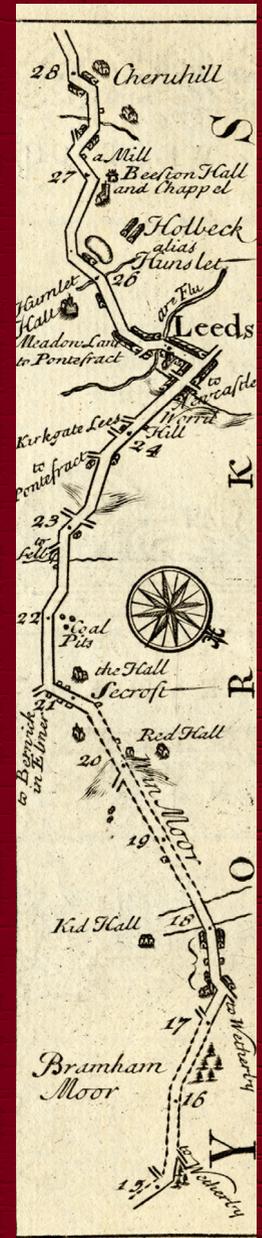




TIME & PLACE

English Country Clocks 1600-1840

The Antiquarian Horological Society
&
The Museum of the History of Science



Domestic Clocks in Britain – The Huguenots

A small table clock with astronomical dial by the Huguenot maker Nicholas Vallin – typical of the first domestic clocks made in London c.1590.

Vallin emigrated from Brussels to London c.1580 and died in 1603 – a year of severe Bubonic plague.



The Earliest 'English' Domestic Clocks



The first 'English' clock appears to have been the so-called lantern clock. They were made in London in their thousands in the 17th century.

This example from c.1610 is by Robert Harvey – an Oxford man who worked in London where he also made turret clocks.

The English longcase clock



The London maker Ahasuerus Fromanteel introduced the longcase clock c.1660. These clocks were regulated by a pendulum – the invention of Christiaan Huygens.

For the first time a clock becomes a piece of fine furniture. The weights and pendulum are protected within the panelled case, veneered in ebony.

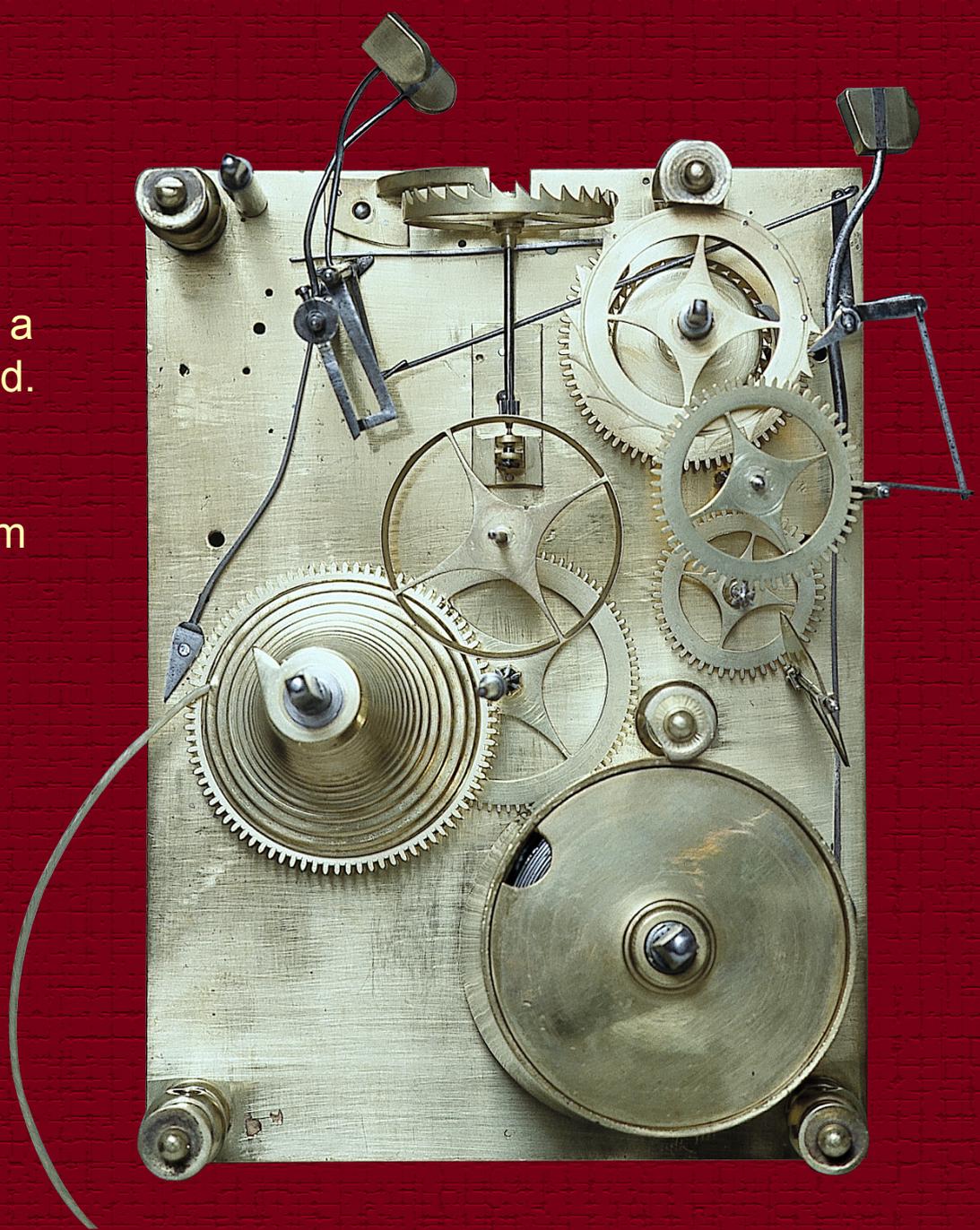
The English Table (Bracket) Clock



Wooden cases were also adopted for English table clocks, powered by springs.

Early clocks such as this example by Samuel Hayle c.1664 had the same popular architectural style as the longcase clocks.

The mechanism of a table clock revealed. The mainspring is wound inside the brass barrel, bottom right.



Wall Clocks

The lantern clock, so popular in the seventeenth century, was gradually replaced over the years by a wall hanging clock in a wooden case. These relatively cheap clocks did not strike the hour but were equipped with an alarm mechanism.



Clock Mechanisms (Movements)

An example of a posted frame movement in a 30-hour longcase clock. The wheel arbors are pivoted within brass uprights.

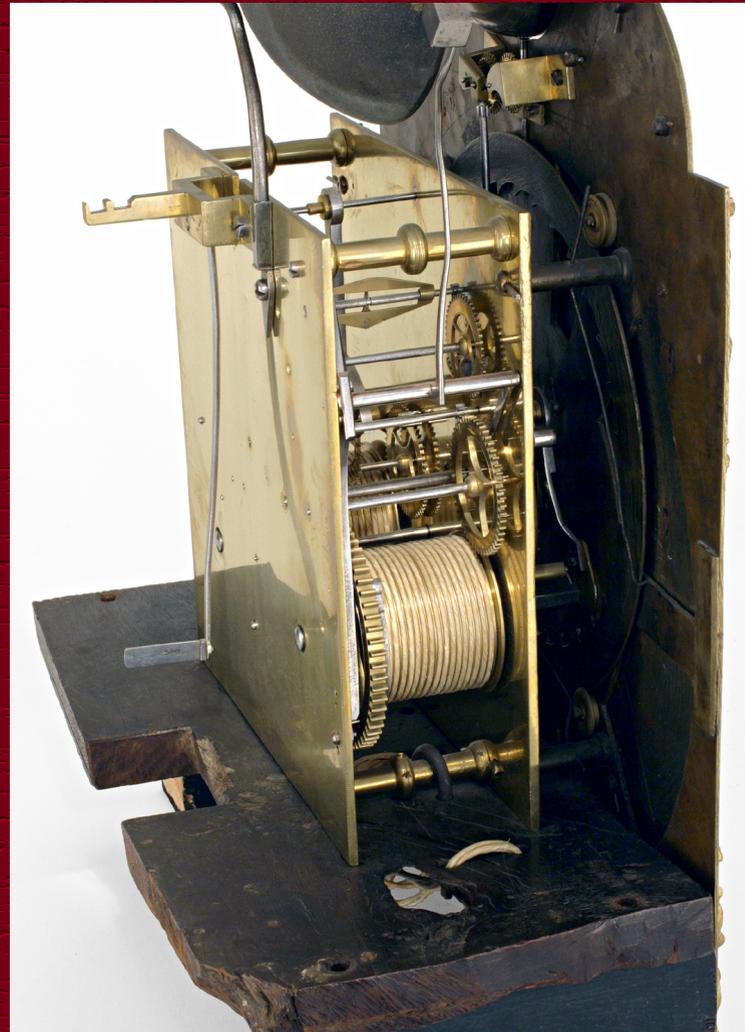
Posted frame movements were only rarely used for clocks of longer than 30-hour duration and were much favoured by makers in southern England.



Clock Mechanisms (movements)

In plated movements the wheels and arbors are pivoted between two vertical plates, held apart by four or more pillars.

This more rigid construction is also used for spring powered clocks and is preferred for clocks of durations from 8-days to 1 year.



The Country Clockmaker

Generally he was a respected 'clever man' within his local community.

Skilful with his hands, an above average ability in mathematics and mechanics.

He normally served an apprenticeship of 7 years.

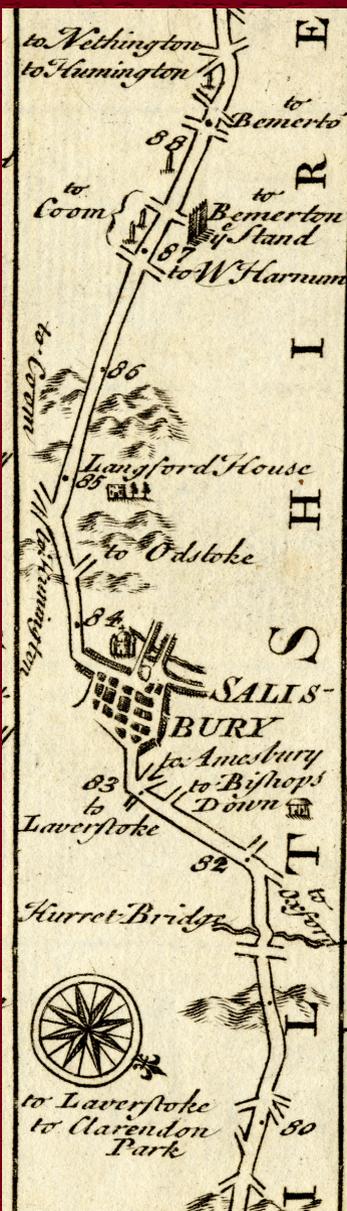
Clockmaking could become a family business, carried out over several generations, sometimes lasting more than a century.

Centres of Early Clockmaking in England

ENGLAND
and
WALES

from the best
AUTHORITIES.





A wall clock by Nicholas Snowe, Salisbury, dated 1638. One of the earliest known English provincial clocks.

An unsigned lantern clock but made in the Bristol fashion and dating from c.1650. Stylistic elements, particularly the chapter ring, are similar to London lantern clocks made some 30-40 years earlier.



The dial of a clock by Jonathan Chambers who worked in Shefford, Bedfordshire in the late 1660s.

The dial engraving and iron hand are notable features.



The dial of a clock
by William Raynes
c.1678.

Raynes was trained
in London but
moved to York in
the late 1670s.



The dial of a clock
by William Tipling of
Leeds made around
1700.

The corners are
ornamented with
cast spandrels and
the dial centre is
matted as opposed
to engraved.



Tipling's
workmanship is
particularly fine.



The dial of a country clock by William Noke of Bridgnorth, made c.1720.

The dial centre is ornamented with two birds perching on the ringed winding holes and the winged mask of Mercury, messenger of the Gods.



An arched dial on a table clock by Joseph Smith of Chester c.1750.

By this date clock dials were beginning to be simplified and more easily read.



The round dial became very popular in the late eighteenth century.

This example on a wall clock by Porthouse of Darlington was made c.1800.



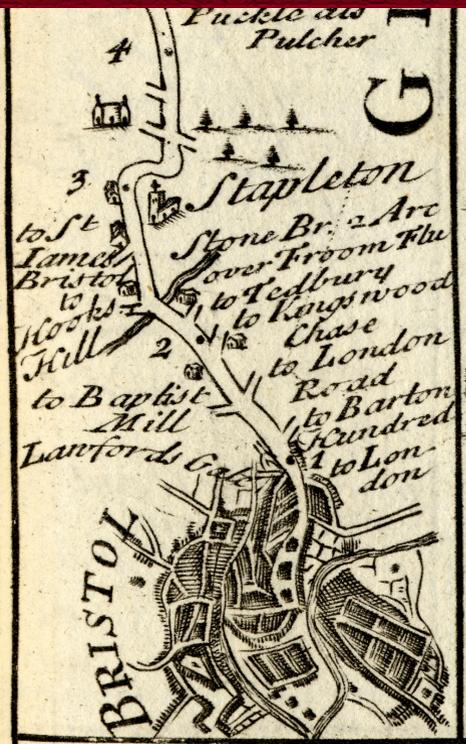
The painted dial, first introduced in the 1770s gave a new lease of life to the English clock.

It was widely adopted outside of London and was particularly popular in the Midlands and north of England.



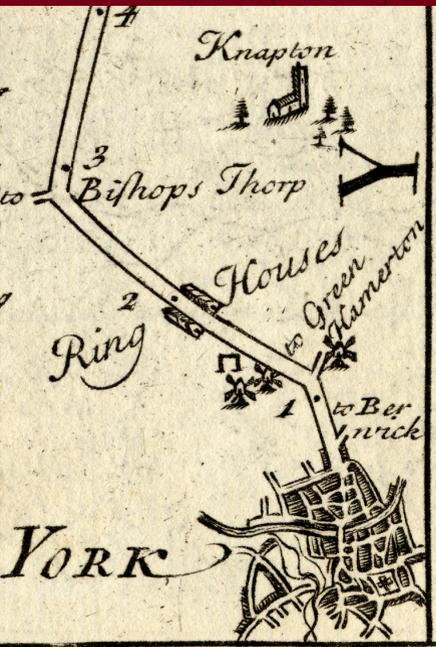
Probably the earliest surviving English country longcase clock.

Made c.1675, by John London of Bristol. Walnut panelled case.

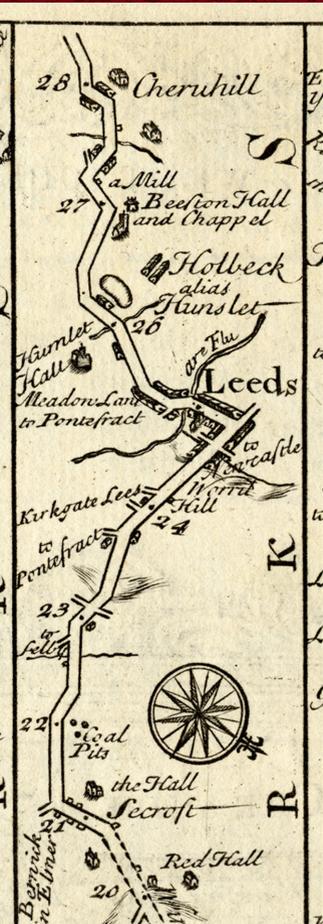


An early country clock case for William Raynes in York, c.1678.

Made in deal but based on London style.



A painted deal case with very rare original cresting and later decoration, made c.1695.



A small country case with cresting, made in oak and with dial spandrel ornaments on the trunk door. Made c.1690.



A very fine marquetry case with walnut cresting, made c.1690, possibly for a grand house near Stamford.



An oak case for a clock by Joseph Cooper of Malpas, c.1720.

The arch to the hood with sound fret is a very unusual feature.



A classic oak case
for a country clock,
simple but with
superb proportions.

Made c.1735 for a
clock by Thomas
Ogden of Halifax



This simple oak case, devoid of decoration, is for a clock by the Quaker maker John Gilkes of Shipston, c.1740.



A grand mahogany case in Chinese Chippendale style for a clock by Jonas Barber of Winster c.1763.

The 'swan neck' mouldings run the whole depth of the hood.



A mahogany case with
inlaid stringing for a
small table clock by
Booth of Pontefract.

The style looks almost
Edwardian.
c.1800



This engraved dial centre of a Bristol clock as an interesting face engraved just below the XII.



Prolific engraving is a feature of this dial on a clock made in Frome in 1675.

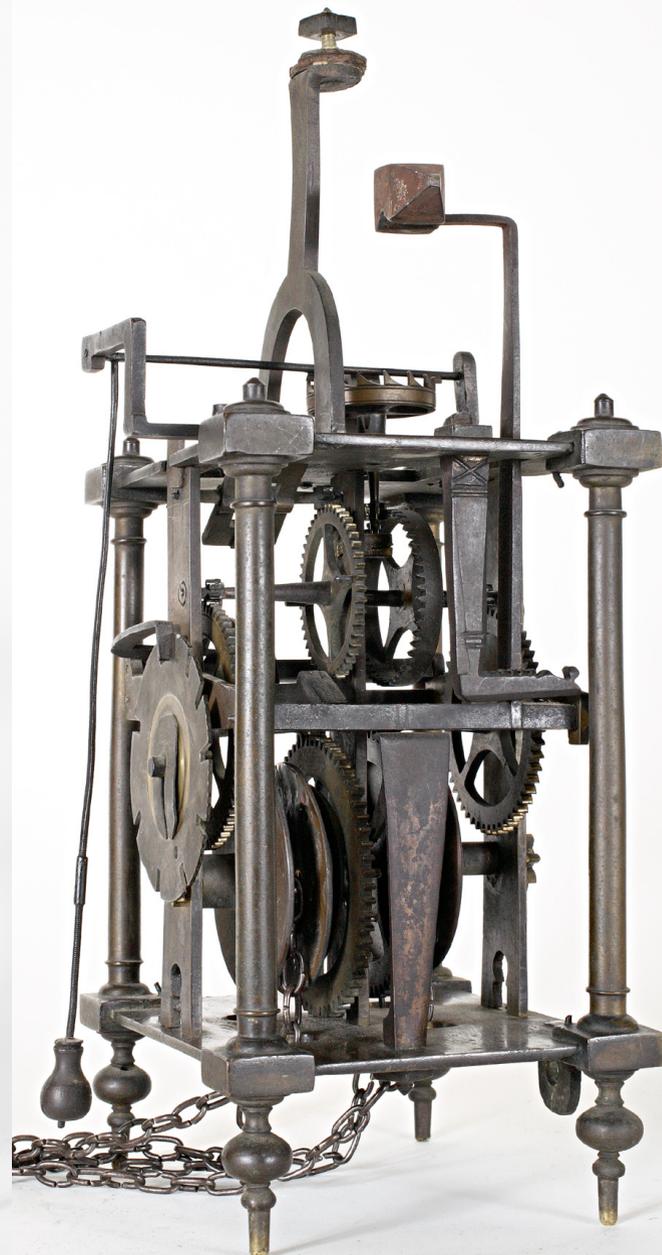
The heavily embellished signature is difficult to read.



Fine floral engraving on a dial by John London of Bristol, c.1675.



Two views of
the movement
of a 30-hour
clock by John
London of
Bristol.



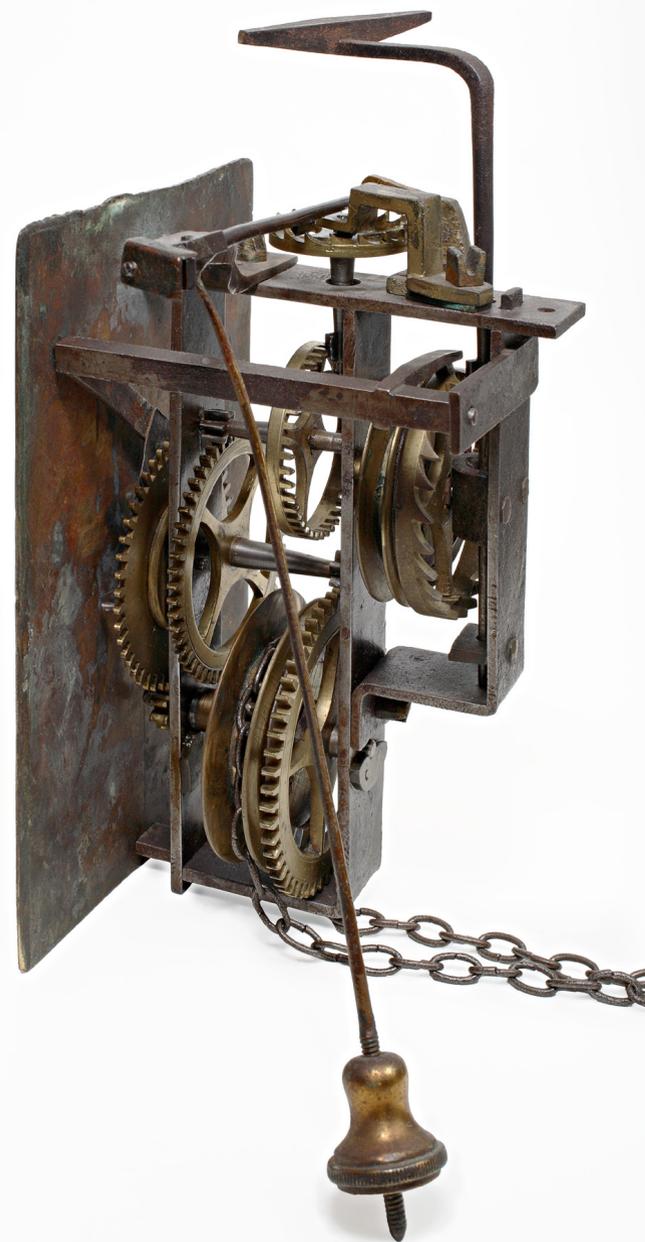
The amazing dial
of an 8-day clock
by John London of
Bristol, c.1675.



Detail of John
London's dial
c.1675



An unusual
primitive wall
clock with iron
strap movement
and side hanging
pendulum.
c.1675



A country lantern clock by George Newton of Seend, Wiltshire, dated 1677.

The rather crudely executed dial engraving may have been the work of Newton himself.



The movement of George
Newton's clock of 1677.

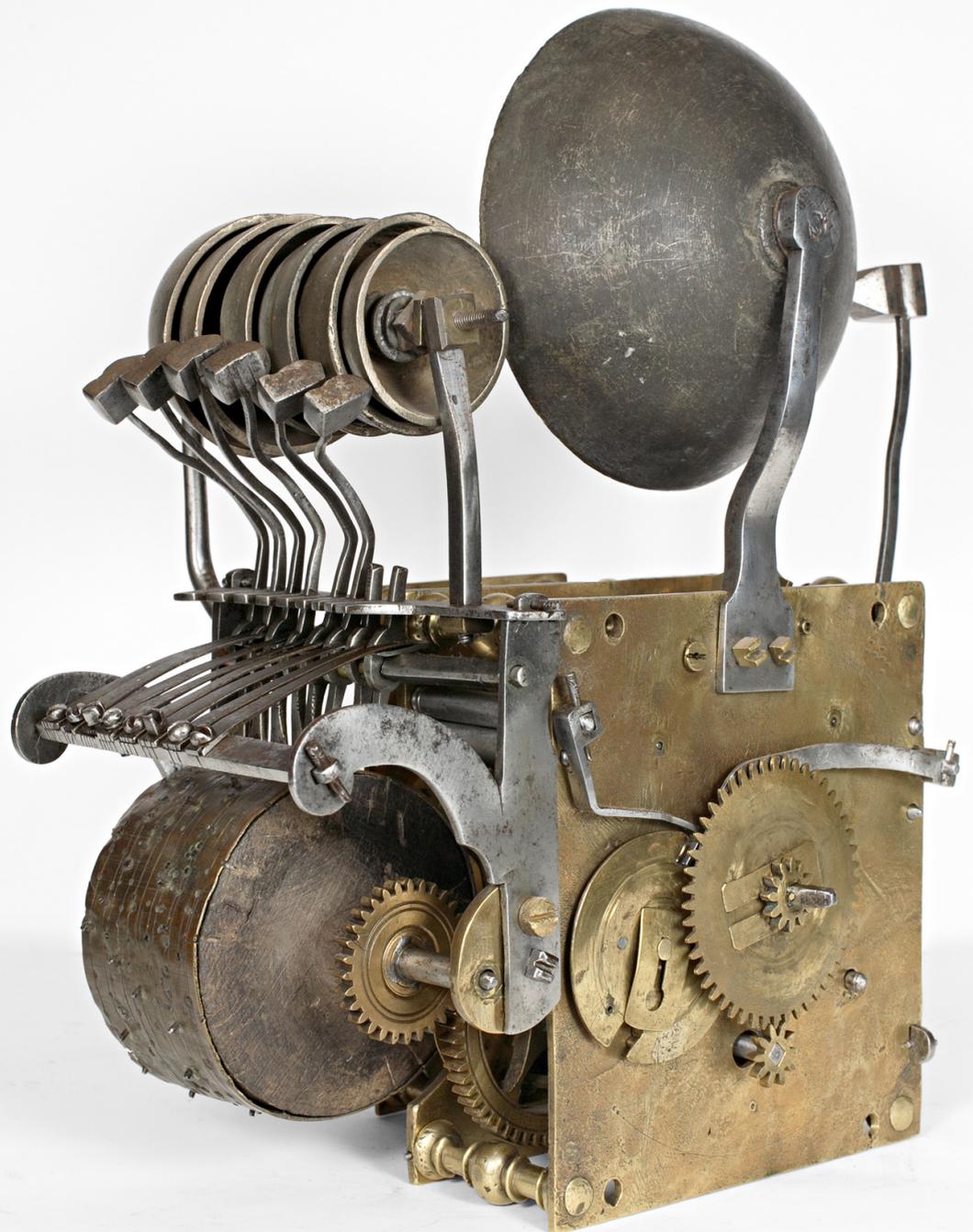


The dial of a musical clock by Arthur Davis of Westleigh in Devon, made c.1685.

It is fitted with a large lantern clock fret to the top of the dial.



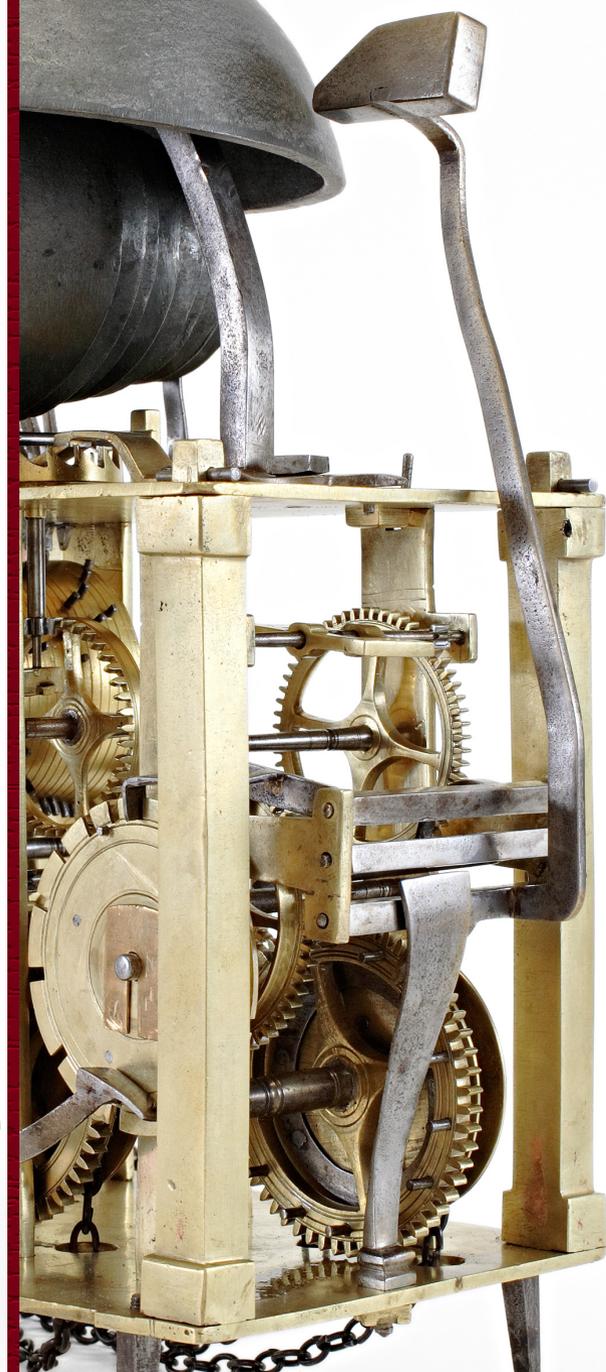
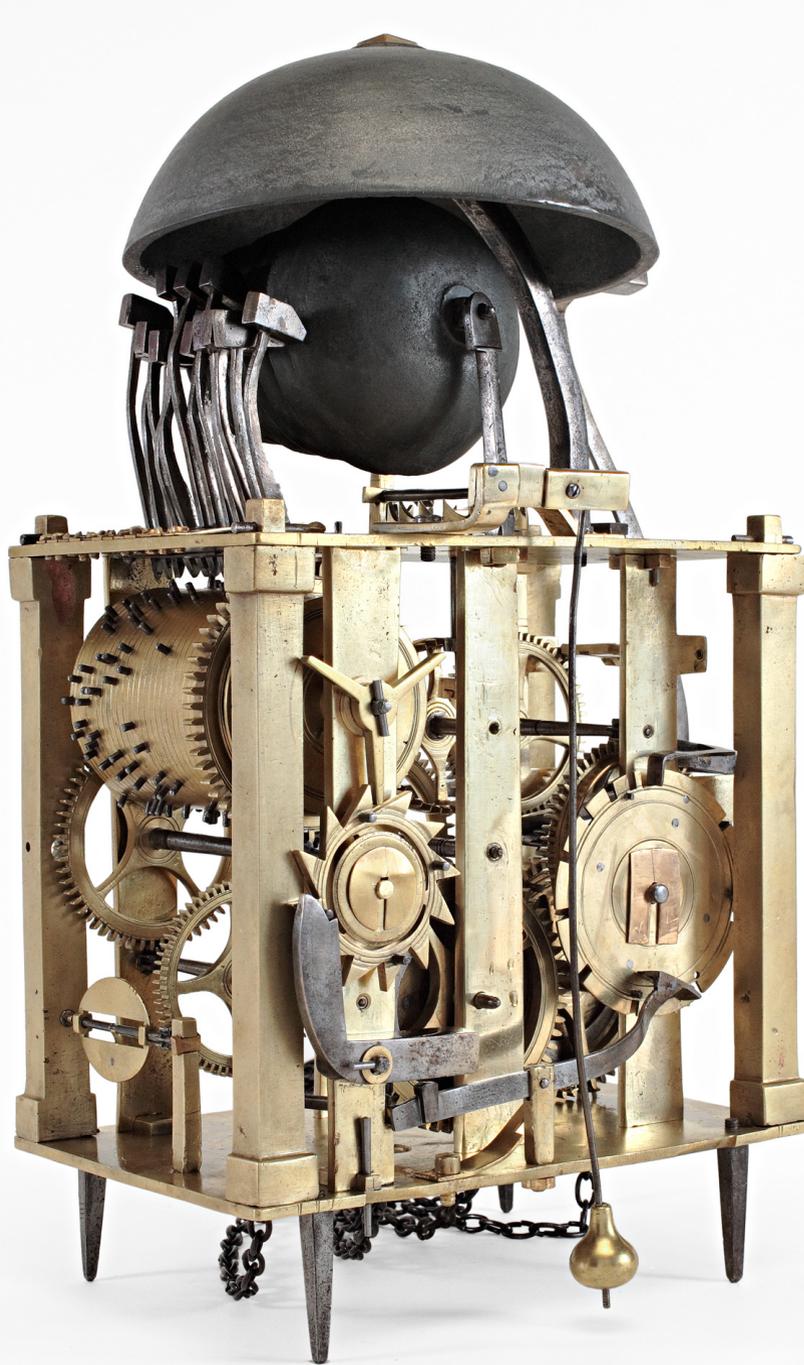
The movement of Arthur Davis's clock has a wooden music barrel covered with brass, c.1685.



The dial of a musical clock
by Edward Bilbie of Chew
Stoke in Somerset, c.1695.



The wonderful
movement of
Edward Bilbie's
clock, c.1695.



An interesting dial
by Joseph Cooper of
Malpas.

Single brass hand
with date aperture
between the ringed
winding holes.

Stylised centre
engraving, c.1720



The movement of the clock by Joseph Cooper showing the original hook used to guide the cord for repeating the hour, c.1720.



The superb dial of a clock
by John Taylor of Ormskirk,
with rotating ball moon in the
arch, c.1725.



A low-cost wall clock by
James Woolley of Codnor.

This example is unusual
in that it runs for 7 days
instead of 30 hours,
c.1765.



The movement of the wall clock by James Woolley.

The clock case and dial board are made from 5 pieces of wood. c.1765.



The dial of this musical clock is signed by Thomas Lindley, but the clock was actually made by Samuel Deacon, dated 1775.

The seven different tunes and corresponding days of the week are shown in the arch.



The movement of the musical clock by Samuel Deacon showing the music train and bells.

The signature on the front plate records that the clock was made Sept-Oct-Nov 1775.

