

Gilbert Clock Catalogue

gilbert clock catalogue: A Comprehensive Guide to Antique Clocks and Collectible Timepieces If you are a collector, antique enthusiast, or simply someone fascinated by the history of timekeeping, the **Gilbert Clock Catalogue** offers a treasure trove of information. Gilbert Clock Company, established in the 19th century, became renowned for producing high-quality, innovative, and stylish clocks that have stood the test of time. Today, a well-preserved or rare Gilbert clock can be a valuable addition to any collection, and understanding the details found within the Gilbert clock catalogue can greatly enhance your appreciation and knowledge of these historic timepieces. In this article, we will explore the history of Gilbert clocks, how to navigate the Gilbert clock catalogue, identify different models, and tips for collectors. Whether you are new to clock collecting or a seasoned enthusiast, this guide aims to provide comprehensive insights into Gilbert clocks and their catalogues.

The History of Gilbert Clock Company

Founding and Evolution

The Gilbert Clock Company was founded in 1871 in West Meriden, Connecticut, by David H. Gilbert and his son, Walter G. Gilbert. Originally a jewelry and watchmaking business, the company shifted its focus toward manufacturing clocks, quickly gaining a reputation for quality craftsmanship and innovative design. Over the years, Gilbert produced a wide range of clocks, including wall clocks, mantel clocks, shelf clocks, and novelty clocks. Their clocks became popular for their reliability, affordability, and aesthetic appeal.

Manufacturing Milestones

- 1871: Company founded, initially focusing on jewelry and watch repair. - Late 1800s: Introduction of the first Gilbert clocks, including wooden cases and mechanical movements. - Early 1900s: Expansion into metal cases and more modern designs. - 1920s-1930s: Peak production period with a variety of styles, including Art Deco influences. - Post-World War II: Decline in manufacturing as the clock industry changed, leading to eventual closure in 1964. Understanding the history helps collectors date and authenticate Gilbert clocks, which is crucial when consulting the Gilbert clock catalogue.

Understanding the Gilbert Clock Catalogue

The Gilbert clock catalogue is a systematic listing of the company's various clock models, often including detailed descriptions, manufacturing years, identifying features, photographs, and rarity notes. These catalogues serve as essential resources for appraisers, collectors, and historians.

Types of Gilbert Clocks Featured

- Wall Clocks: Large, decorative clocks meant for prominent display. - Mantel and Shelf Clocks: Smaller, often ornate clocks designed for mantels or shelves. - Regulators and Office Clocks: Precise timekeeping clocks used in offices or public spaces. - Novelty Clocks: Unique shapes and features, including figurines or thematic designs. - Alarm Clocks: Portable clocks with alarm features.

Key Elements in the Catalogue

When reviewing a Gilbert clock catalogue, pay attention to:

- Model Numbers/Names: Unique identifiers for each clock type.
- Production Years: To assist with dating and authenticity.
- Case Material and Design: Wood, metal, marble, or composite materials.
- Movement Type: Mechanical, spring-driven, or later electric models.
- Size and Dimensions: For identification and valuation.
- Decorative Features: Inlays, painted details, glass panels, or carvings.
- Rarity and Collectibility Notes: Indications of how common or valuable a model is.

Identifying and Dating Gilbert Clocks

Accurate identification is essential for valuing and preserving Gilbert clocks. The catalogue provides key clues, including:

Model and Serial Numbers

Most Gilbert clocks feature model numbers or labels. Cross-referencing these with the catalogue helps determine production dates and rarity.

Design and Style Features

Different styles correspond to specific periods:

- Victorian Era (late 1800s): Elaborate carvings, dark woods, ornate details.
- Art Deco (1920s-1930s): Geometric shapes, metal accents, sleek lines.
- Mid-Century Modern: Minimalist designs, lighter materials.

Materials Used

Material analysis can help date and authenticate clocks:

- Oak, Walnut, Cherry: Common in Victorian models.
- Brass, Chrome, Steel: Popular in 20th-century designs.
- Marble or Glass: Indicates a higher-end or decorative piece.

Movement and Mechanism

The type of movement can help date a clock:

- Weight-Driven Movements: Common in older models.
- Spring-Driven Movements: Standard in many mantel and wall clocks.
- Electric Movements: Introduced in the mid-20th century.

Collecting Gilbert Clocks: Tips and Resources

For enthusiasts looking to build or expand their collection, understanding the nuances of Gilbert clocks is vital.

Where to Find Gilbert Clocks

- Antique Shops and Flea Markets: Often have vintage Gilbert clocks.
- Online Marketplaces: eBay, Etsy, and specialized clock collectors sites.
- Auctions: Rare or high-value clocks frequently appear at auction houses.
- Clock and Antique Shows: Opportunities to see a variety of models and consult experts.

Authenticating and Valuing Clocks

- Use the **Gilbert clock catalogue** to verify model numbers, designs, and features. - Examine the clock's condition, movement, and originality. - Consult professional appraisers for high-value pieces.

Restoration and Preservation

- Proper cleaning and servicing are essential. - Use period-appropriate parts when restoring. - Keep detailed records of repairs and provenance.

Resources and References for Gilbert Clock Collectors

- Books: - Gilbert Clocks: The Complete Collection by David A. S. Jones. - Antique Clocks and Watches by Christopher Crowe. - Online Databases: - Antique Clocks Price Guide. - NAWCC (National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors). - Collector Forums and Clubs: - Online communities dedicated to clock collecting. - Local antique clock clubs.

Conclusion

The **Gilbert clock catalogue** remains an invaluable resource for identifying, dating, and valuing Gilbert clocks. Understanding the details within the catalogue, from model specifics to design features, can significantly enhance your collecting experience. Whether you're seeking a vintage wall clock, a decorative mantelpiece, or rare collector's item, knowledge of Gilbert's history and models will guide you in making informed decisions. As with any collectible, patience, research, and a keen eye for detail are essential in building a meaningful and valuable Gilbert clock collection. Investing time in exploring the catalogue and related resources not only enriches your appreciation of these timeless pieces but also helps preserve the legacy of Gilbert's craftsmanship for generations to come.

Gilbert Clock Catalogue: An In-Depth Exploration of Its History, Significance, and Collectible Value The Gilbert Clock Catalogue stands as a pivotal resource for horology enthusiasts, antique collectors, and historians alike. This comprehensive listing not only catalogs the vast array of clocks produced by the Gilbert Clock Company but also encapsulates a rich history of American manufacturing innovation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As a definitive guide, the catalogue offers insights into design evolution, technological advancements, and the cultural significance of Gilbert clocks, making it an invaluable reference point for understanding American clockmaking heritage.

Historical Background of Gilbert Clock Company

Origins and Founding

The Gilbert Clock Company was established in 1871 in Winsted, Connecticut, a region renowned for its clockmaking craftsmanship. Founded by brothers Charles G. Gilbert and William L. Gilbert, the company quickly gained a reputation for producing reliable, affordable, and stylish clocks tailored for the American market. Their initial focus was on shelf clocks, mantel clocks, and wall clocks, catering to the burgeoning middle class seeking functional yet decorative timepieces.

Growth and Expansion

Throughout the late 19th century, Gilbert expanded its manufacturing capabilities, adopting mass-production techniques that allowed for increased output and wider distribution. The company also diversified its product range, introducing new clock styles and mechanisms to appeal to various consumer tastes and technological preferences. The introduction of American-made clocks during this period coincided with rapid industrialization, making Gilbert clocks accessible to a broad demographic.

Innovation and Design Philosophy

Gilbert's success can be attributed to a commitment to innovation, with the company integrating new mechanical features and aesthetic styles. Their clocks often featured elaborate woodwork, painted or carved decorations, and intricate clock faces. Gilbert was also notable for incorporating American-made movements, emphasizing quality and durability.

The Role and Importance of the Gilbert Clock Catalogue

Purpose and Utility

The Gilbert Clock Catalogue served multiple functions: - Product Listing: It detailed available models, specifications, and features. - Pricing Guide: Offered retail and wholesale prices, facilitating dealer and consumer transactions. - Historical Record: Documented manufacturing dates, design variants, and technical innovations. - Collecting Reference: A primary resource for collectors to identify and date clocks accurately.

Evolution of the Catalogue

Originally published as printed brochures and catalogs, Gilbert's listings evolved over time, reflecting changes in product lines and technological advancements. The catalogs often included illustrations, detailed descriptions, and sometimes manufacturing notes, providing rich context for each model.

Impact on Collecting and Valuation

The availability of detailed catalogues has significantly influenced clock collecting. Collectors rely heavily on these documents to verify authenticity, determine age, and assess rarity and value. The scarcity of certain editions or models documented within these catalogues can greatly affect their market worth.

Major Features and Content of the Gilbert Clock Catalogue

Model Classifications and Variants

The catalogue classifies Gilbert clocks into several categories: - Shelf and Mantel Clocks: Often ornate, designed for placement on furniture. - Wall Clocks: Including regulator styles and schoolhouse clocks. - Office Clocks: Featuring simpler, utilitarian designs. - Special Editions: Limited runs or decorative pieces, sometimes commemorative. Within each category, models are further distinguished by: - Design Elements: Cases, face designs, and decorative motifs. - Movements: Mechanical features, such as time-only or striking mechanisms. -

Materials: Types of wood, metal accents, and finishes.

Design and Aesthetic Features

The catalogue provides detailed descriptions of the aesthetic aspects: - Case Styles: Gothic revival, Victorian, Arts and Crafts, and more. - Dial Designs: Roman numerals, Arabic numerals, painted or enameled faces. - Decorative Elements: Carvings, inlays, and painted motifs.

Technical Specifications

Each listing includes key technical data: - Movement Type: Mechanical, weight-driven, spring-driven. - Size and Dimensions: Height, width, depth. - Manufacture Dates: Approximate years of production. - Serial Numbers: For dating and identification.

Pricing and Market Data

The catalog often contained pricing information, which offers insights into: - The relative value of different models. - Market trends over time. - Economic factors influencing manufacturing and sales.

Significance for Collectors and Historians

Authenticity and Dating

The Gilbert Clock Catalogue is instrumental in authenticating clocks and establishing their age. By cross-referencing serial numbers, design features, and manufacturing codes documented within the catalogue, collectors can verify the provenance of their pieces.

Understanding Design Evolution

The catalogue provides a chronological overview of design trends, technological innovations, and material use. For example, shifts from ornate Victorian styles to simpler Arts and Crafts designs reflect broader aesthetic movements and technological changes.

Cultural and Economic Insights

Analyzing the catalogue entries reveals insights into American society: - The proliferation of household clocks indicates rising middle-class prosperity. - Variations in styles reflect changing tastes and cultural influences. - Pricing trends mirror economic conditions and manufacturing costs.

Impact on the Antique Market

The availability of detailed catalogues enhances the valuation accuracy of Gilbert clocks, influencing auction prices and collecting interest. Rare models or those with unique features documented in the catalogue tend to fetch higher prices.

Collecting and Preserving Gilbert Clocks Today

Identifying Authentic Gilbert Clocks

Using the catalogue as a reference, collectors can:

- Verify serial numbers and model details.
- Spot reproductions or misattributions.
- Determine approximate manufacturing dates.

Preservation and Restoration

Proper maintenance and restoration often depend on understanding original materials and mechanisms described in the catalogue. Knowledge of original finishes, dial designs, and movement types helps in restoring clocks to their authentic appearance and function.

Where to Find Gilbert Clock Catalogues

Historical catalogues can be sourced from:

- Antique clock dealer archives.
- Museum collections.
- Online auction archives.
- Specialized books and publications on American horology.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Gilbert Clock Catalogue

The Gilbert Clock Catalogue remains a cornerstone document within the field of American horology. It encapsulates the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and cultural significance of Gilbert clocks, serving both as a technical manual and a historical record. For collectors, historians, and enthusiasts, it offers a window into an era when American manufacturing was flourishing, and clocks were not merely functional objects but symbols of technological progress and aesthetic expression. As the market for antique clocks continues to grow, the catalogue’s role in authentication, valuation, and preservation becomes ever more vital, ensuring that the legacy of Gilbert’s craftsmanship endures for generations to come.

Questions & Answers About gilbert clock catalogue

No	Question	Answer
1	What is included in the Gilbert Clock Catalogue?	The Gilbert Clock Catalogue features a comprehensive collection of antique and vintage Gilbert clocks, including wall clocks, mantel clocks, and pocket watches, with detailed descriptions and historical information.
2	How can I identify a Gilbert clock in the catalogue?	Identification typically involves examining the clock's markings, serial numbers, design style, and movement features, which are all documented in the catalogue to help collectors and enthusiasts.
3	Is the Gilbert Clock Catalogue useful for appraising clocks?	Yes, the catalogue provides valuable reference data on model variations, production years, and market values, making it a helpful tool for appraisers and collectors.
4	Where can I access the latest edition of the Gilbert Clock Catalogue?	The latest editions are available through antique clock dealer websites, specialized catalogues, or at clock collecting conventions and shows.

5	Are there online resources for Gilbert Clock Catalogue information?	Yes, several online platforms and forums provide digital copies, images, and discussions related to the Gilbert Clock Catalogue to assist collectors worldwide.
6	How often is the Gilbert Clock Catalogue updated?	Updates vary, but major revisions are typically released every few years to reflect new discoveries, model information, and market trends.
7	Can I find vintage Gilbert clocks for sale using the catalogue?	While the catalogue itself is primarily informational, it often includes references to dealers and auction sources where vintage Gilbert clocks can be purchased.
8	What are the most sought-after Gilbert clocks listed in the catalogue?	Rare models such as early 19th-century wall clocks and limited edition mantel clocks are highly sought after, with their details documented thoroughly in the catalogue for collectors.

Gilbert clock, antique clocks, clock catalog, vintage clocks, clock repair, clock identification, Gilbert manufacturing, clock collectors, clock parts, horology