

Newsletter January 2018

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Electric Clock Animations

Ted Bosschieter has made his animations freely available on ClockDoc. Previously the animations were on his CD's but the technology used there is no longer fully supported although the original interactive version can still be used with some browsers. In order not to lose this important material for the future we are converting the animations to small film clips that still show the full detail of the animation. You can view them online but it is suggested to download the clip and view with VLC media player or similar. You can then also advance frame by frame or reverse certain sections. Nice if you want to study operational details of the clock mechanism. There are in total around 270 animations; we have done about twenty, so another 250 to go! The first animations already available are [here](#).

New contributions to ClockDoc

- **Montre Royale** - a [Swiss electric clock](#) that does not need a weight or a battery. It has three dials and lives solely on light. The clock turns it self automatically to maximum light conditions. Very few were made.
- **Campiche** - a 0.5 sec beauty and very rare. The full set of detail photos are [here](#)
- **Brillié** - a 1 meter master clocked signed [Magneta](#).
- **Thrasher** - a very rare [American calendar clock](#) with 19th century patents. The clock was acquired recently by a clock friend. Designed to impress! The mechanism is peculiar; there is only one wheel that drives the clock. Only two examples of this clock are known so far.
- **Reclus master** - An early 19th century striking master clock with dome that has it all! Slave circuit with the typical Reclus ruby contacts, two auxiliary contacts for controlling other equipment and even contacts to drive remote bells! Amazing. See the [album](#) and the [restoration story](#).
- **Four glass slave clock**, probably produced for use in hotels. The vendor equipped them with Brillié as well as with LePaute slave movements. Both types are in ClockDoc.
- **Recta** - a [four glass motor rewound](#) table clock. It looks like an improved version of the

clocks made by an earlier maker Clerc. Recta made similar clocks but with slight constructional differences. Clerc owned the patents. The albums shows examples of both makers.

- **Gent DAC chronometer.** New photos made of the [restoration of this clock](#) were added to the existing album.
 - **Brillié** - a 0.5 sec [master clock with synchroniser](#) and electronic circuit for driving the movement and slaves.
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Current activities

- Animations - bring the Ted Bosschieter animations gradually into ClockDoc.
 - Selection tags - So far most of the material is organised by maker. We are now experimenting with other selection criteria on the basis of classification. E.g. Slave, Master, Country of manufacture, etc As a test we have implemented the tag "[slaves](#)" Try it out! Over 1250 items.
 - Copy right issues - this remains important; in the last year Gijs and myself have gone several times through ClockDoc to remove "suspect" material . Most of the photo material is now from known collections of which we know the whereabouts. Still we may have missed out some thing. Do let us know if you come across something that is not right!
 - Recovery of the American electric clock web site (rareclock.org) which discontinued 4 years ago. Fortunately we were able to recover most of the site with the help of the owner.
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ClockDoc what next?

The site hosts now around 13,000 photo's and documents. With 20-50 visitors per day and on average 150,000 views every month ClockDoc has become a popular reference site for the Electric Clock collector. Visitors are from various countries but the majority is from GB, DE, FR, CH, USA and NL.

Many hours have gone into bringing together all this material not only time from the team in the Netherlands but also from many collectors world-wide. The site hosts industrial heritage that may still be interesting to earthlings in the future. How to achieve continuity in the longer term and prevent that the material gets lost? It has been suggested to affiliate with a museum or horological organisation. A problem is that many of these organisations no longer receive funding from governments and hence are forced to embark into earning models where one pays for archived items.

We feel that this could move us away from the ClockDoc sharing model where material is brought together by collectors and available to anyone at no cost. An option for ClockDoc would also be to adopt a public domain approach and affiliate with an Internet based non-profit sharing organisation such as e.g. Archive.org, Gutenberg.org, Creative Commons (adopted by the Science Museum!), Wikipedia of course and others.

We have not made up our mind yet. If you appreciate the continuation of ClockDoc we would really **welcome your suggestions and comments.**

Forthcoming electric clock markets

Several markets are held this year, exclusively for electric clocks:

- **Seckenheim Germany, 19 April 2018** - International market for electric clocks and an exhibition. Organised by the German DGC and the Lottermann family. The market is on Saturday and there are presentations on Sunday. See the invitation [here](#).
 - **Zeist Netherlands, 12 Mei 2018** - Organised by the Dutch "Elektriekgroep" 9.00-11.30
 - **Zeist Netherlands, 3 November 2018** - Organised by the Dutch "Elektriekgroep", 09.00-11.30
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