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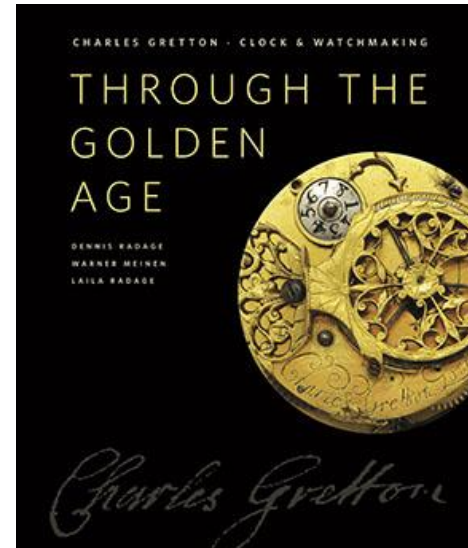
CHARLES GRETTON - CLOCK & WATCH- MAKING THROUGH THE GOLDEN AGE

Published in 3 limited editions, 630 pages, £135,
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Beautiful horological books are unfortunately rare these days, and most of them originate from the English-speaking part of the world. Have we become too lazy? Do we lack the time and determination to commit to a subject we are really interested in and love? The Radages have made it quite clear how to write such a monument to a clockmaker.



1. The Man and his Life
 2. Longcase Clocks
 3. Spring Clocks
 4. Lantern Clocks
 5. Watches
 6. Apprentices
 7. Workshop, Staff and Production
- Appendices
 - References

The reviewer is not a Gretton specialist and can only rely on what the authors write and portray but what has been produced I consider fantastic. This is an achievement of a lifetime and I can hardly imagine that the authors could repeat this kind of work and bring it to such a conclusion. Almost 75 pages [Chapter 1] describe the life of a 17th - century London watchmaker with all its ramifications. It is very informative and well illustrated with a clear layout which is pleasant to read.

The second chapter discusses 30 longcase clocks (1675 - 1720); dating, dials, cases and movements perfectly described and illustrated (how the authors managed to achieve such uniform visuals and language is unclear and hard to imagine since the clocks and watches are from all around the world). Page 239 begins the 23 spring clock section with the same layout and is extensive and detailed.

The fifth chapter follows with 18 watches, again using the same layout; case, dial, movement, signatures and the serial numbers. I was totally unaware that Gretton made so many watches.

In my mind he was mainly a maker of clocks. From page 518 Gretton's apprentices are discussed, also illustrating some of their work. The appendices [Chapter 7] include the production data of Gretton, accounting 336 [1982] watches , 426 [450] clocks. Comparisons between Gretton, Quare and Tompion are made.

After this [Appendix 1], all the clocks and watches known to the authors are illustrated with short descriptions (six clocks per page). The lost and stolen watches are listed [Appendix 2] according newspaper articles found in the 'The London Gazette' (from March 6th 1698) [also included are notices of lost and stolen Gretton watches between 1683 and 1994 from various newspapers]. A four-page bibliography, image credits and an index complete this important publication. Cpb

[Christian Pfeiffer-belli, Editor in Chief, Klassik Uhren, 1/2017, Munich, Germany]
[Author comments]