

NAWCC NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 8  
**EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM – HARVARD TIMEKEEPING  
HARVARD COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL SCIENTIFIC  
INSTRUMENTS**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CENTER AND THE PUTNAM GALLERY

Excellent Presentations, 3 Speakers, Campus Setting

*Continental breakfast, coffee break, and lunch. \$50 per person  
Note: limited room seating and gallery capacity - register early*

**Schedule**

9:00 - 9:30 AM. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30 - 9:40 AM. **Welcome & Introduction**

**Dave Deutermann**, President, and **Les Tyrala**, Program Chairperson and Secretary, Chapter 8

9:40 - 10:45 AM. **Dr. Sara Schechner, Richard Ketchen and John Losch, “History of the Harvard Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments and a Discussion of a Select Group of Clocks”**

The curator, Dr. Sara Schechner, will give a brief history of the collection. Reference will be made to the first curator, David P. Wheatland, who began amassing the nucleus of objects in the 1920s that were to become the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments (CHSI). Mr. Ketchen and Mr. Losch will then discuss the conservation and / or restoration requirements of selected clocks. At the start of this restoration effort the condition of the gallery clocks ranged from near perfect to needing significant work, in part due to earlier incomplete care by clock repairers of long ago. John and Richard will use a range of images to illustrate the restoration work carried out by them. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Richard Bond astronomical regulator (no. 394) and the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century John Ellicott temperature compensated pendulums will be discussed as well as other clocks. An interesting video has been made available to Richard to view the three astronomical regulator masterpieces by Richard Bond, Nos. 394, 395, and 396. This video was filmed by the current owner of No. 396. Questions from the group will be welcomed.

10:45 - 11:15 AM. **Coffee Break / Refreshments**

11:15 - Noon. **The three speakers, "A Shared Discussion and Inspection of the Clocks"**

This session will be a continuation of the first session but held in the Putnam Gallery with the clocks discussed. The clocks on display were Harvard's most precise clocks at given times in a 250 year period. Most were used by astronomers and explorers. John and Richard will talk together about each clock in terms of what makes them special and problems encountered during restoration. Sara will discuss the historical uses of the clocks, including the Transits of Venus and the selling of time by Harvard College Observatory. Among other clocks, a Thomas Tompion (Father of English Clockmaking) tallcase regulator will be discussed, in particular the unusual painted original case that makes it clear that this case was anticipated to be roughly handled on ships and wagons to conduct astronomical fieldwork. The circa 1840 Simon Willard tallcase regulator will be discussed and with reference to the casemaker, Charles Crane Crehore. Selected clocks will be opened for inspection.

Noon - 1:00 PM. **Lunch**

1:00 - 2:00 PM. **The three speakers, "A Continued Shared Discussion and Inspection of the Clocks"**

This session will be a continuation of the second session held in the Putnam gallery. Of historical interest is the fact that Ben Franklin had a direct role in the purchase of many of the displayed clocks and scientific instruments. Time will be given to a discussion of the Shortt free-pendulum astronomical clock. The displayed large Joseph Pope geared orrery was maintained by Simon Willard. Other clocks and a marine chronometer will be viewed and discussed. If time and interest allow, the fine collection of portable sundials will be discussed. At the conclusion of this session, there will be the opportunity to look at the remainder of the Putnam gallery as well as the new upstairs "Navigation" exhibit.

**NOTE:** due to the collaborative nature of the horological preservation and restoration of this collection during many years, this symposium will have Dr. Sara Schechner, John Losch and Richard Ketchen participating in all three sessions as the topics and discussions develop. The topics, above, may occur at different times.

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### **NOTES ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Richard Ketchen** became interested in horology in 1969 and has been in the business full time since 1990. His clients include the subject clock collection, The Fogg Museum of Art, The Frick Collection, as well as several private collections. Richard recently set up the clocks for the Tompion exhibit at the NAWCC museum. In addition to his restoration work, Richard has built the movements for at least a dozen clocks including three regulators with jeweled pallets, gravity remontoire, and temperature compensating pendulum.

**John Losch** has been repairing clocks for seventy years. He worked at the Howard Clock factory in one of its final iterations, worked for (and learned much from) H. J. Olsen of Watertown, MA, who was at one time considered the dean of clockmakers. John was associated with the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University as a restorer for thirty-five years. Also, he taught at the NAWCC School of Horology. Concurrently with those associations John ran his own clock repair and restoration business for forty-five years.

**Sara Schechner, Ph.D.**, is the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University. She is a historian of science, specializing in material culture and the history of astronomy. At Harvard, she is a member of the History of Science Department and has been on the faculty of the Museum Studies program. She brings over thirty years of museum and academic experience to the Harvard community. Dr. Schechner earned degrees in physics and the history and philosophy of science from Harvard and Cambridge.

**Next regular meeting Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA**

Not familiar with the Cambridge / Harvard Square area? Leave extra travel time to reach the Harvard campus and the Science Center. See the detailed map and directions on the back of the enclosed registration form.

**DIRECTIONS:** CHSI is located in Harvard University's Science Center at 1 Oxford Street. This event will be held both in the Putnam Gallery (ground floor, Room 136) and Classroom 469 (fourth floor down the hall to the right of the elevators). For your convenience, we have reserved a limited number of parking spaces at the 52 Oxford Street Harvard parking garage. Please use the enclosed registration form to secure your parking space during the registration.

Questions? Contact Les Tyralla, secretary, at geoclock@msn, or call (H) 617- 479-2140 and (Cel) 617-913-9250. Public transportation is suggested and convenient using the MBTA (the "T") Redline Harvard Square Station, or the MBTA Fitchburg Commuter Rail to Porter Square, then the T to the Harvard Square station. If you drive, we encourage you to car share.

**For visitors' information:** <http://www.harvard.edu/>, <https://map.harvard.edu/>, and <http://www.harvardsquare.com/>.

**HARVARD, CHSI, SCIENCE CENTER, EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
REGISTRATION FORM FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015**

**Mail or PayPal by Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Late registrations may be  
accepted until Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, depending on available seating**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_, email \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: LIMITED CLASSROOM SEATING AND GALLERY CAPACITY**  
**NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS FOR THIS EVENT**

**\$50 PER PERSON**  
**OPEN TO BOTH NAWCC MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS**

**NOTE 1:**

For prepaid parking, you must state now: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO  
(the chapter pays per reserved space, so save the chapter money and car share)

**NOTE 2:**

Vegetarian meal: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

**NOTE 3:**

If you are driving, both the garage parking garage elevator access door and the vehicle ramp control arm require that you use the swipe card that the garage guard will give you upon arrival. **Upon arrival, tell the garage guard, "Putnam Gallery Symposium," for his checklist. Carry the given swipe card with you, as it is the only way to open the elevator doors and exit the garage.**

**NOTE 4:**

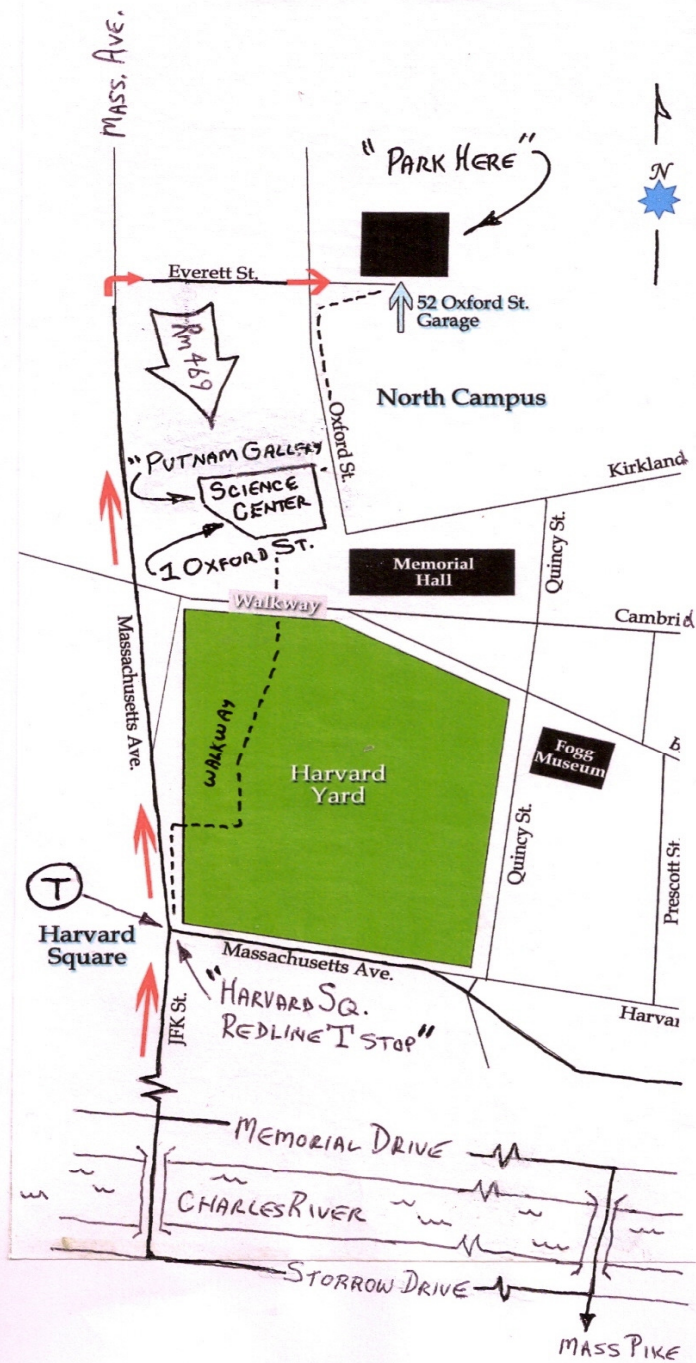
If you are mailing in your registration and payment, just photocopy this page to have a page to mail to the treasurer.

**NOTE 5**

See next page for a detailed map and directions.

To use PayPal (log on to your PayPal account, click on Send Money, enter: [chapt8@gmail.com](mailto:chapt8@gmail.com), and complete the transaction), **or** mail your check (to New England Chapter 8) for \$50 per person in the enclosed envelope (Joseph W. Seremeth, 23 George Allen Rd, West Brookfield, MA 01585).

**---- ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED; NO WALK-INS ----**



**Directions to the 52 Oxford Street Garage, Harvard University and the Science Center**

**From Points North, South and the Downtown Boston Area:**

Take either Storrow Drive or Memorial Drive West (Towards Cambridge/Newton). Exit right at the Harvard Square/Cambridge signed exit onto JFK Street. If you are on Storrow Drive you will be crossing the Anderson Bridge, which spans the Charles River, before you reach JFK Street. If you are traveling on Memorial Drive, you will turn directly onto JFK Street.

**From Points West:**

From the Mass. Pike eastbound, take exit 18 (signed Brighton / Cambridge) and, after the toll booth, stay to the right for Cambridge / Somerville signed exit. Turn left either onto Storrow Drive or Memorial Drive West (away from Downtown Boston) at the river. If you are on Storrow Drive (here it has become Soldiers Field Rd), exit right (signed Harvard Sq / Cambridge) crossing the Anderson Bridge that spans the Charles River, before you reach JFK Street. If you are on Memorial Drive, turn right at the Harvard Square signed exit directly onto JFK Street.

Once on JFK Street, you travel through 3 sets of lights. You should pass the Harvard Coop and Nini's Corner Newspaper Stand on your left, and on your right you will see the Harvard Square Out of Town Ticket / Newspaper Stand (the "Kiosk"). At the next set of lights (which are located directly in front of the Johnston Gate, which is the main entrance to Harvard Yard), bear to your left to continue on up Massachusetts Ave. heading towards Porter Square. Take your first right onto Everett Street. Proceed to the very end of Everett (thru the set of lights). In front of you (now on campus) will be a guard booth. Stop there and when asked for the event's name, state, **"PUTNAM GALLERY EVENT."** TAKE YOUR SWIPE CARD WITH YOU TO RE-ENTER THE GARAGE!

Once outside, turn left and walk to the Science Center at 1 Oxford Street (on your right). Go to Classroom 469 (4th floor, down the hall to the right of the elevators, center of building), or use the stairs) for registration, breakfast, talks and lunch. This event will start in Classroom 469 and then to the Putnam Gallery (ground floor, Room 136).