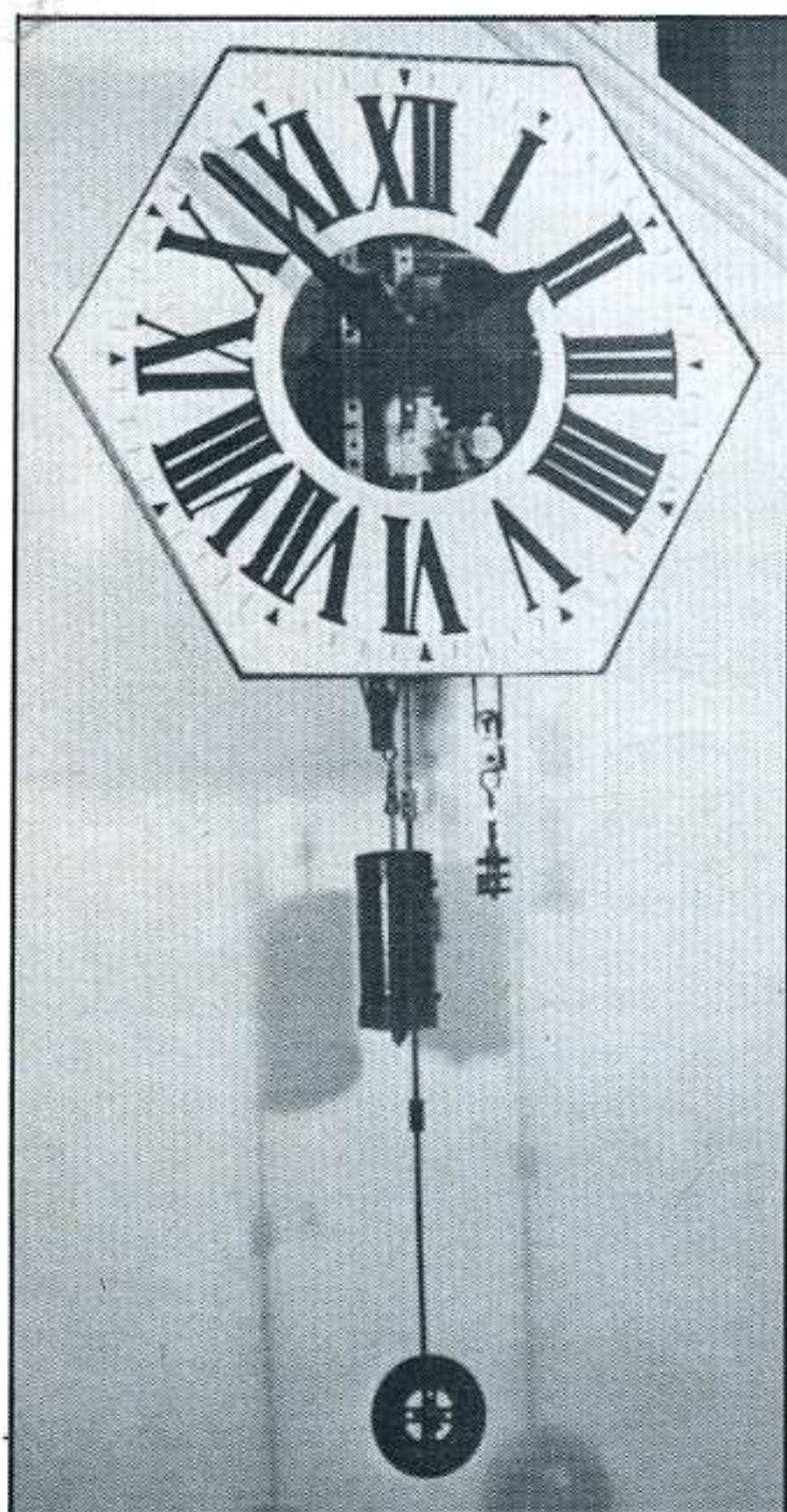


# Pinion

## Meccano in clockmaking

I WAS interested to read the article by Noel Ta'Bois on Meccano in clockmaking.

I agree entirely with everything said and in particular with his comments on the use of Meccano in experimental work. I tested out an automatic electric winding arrangement for a tower clock recently by constructing it in Meccano initially.



As a matter of interest I enclose a photograph of a Meccano clock I designed. This came about after being requested by the company to produce a new clock kit for their range. As can be seen it is a cross between an Act of Parliament clock and an English dial. The dial is of white card with large black paper numerals cut out and pasted in position. It is weight driven and automatically electrically wound via a small Meccano electric motor running off a 4½ volt flat battery. The hands were cut from tin, ribbed and painted black.

Unfortunately the company went out of business shortly after this, and the clock was never produced.

J Wilding  
Petworth  
Sussex

## Unbelievable

I AM a *Clocks* subscriber near Christchurch, New Zealand.

For the October issue I lodged in the 'Wanted to Purchase' column an advertisement for a Synchronome Master clock, intending to purchase and import one from the United Kingdom.

However, unbelievably, and as a result of the advertisement, a reply came from a retired jeweller less than five miles from my home, and subsequently the clock was purchased by myself.

To advertise in a UK magazine and have a reply so close to home was absolutely wonderful.

J D Bundy  
Lyttelton  
New Zealand

## BHA

I NOTED with interest the letter by NDC on page 45 of your September issue. I too own a clock by BHA and the letters appear in an oval on the backplate of the 400-day movement.

Arthur W J G Ord-Hume in his book *The Musical Box* lists B H Abrahams as a maker of cylinder and disc boxes, the latter with Britannia movement as cited by your correspondent: 'The firm had a factory in Switzerland and in 1896 had its own London office at 128 Houndsditch'.

H Lapworth  
Nuneaton  
Worcs

## Down under call

AT APPROXIMATELY 12.30 BST Monday 19th September 1983 somebody phoned me from Australia about clocks for sale. Unfortunately I was out.

If that person will write to me giving their name and address I may possibly have tidings of joy.

E Hicks  
34 Venmore Drive  
Gt Dunmow  
Essex  
CM6 1HN

## Pocket watch help

PERHAPS I can assist VRS, who requests information regarding a pocket watch (*Interface, Clocks*, October 1983).

Pair-cased lever watches are not common, but they did seem to gain a certain popularity towards the end of the 19th century. I possess two such examples and have seen several others. It is probably a coincidence, but both of my watches were also retailed close to Aberdeen — one in Stonehaven, and the other in Peterhead. The cases of both watches bear Chester hallmarks (for 1885 and 1890 respectively).

Watch pendant manufacturers seem to

have been concentrated in Birmingham during this period, resulting in many watches having a Birmingham hallmark on the pendant, which corresponds (give or take one year) to that on the case.

I suggest, therefore, that the watch belonging to VRS bears the Chester hallmark for 1906 on the case, and the Birmingham hallmark for 1905 on the pendant. Whilst these dates are rather late, they do just fall within the fusee lever period. A further pointer to the relatively late date of manufacture of this watch is the movement number — 93893. It is unusual to find such a high number on any lever watch manufactured before the end of the 19th century.

This query by VRS highlights an omission from the horological literature. With the exception of Dr Kemp's book, there is very little information available about fusee lever watches.

Your magazine regularly publishes excellent articles on superb clocks of all types; most of which we can't afford to purchase! I wonder if you would consider starting a regular feature about 19th century watches, which most of us can afford? Please!

Dr B Whitehead  
Workington  
Cumbria

*Editor: Steps are being taken to include more articles on watches of all kinds in this magazine.*

## Unusual or unique?

I AM researching a commissioned work, provisionally entitled *The Artistry of the English Watch: 1600-1900*, which will consider this entity solely as a work of art. It is not all that long ago that any such approach would have been condemned as horological heresy but it seems to me that, with ever-increasing specialisation among antiquarians, an examination of the subject from this viewpoint might not be at all untimely.

The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to seek the help of any watch-collecting reader who feels he has an English watch with something unusual, perhaps even unique, about its appearance — an uncommon kind of case of dial, maybe, or a watch-cock with some curious shape or decorative motif — or one who has any documentary or other material impinging upon this subject. Mechanical and functional characteristics are unimportant and will be ignored save where they integrate with the appearance of the watch. All letters will be gratefully received,