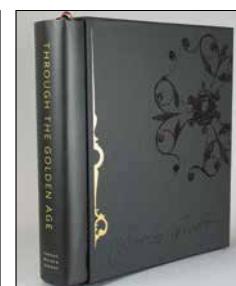
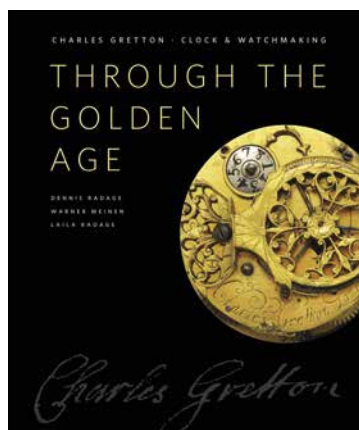


# Book Review

*Charles Gretton: Clock and Watchmaking Through the Golden Age*



Gordon Hoare



Figures 1-4. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout and available in three editions including this Prestige version with slip case.

## Charles Gretton: Clock and Watchmaking Through the Golden Age

**Authors:** Dennis Radage, Warner Meinen and Laila Radage

**Details:** 660pp, 24.1cm x 29.2cm

**Published by:** Three O'Clock Publishing

**Available in Three Editions:**

Standard hardcover with dust jacket

ISBN-13: 978-0-9940460-0-0

Price: £115 + £10 UK delivery

Prestige edition with slip case

ISBN-13: 978-0-9940460-0-0

Price: £149 + £10 UK delivery

Deluxe leather bound edition with slip case

ISBN-13: 978-0-9940460-1-7

Price: £225 + £10 UK delivery

**Available from:** [www.grettonbook.com](http://www.grettonbook.com)

This book was a spur of the moment purchase at a horological meeting. At the time I was unaware I was talking to two of the authors. The book was about a maker I had heard little about and I was very unlikely to be able to afford one of his clocks or watches. However, I like to learn and there was something about the book and its presentation that set it apart from others like it. I took the plunge, ignored the precarious state of my bank balance and purchased it. Once I got the book home and started to examine it I knew I had made the correct decision.

It comes in a beautiful slip box, not the normal functional protective card sleeve but an engineered rigid box, itself decorated. The dust jacket is heavy paper with the edges folded to resist tearing and decorated (I have not seen this before). The book has heavy covers and is similarly decorated. The pages are of good quality paper with

first class illustrations and layout. The whole production shouts quality and meticulous attention to detail and it's big...about 5.5kg.

The book is set out with the following chapters:

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

Appendices  
References

The first chapter gives fascinating detail to his life and the turbulent times he lived in: the plague, the fire of London, political upheaval, etc.

The other chapters detail, in meticulous form with superb pictures,

as many of Gretton's works as the authors could trace.

This book is not just a catalogue of all the surviving pieces but a fascinating insight into life at the time and the working of the guilds, and possible ways round their restrictive practices. Many books of this type give opinion as fact which then gets repeated over time and becomes hard history. With this book, opinion and conjecture are given, along with the evidence and it is left to the reader to agree or not – very refreshing.

As may be obvious, I like this book. It is simply the best horological book I have ever purchased. The quality, layout, presentation, research, facts and meticulous attention to detail are superb and I thoroughly recommend its purchase. As it is a limited print run (mine is 140 of 250) and as I believe it deserves to become one of the all-time classic reference works I would advise that you don't delay in obtaining it!