunderbuss with sprung bayonet

About 1780-1795 Made by T. Dobson, London

Inscribed with the mail coach name: 'The Quicksilver' and 'EXETER - BRISTOL – LONDON 1814 J. CLINCH NEW LONDON INN EXETER 1814'.

6 - Glass beaker

About 1790-1800 Made in England

The wheel-engraved scene of the Bristol to Exeter carrier's wagon and team is inscribed: 'SUCCESS TO THE WHEELS AND LONG LIFE TO THE HORSES' and with the initials 'WB'.

7 - Silver footed salver

1762-1763 Made by Richard Rugg, London

Engraved with an Exeter and London mail coach and the inscription: 'THIS SALVER PURCHASED BY SUBSCRIPTION WAS PRESENTED TO MR WILLM. STEPHENS MARh. 25th. 1821 AS A TOKEN OF HIS SATISFACTORY CONDUCT DURING FOURTEEN YEARS COACHMANSHIP ON THE EXETER MAIL'. In 1821 Stephens gave up coach driving for the horse trade and was presented with this salver. His portrait is displayed above.

8 - Bracket clock movement

About 1680-1690 Made by John Wise, London

Eight day with verge escapement and hourly and quarterly striking. Striking is of 'Dutch' type which sounds the forthcoming hour at the half hour on the smaller bell of higher pitch. Spring driven bracket clocks, invented after the longcase clock in about 1660, were both portable and accurate but expensive.

9 - Portrait of Thomas Gray, the Railway Pioneer

Richard Augustus Clack 1848, oil on panel

10 - Leather hat case

About 1890-1900 Great Western Railway, Sidmouth

The polished silk topper was a popular hat worn by gentlemen of the late 19th century. These shaped and lined leather hat boxes usually included compartments for a top hat and a collapsible opera hat.

11 - Silk top hat

About 1890-1900

12 - Bowler hat

About 1890-1900

Early 1800s Bowler hats were hard hats used by gamekeepers. By 1900, they had also become town wear for the middle classes.

13-27 - Pocket watches with verge escapements

13

Made by Richard Banister, Coleshill, about 1720-1740

The name 'watch' was derived from the old division of the night into three or four 'watches'. Timekeeping parts of early clocks were known as 'watches' to distinguish them from striking or alarm parts. Later the name was given to portable timepieces.

14

Made by Strowbridge, Dawlish, about 1800. Silver gilt inner case and outer case of horn.

15

Made by Charles Cabrier, Lombard

Street, London, about 1740. Silver pair case, decorated with figures and cherubs.

16

Made by Richard Mason, St Albans, 1788. Silver pair case. The outer case has Father Time and the inscription: 'Tempus Fugit'.

17

Made by Matthew Sayer, Exeter, about 1757. Silver inner case made by John Hague, London 1757-1758.

An escapement is the most critical part of a watch for accuracy. When combined with the regulator, it measures driving power into tiny amounts. The 'verge', named after the staff carried by a verger in church ceremonies, is the oldest type of clock or watch escapement.

18

Made by Peter Upjohn, Bideford, 1780-1781.

19

Made by Isaac Death, Maldon, 1770-1790. Silver gilt inner case and outer case of tortoiseshell.

20

Made by Josias Jessop, London, 1790-1800.

This watch belonged to Admiral Peard (1761-1832). Peard saw action during the Napoleonic wars at Algeciras and in the Straits of Gibraltar in 1801.

21

Made by John Tucker, Tiverton, 1780-1790.

22

Made by Simon Aish, Sherborne, Dorset, 1760-1780.

23

Made by R. Marshall, London, 1790-1800. With calendar, hour, minute and seconds dials.

24

Made by John Ashley, London, 1776-1777. Pair case of silver and tortoiseshell. Probably made for export to the Near East.

25

Made by J. Leyton, about 1758. Silver pair case marked London, 1758-1759.

The dial is painted in enamels with a rural scene.

26

Probably made in Switzerland, 1780-1800. Enamelled decoration includes a classical urn, a seated lady and child playing with a dog.

27

Made by Peter Moore, London, 1739. Champlevé enamelled silver dial and silver pair case.

Champlevé is a process where the hot enamels are poured into grooves engraved in the surface of the metal object.

28-39 - Pocket watches with lever escapements

28

Made by J.W. Benson, 62 Ludgate Hill, London, 1922.

The lever escapement was invented in 1754 by Exeter born Thomas Mudge (1715- 1794). By the mid-19th century his invention was standard for watches, and a modified version remains in use today.

29

Clock-watch repeater made by Charles Frodsham, London, 1892.

30

Made by Usher & Cole, London, 1889-1890.

31

Made by Charles Frodsham, New Bond Street, London, 1901.

32

Made by John Ham, Skinner Street, London, 1825-1826.

33

Made by Dent, 61 The Strand and 4 Royal Exchange, London, 1899.

34

Made by John Arnold and Charles Frodsham. About 1845-1855.

35

Made by Baume, London, about 1890-1900. A lunar disc shows phases of the moon with a calendar on reverse.

36

Made by Henry Ellis, Exeter, 1857.

37

Made by John Upjohn, High Street, Exeter, 1854-1855.

38

Made in Switzerland, about 1880- 1900.

This type of imported movement was often fitted into English cases. The dial bears the name of the retailer rather than the maker.

39

Made in Switzerland, about 1890.

The 'lepine' construction uses bars to support the watch train instead of the usual plates.

40 - Pocket watch with cylinder escapement

About 1900 Made in Switzerland

Inscribed on the inner case: 'From the CITIZENS of EXETER To SAPPER F. FRIEND a memento of service IN SOUTH AFRICA 1900-1'. A watch was presented to each of the Exeter volunteers who served in the Boer War.

41 - Pocket watch with patent escapement

1843 Made by Wall & Frost, Wandsworth

42 - Pocket watch with duplex escapement

1808

Made by Desbois and Wheeler, Grays Inn Passage, London

The open face case is made of 18-carat gold. Although invented by the Frenchman Pierre le Roy, the duplex escapement proved more popular in England. Unfortunately it was fragile and liable to wear out quickly.

43 - Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement

1819

Made by Charles John Cope, Berners Street, London

44 - Quarter repeat watch with duplex escapement

Early 19th century Made by Grimalde & Johnson, The Strand, London

By pressing the pendant, the hours and quarters are struck on two steel gongs. Repeating watches sounded time in the dark in an age before gas and electric lighting. The first quarter repeating watches were made in 1686-1687. Later, more complex minute and five minute versions were developed in Switzerland.

45 - Split seconds chronograph with lever escapement

1907 Made by S. Smith & Sons, London

Swiss movement and silver half hunter case. The two centre second hands may be operated independently to allow timing of two separate events. Chronographs have separately controlled second hands which can be stopped and started without interference with normal timekeeping.

46 - Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement

About 1787 Made by John Arnold & Son, London

47 - Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement

Early 1800s Made by McMaster, London

The enamel dial bears the retailer's name: 'Clerke, Royal Exchange, London'.

48 - Deck watch with lever tourbillon escapement

1923 Made by Charles Frodsam, South Molton Street, London

49 - Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement

1813 Made by Barraud, Cornhill, London

50 - Chronograph with lever escapement

1883 Made by Thomas Russell, Liverpool and London

As with the Smith chronograph, centre seconds may be started, stopped and returned to zero by depressions of the winding crown.

51 - Pocket chronometer with spring detent escapement

1801 Made by Thomas Earnshaw, London

52 - Silver perpetual calendar

Early 1700s Probably made by Joseph Coles, Exeter

Intended for use at sea, the calendar shows days, months and times of sunset and sunrise with the hours of daylight and darkness. On reverse are the days of the week.

53 - Pocket watch movement with cylinder escapement

About 1740 Made by John Ellicot, London

The cylinder escapement was developed in 1725-1726 by George Graham. It was reserved for superior quality timepieces.

John Ellicot was one of the first to incorporate the cylinder escapement into a watch.

54 - Pocket watch movement with verge escapement

About 1760 Made by Thomas Mudge

55 - Pocket watch movement with verge escapement

About 1735-1740 Made by Jacob Lovelace, Exeter

Lovelace was Exeter's most famous clock and watchmaker of the era.

56 - Chronograph watch with lever escapement

About 1850-1880 Made by Jules Jurgensen, Copenhagen

57 - Pocket watch with patent rack lever escapement

About 1810 Made by Matthew Tobias & Co., Liverpool

Invented in 1722, the rack lever escapement did not become popular until the early 1800s, when taken up by Liverpool watchmakers.

58 - Musical repeating watch with cylinder escapement

About 1862 Made in Switzerland

Many musical watches were made in Switzerland, the later ones with cylinder escapements and a pinned barrel as found in contemporary musical boxes.

59 - Chronometer / deck watch with spring detent escapement

1880-1890 Made by Victor Kullberg, 105 Liverpool Road, London

60 - Deck watch with lever tourbillon escapement

1907

Made by S. Smith and Son, Trafalgar Square, London

The tourbillon has a cage which contains the escapement assembly and rotates once a minute. This equalises out any gain or loss in rate caused by changing the position of the watch. Deck watches were used to carry timekeeping to other parts of the ship.

61 - Skeleton Clock

Mid 1800s Made by J. Watson, London

Skeleton clocks expressed the Victorian admiration for the new age of engineering. This one has a spring driven eight day movement with dead beat escapement and maintaining power, which provides drive whilst the clock is wound. The mercury 'compensated' pendulum compensates for changes in the pendulum length caused by temperature variations.

62 - Musical Table clock

About 1850 Made by Henry Ellis of Exeter

Brass eight day movement with anchor escapement and short pendulum.

63 - Carriage parasol

1860s Made by Fox and Sons

Fixed ivory handle and silk cover woven with a decorative border.

64 - Carriage parasol

1860s Made by Sangsters

A sun-burned complexion was frowned upon for young ladies. Parasols shaded the skin when travelling out in the open.