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FILENIOS WATCHES

REVIVAL TIMEPIECES



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The WATCHES that CHANGED the COURSE of MECHANICAL HOROLOGY

The so called “quartz crisis” period lasted for two decades, during the 1970s & 1980s, and resulted in the total reshape of the global watch industry. The mechanical watch did not disappear, but it was vastly deprived of its past quality and prestige, in need for a total restart, best described with the word “revival” covering a period from the middle 1980s till the end of the century. It is worth mentioning the 12 perhaps most important cases of the people and their creations that initialized this effort, and contributed to the reinstatement and further (explosive) development of mechanical watches in the 21st century, at least till today.

- SMH (Swatch) group is finally established consolidating almost half of the remaining Swiss industry resources, under the administration of Ernst Thomke and Nicolas G. Hayek.
- Breguet fully re-organized under the ownership of Chaumet brothers and the technical direction of the master watchmaker Daniel Roth, introduces the models 3130 & 3330.
- Urban Jurgensen enters into a new era presenting Reference-1 chronograph under the administration of two close friends and watchmakers, Peter Baumberger and Derek Pratt.
- Blancpain restarts operation under the administration of Jacques Piguet and Jean-Claude Biver adopting the slogan “Blancpain has never made a quartz watch and never will”.
- Gerd-Rudiger Lang sets the foundation of Chronoswiss presenting moonphase calendar chronographs and committing the trend of open back cases.
- Breitling under the ownership of Ernst Schneider introduces the new Chronomat chronograph setting a standard design that defines most of its future models.
- Jaeger Lecoultre utilizes for the first time CNC production machines, and re-introduces the decommissioned Reverso model, with an improved water-resistant case.
- IWC operating under the administration of Gunter Blumlein and Kurt Klaus, presents Da Vinci perpetual calendar chronograph, the most representative “revival” timepiece.
- Ulysse Nardin under the administration of Rolf Schnyder and Ludwig Oechslin, presents Astrolabium Galileo Galilei, first model of the astronomic series “Trilogy of Time”.
- Svend Andersen and Vincent Calabrese establish the “Académie Horlogère des Créateurs Indépendants” (AHCI), the first official community of independent watchmakers.
- Franck Muller, working in the workshop of Svend Andersen, presents his first complicated watches, before establishing his own brand and introducing his “neo-classic” designs.
- Given the support of G.Blumlein (IWC), Dominique Renaud and Giulio Papi open their atelier (R&P), an influential powerhouse for some of the best independent watchmakers.

The “revival” period ends in the late 1990s, and coincides with the delivery of George Daniels’ (most significant watchmaker of the 20th century) Millennium model, his first LE series (47pcs), equipped with a modified (Co-Axial) automatic mass production Cal.ETA-2892, in accordance with the principles followed in the watchmaking industry during the upcoming decades.

This presentation herein focuses on the most representative (20+) brand-models that changed the course of mechanical horology, once again, thanks to the best available web resources.

First photo credited to www.acollectedman.com - VC Mercator circa 1994-2004 for 638 pcs.

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Revival Timepieces

1985 - IWC DA VINCI PERPETUAL CALENDAR 3750-2/54/55/58

It was the first crown adjusted perpetual calendar, combined with chronograph functions, and It was produced in many editions including split-second and tourbillon versions. All the mechanisms used were based on Cal.VALJOUX/ETA-7750/60, housed in 39/41mm steel, gold18k, platinum, or even ceramic cases, over a period of 21 years.



Photo credit www.deployant.com

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Revival Timepieces

1985 - PATEK PHILIPPE PERPETUAL CALENDAR 3940

It is considered the most iconic perpetual calendar model diachronically, in par with the long tradition of PP in this very particular type of watches since 1925. It was the first series model with 24h and leap year indication, crucial elements for the calendar adjustment, equipped with automatic Cal.240, housed in 36mm gold or platinum case.



Photo credit www.deployant.com

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Revival Timepieces

1985 - PASHA DE CARTIER 820903/W3102255(L.E.1847pcs)

Designed by Gerald Genta, it has been established in the market as one of the most outstanding luxury sport watches, equipped with top grade automatic Cal.ETA-2824, housed in a robust and very particular 38mm case, made exclusively from gold18k, before the line expansion during the 1990s with steel and “grille” models available.



Photo credit www.the-salesroom.com

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Revival Timepieces

1987 - CHRONOSWISS REGULATEUR CH6321-23/6326/6327

The first model introduced was hand wound, equipped with modified Cal.UNITAS-6376, housed in 38mm cases made of steel, gold18k, bronze, or even two-tone. It was produced in 5 different editions, for a total series of 3,000 pcs, sold out within two years. The automatic version CH1223 was equipped with Cal.ENICAR-165 since 1988.



Photo credit www.sense-of-time.de



Revival Timepieces

1987 - LONGINES LINDBERGH HOUR ANGLE AUTOMATIC 989.5215

Based on the sensational longitude calculation timepiece of 1931, Longines presented a smaller contemporary edition on the 60th anniversary from the first heroic transatlantic non-stop flight from New York to Paris. It was equipped with automatic Cal.L989.2 (later on with ETA-2892), housed in 38mm steel, gold18k, two-tone cases.



Photo credit www.zeitauktion.com

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Revival Timepieces

1988 - OMEGA SPEEDMASTER REDUCED AUTOMATIC 3510/3810.50

The “quartz crisis” period imposed the trend of more accessible and practical mechanical watches, with this model being a top representative of its kind, produced for 21 years, before its final refinement in 2010, equipped with Cal.1140/3220 based on ETA-2890/92 modified with D.DEPRAZ module 2020, housed in 39mm steel cases.



Photo credit www.hodinkee.com



Revival Timepieces

1988 - ROLEX COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA 16520/16523

The first automatic Daytona model, one of the most coveted timepieces ever, was the reason for Zenith El Primero mechanism re-birth although it was used extensively modified running at 28,800 beats per hour. The Rolesor steel-gold 40mm case, first appeared in 1985, was presented in several editions till the 2nd series launch in 2000.



Photo credit www.maurideangelis.com

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Revival Timepieces

1988 - BREGUET TOURBILLON 3350/3357

The first Breguet wristwatch tourbillon was developed by Daniel Roth in collaboration with Lemania following the debut of the historical AP 25643 in 1986. It is equipped with the hand wound Cal.558, housed in 36mm open back gold 18k case. Along with the successive model 3357 since 1990, it is the preferable choice for the connoisseur.



Photo credit www.acollectedman.com

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Revival Timepieces**1989 - ULYSSE NARDIN MINUTE REPEATER 701-22/716-22/719-20**

Among the first modern minute repeater wristwatches, Ulysse Nardin developed the jacquemart forgerons (San Marco) models in collaboration with the independent watchmaker Christophe Claret, equipped with hand wound mechanisms, housed in 39mm gold or platinum open back cases, for a long-lasting series of artistic character.



Photo credit www.christies.com



Revival Timepieces

1989 - VACHERON CONSTANTIN CHRONOGRAPH 47101

Based on the classic ref.4178 from the 1930s with the characteristic “tear drop” lug design, this model was produced from 1989 until 2003, equipped with the hand wound chronograph movement Cal.1141 (Lemania 2320), housed in gold 18k open back cases of 36mm. For many, it is the most elegant dress chronograph of all times.



Photo credit www.ssongwatches.com

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Revival Timepieces

1991 - GIRARD PERREGAUX THREE BRIDGES TOURBILLON

One of the most beautiful timepieces of all times was transposed from a legendary pocket watch (La Esmeralda rooted back in the 19th century) to a wristwatch by the watchmaker Denis Schnegg, equipped with the reversed hand wound Cal.9910 (later on automatic) with three gold18k bridges, housed in 39mm gold or platinum cases.



Photo credit www.collectorsquare.com



Revival Timepieces

1991 - NOMOS GLASHUTTE TANGENTE

Designed by Susanne Gunther, based on one Lange model from 1937, it is the first significant timepiece in the modern era of Glashutte, and the first Bauhaus spirit reviving watch, equipped with the hand wound caliber Peseux/ETA-7001 (gradually modified and upgraded till 2005), housed in slim unisex steel or gold18k 35mm cases.



Photo credit www.zeitauktion.com

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Revival Timepieces**1992 - JAEGER LECOULTRE MASTER CONTROL/REVEIL/MEMOVOX**

This line of watches represents the “future classic” models of this manufacture, presented in all possible types and functions, with the preferable ones being the 3-hand and the gong alarm editions. The 1st is equipped with automatic Cal.889, the 2nd with automatic Cal.918 and HW Cal.914, all housed in 36-38mm steel/gold cases.



Photo credit www.watchprosite.com

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Revival Timepieces**1994 - JAEGER LECOULTRE REVERSO DUOFACE 270.1.54/2.54/8.54**

Ten years after the re-introduction of Reverso with water resistance case, this avant-garde timepiece was presented with open back case displaying a second dial used for indicating a second time zone. It is equipped with double gear hand wound Cal.854, housed in 26x42mm steel or gold18k case featuring a GMT function pusher since 2004.



Revival Timepieces

1993 - PANERAI LUMINOR 5218*

The so called “Pre-Vendome” Panerai Luminor models were produced in 1993-1997, first in Switzerland (circa 1200 pcs) and later on in Italy (circa 500 pcs) in 8 editions including both 2-hand and 3-hand (Marina) versions, all equipped with the hand wound Cal.ETA-6497, housed in 44mm steel cases featuring 300m water resistance.



Photo credit www.watchesbysjx.com

**This watch and the next one (AP) are credited with the 21st century large case trend*

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Revival Timepieces

1993 - AUDEMARS PIGUET ROYAL OAK OFFSHORE 25721/25770*

Designed by Emmanuel Gueit in 1989, it was released four years later in a limited “testing” edition of 100 units proving an unexpected sales success, with several successive editions on different dial colors, all equipped with automatic modular Cal.AP2226(JLC), housed in 42mm steel, titanium, gold18k cases featuring 100m WR.



Photo credit www.acollectedman.com

**It should not be just a coincidence that these two BIG watches came up together*

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Revival Timepieces

1994 - A.LANGE & SOHNE ONE 101.001/002/005

The most distinguished among the 4 foundational models of this historic brand, symbolizes the reinstatement of Glashütte as a premier watchmaking center. It is equipped with the hand wound Cal.901 featuring 53 jewels and 72 hours power reserve, housed in solid back (open back since 1995) 38.5mm gold18k or platinum cases.



Photo credit www.acollectedman.com

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Revival Timepieces**1994 - FRANCK MULLER CINTREE CURVEX CASABLANCA 5850**

Inspired by the Art Deco period, it is one of the most representative models of the brand that introduced the “neo-classic” design in the watch market. It is equipped with automatic Cal.2800 (based on ETA-2892), housed in the characteristic tonneau 31X45mm steel or gold/18k solid back cases, succeeded by larger versions further on.



Photo credit www.edinburghwatchcompany.co.uk

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Revival Timepieces

1996 - GERALD GENTA RETROGRADE JUMP HOUR

This timepiece represents the last significant project of the arguably best watch designer in history, and for many the most impressive of all. The jump hour function is combined with a retrograde minute indicator utilizing automatic Cal.ETA-2892, housed in 38mm case. Among all editions, the Disney versions are the most collectible.



Photo credit www.vwcweb.com



Revival Timepieces

1997 - BLANCPAIN FIFTY FATHOMS TRILOGY 2200/2250/2850

Typically and historically, it is the first diver wristwatch re-emerging after almost forty years of absence in three editions including a GMT and a chronograph model. Focusing on the diver model, It is equipped with automatic Cal.1151, housed in steel or gold 18k 40mm case, water resistant up to 300m. It is the most undergraded Blancpain model.



Photo credit www.zeitauktion.com



Revival Timepieces

1996 - TAG HEUER CARRERA CHRONOGRAPH CS3110/11/12/13

This re-edition chronograph, based on the first Carrera model (ref.2447) from 1963, was produced for six years until 2002, in four editions with white, black, salmon dials. It is equipped with the hand wound movement Lemania Cal.1873, housed in steel 36mm cases. A heritage watch, plus an improved and smart substitute of the original.



Photo credit www.analogshift.com



Revival Timepieces

1998 - TAG HEUER MONACO CHRONOGRAPH CS2110 LE

It is the most iconic Heuer timepiece, re-introduced in a limited edition of 5,000 pcs, 23 years after the production stoppage of the original 1969 automatic model (ref.1133/1533). It is equipped with the modular automatic movement Cal.ETA-2894, housed in steel 38x38mm case, with acrylic crystal like the vintage original model.



Photo credit www.analogshift.com



Revival Timepieces

1998 - GRAND SEIKO AUTOMATIC 9S5 SERIES

The luxury sub-brand of Seiko group re-introduced a mechanical timepiece with a delay of around 20 years after the “golden” period of the 1960s and 1970s. It is equipped with a top quality in-house automatic movement, housed primarily in steel cases of 36-39mm. These first models are primarily available in the domestic market.



Photo credit www.morioka-seiko.co.jp

$\Phi\Sigma$ **Revival Timepieces****1999 - URBAN JURGENSEN REFERENCE 8**

It is perhaps the most representative model of this hyper luxury brand in its modern era, and one of the most beautiful dress watches diachronically, thanks to the teardrop lug design. It is equipped with the renowned automatic Cal.FP-1160, housed in steel, gold18k, platinum cases of 37-40mm, available upon order until the 2010s.



Photo credit www.acollectedman.com

Revival Timepieces

BACK TO THE ORIGINS - BLANCPAIN & BREGUET since 1983

The year 1983 is the reference point of the “quartz crisis” period, and among all the brands that contributed to the market revival, BLANCPAIN and BREGUET are two of the protagonists presenting some very specific historical timepieces, before being both acquired by the SWATCH group in 1992 and 1999 respectively.

BLANCPAIN introduced the “six masterpieces” from 1983 to 1989. Based on the very comprehensive article of www.watchbrotherslondon.com, the very first model was the Complete Calendar Moon Phase Ref.6595, followed by the Ultra-Thin (1984-Ref.0021HW/0071AM) including skeletonized variants, Perpetual Calendar (1986-Ref.5495) with leap year indication, Minute Repeater (1988-Ref.0033HW/0035AM), Chronograph (1988-Ref.1185AM) equipped with one of the best modern chronograph mechanisms, Flying Tourbillon 8-Days (1989-Ref.0023). All the models were produced in steel/gold cases of 34mm, and they are addressed to small wrist collectors, but at the same time, they are among the very few historical timepieces that are ideal for women as well. In 1991, the brand introduced a LE set of 99 pieces including all six versions in platinum cases, along with the presentation of the milestone model 1735 Grande Complication that essentially combines all the functions of the six models. After 40 years, the respective contemporary models are available in Villeret collection.





Revival Timepieces

BACK TO THE ORIGINS - BLANCPAIN & BREGUET since 1983

BREGUET had already moved from Paris to Vallee De Joux in 1976, before Daniel Roth (technical director) being able to materialize his plan for the revived brand model line. Studying on the heritage of A.L.Breguet, he was aiming to rework certain designs from the past, in particular from unique pieces of pocket watches that would provide the necessary inspiration for the modern Breguet wristwatches. The first such examples were the moon phase models Ref.3130 and Ref.3330 presented in 1983, derived from the original pocket watches No.5 and No.4579 respectively. They were equipped with the automatic Cal.502 based on F.PIGUET-71 (Blancpain), housed in 36mm gold 18k or platinum cases. Later on, both models were introduced with open back cases (Ref.3137/3337) and were kept in production till the 2000s, before being replaced by their contemporary editions (Ref.7137/7337) available in the current brand line. Two classic, historical and new age representative timepieces on their 40th anniversary.





Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO JAEGER LECOULTRE

It was during the “Revival” period that JLC earned the title “Manufacture of the manufactures” supplying its calibers to the most prestigious brands in the market. Moreover, it is worth mentioning the line expansion over Reverso and Master Control models, two of the best casual-dress watch collections in the last 30+ years.

Reverso was introduced as an avant garde sport timepiece in 1931 featuring the characteristic flipped over case, and was kept in production until 1948. Thanks to the initiative of the brand Italian distributor Giorgio Corvo in 1972, JLC re-launched its most iconic model in the middle 1980s, with improved designing features, based on the work of Daniel Wild. In 1991, the special 60th anniversary (Soixantieme) edition was presented, designed by Janek Deleskiewicz, and till the end of the decade, five more limited edition models followed, all of them produced in a total volume of 6 x 500 = 3,000 pcs. This set includes 60eme ref.270.2.642 (1991), Tourbillon ref.270.2.682 (1993), Min.Repeater ref.270.2.73 (1994), Retrograde chronograph ref.270.2.69 (1996), Geographique (GMT) ref.270.2.58 (1998), Perpetual Calendar ref.270.2.55 (2000). The 70th Anniversary model (Septantieme) was followed in 2001, in two limited editions of 2 x 500 pcs (ref.240.2.19/6.19) equipped with 8-day power reserve calibers.

Master control line was expanded with the Perpetual Calendar (based on IWC module applied on Cal.889) editions 140.8.80 (steel - photos below), plus 140.2.80/3.80/6.80 gold and platinum versions, housed in 37mm cases since 1997, followed by the larger in size Grande Memovox editions 146.2.95/3.95/6.95 combining alarm and perpetual calendar complications since 2001. Two of the most preferable PC models overall.



Photo credit www.fratellowatches.com



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO JAEGER LECOULTRE





Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO ULYSSE NARDIN

This is perhaps the most influential brand of all during the “Revival’ period. On the one hand, it was the ambition of Rolf Schnyder who bought the brand in 1983 with the scope of competing with the best in the market, on the other hand, it was the very fact that the brand projects were implemented by some of the most ingenious watchmakers of modern times, primarily the technical director Ludwig Oechslin, but also Christophe Claret who undertook the development of the minute repeater and hour striker models, in collaboration with Renauld and Papi workshop. The output of this “dream team” is some of the best watches of the 20th century, perhaps the best overall in the 1990s. Leaving aside the “Trilogy of Time” and the Jacquemart Minute Repeaters already mentioned, it is worth mentioning the best of the rest models.

- Hour Striker (1993) is a jacquemart 2-hand model that chimes automatically every hour and half hour passing, equipped with modified Cal.ETA-2892. Preferable ref.756-22(G18K)/759-20(PL), plus special (erotic 761-22/769-20) and future editions.
- GMT+/- models were presented since 1995 via the San Marco collection featuring two pushers for quick and easy adjustment of the 2nd time zone, again based on a modified automatic Cal.ETA-2892 top grade.
- Marine 1846 Chronometer (1996) 150th anniversary models paying tribute to the brand heritage, equipped with Cal.ETA-2892, with the first limited edition (2 x 250 pcs) reference numbers being 260-22 (WG18k) and 266-22 (YG18K).
- Ludwig Perpetual Calendar (1996) is the first forward (like IWC) and backward crown adjustment model of its kind, equipped with an automatic Lemania modified movement. Preferable editions ref.311-22/331-22/339-20(PL). In 2017, UN re-issued this model (ref.333-900) in a larger case.
- GMT Perpetual Calendar (1999) combining both complications, with preferable editions (all gold or platinum) being ref.320-22/82/326-82/329-80(PL).
- Alarm models ref.603-77(steel) and ref.601-77(G18K) were equipped with automatic Cal.AS-5008 (produced in 1973-1977) properly refined.
- Three hand COSC models were presented in several editions including steel ref.133-72-9/77-9/88-9, gold ref.131-77-9 (including watches with artistic Cloisonne dials), platinum ref.139-70-9.

Today, all these models are considered among the best pre-owned watches available in the market, addressed both to collectors and to enthusiasts, worldwide.

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Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO ULYSSE NARDIN

JACQUEMART HOUR STRIKER PLATINUM & GOLD (EROTIC)



Photo credit www.antiquorum.swiss & www.sothebys.com

LUDWIG PERPETUAL & GMT PERPETUAL



Photo credit www.deployant.com & www.fratellowatches.com

3-HAND CHRONOMETER REGULAR & ARTISTIC



Photo credit www.watchsmiles.com & www.thekeystone.com



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO VALJOUX AUTOMATIC CHRONOGRAPH

Chronographs played a major role in the revival of mechanical watches, equipped with movements coming primarily from LEMANIA, VALJOUX and ZENITH. Among all the calibers that have stood the test of time, three deserve to be called “legendary”, and these are the column wheel hand wound LONGINES-13ZN and LEMANIA-2310, plus the cam-lever (more easily produced) automatic VALJOUX-7750, with the last being overall one of the best mechanical movements in the history of watchmaking.

VALJOUX had been a specialized chronograph and timer caliber producer, founded in 1901 by Reymond brothers, with the column wheel Cal.22 and Cal.23 line being its best-known creations, for 60 years (1914-1974). In 1966, It acquired VENUS and based on the cam-lever Cal.188, it launched the same year its own hand wound Cal.7730 dominating the market till the late 1970s, with an output of more than 2 million pieces. Following the trend of automatic chronograph calibers, VALJOUX assigned to the young watchmaker Edmond Capt the development of Cal.7750 on two conditions. It should be cost effective and credible. Based on Cal.7730 and being the first CAD movement project in history, it materialized in 1973 resulting in its mass production during the following two years, before the administrative decision for a complete project abandonment due to the overwhelming market conditions. Experiencing the same story with Charles Vermot, developer of ZENITH El Primero caliber, Edmond Capt put aside the production equipment, but did not discarded it. The remaining stock of Cal.7750 was utilized primarily by HEUER in its racing chronograph models Montreal and Pasadena (from 1977 to 1982) being perhaps the most representative VALJOUX chronographs of that period, along with the similar models from BREIL, LEJOUR, ORFINA - PORSCHE DESIGN, SINN, housed in large 41mm steel cases, usually featuring the characteristic black coating (electro-plasma). Entering at last in the “revival” period, BREITLING was the first brand that ordered Cal.7750 for using it in the new Chronomat model in 1984 providing the necessary cash flow for the production line re-start.

That was a turning point for a movement created in the “quartz crisis” period, and further on used in some of the most representative “revival” timepieces presented by CHRONOSWISS, FRANCK MULLER, IWC, OMEGA, TUDOR, etc. Apart from its tested credibility (it has survived even pilot ejections) what has established its broad market admission, is the utilization of this movement in all possible functions that could be displayed on a timepiece, with IWC Destriero Scafusia being the ultimate example.



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO VALJOUX AUTOMATIC CHRONOGRAPH

1970s & 1980s - HEUER PASADENA & BREITLING CHRONOMAT



Photo credit www.heuerworld.com & www.zeitauktion.com

1990s - FRANCK MULLER DOUBLE FACE CHRONOGRAPH



Photo credit www.thehourglass.com

1990s - CHRONOSWISS KAIROS & OPUS SKELETONIZED



Photo credit www.zeitauktion.com



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO JAEGER LECOULTRE 920 MOVEMENT

Among all the “simple function” mechanisms that have stood the test of time, JLC automatic Cal.920, one of the thinnest ever introduced in the industry (min. height 2.45mm), is positioned on the top of the pyramid. It was designed, developed and produced by “The Manufacture” since 1967, but it was never used inside its watches. It was utilized exclusively by the “Holly Trinity” of the Swiss brands being produced even today by Audemars Piguet and Vacheron Constantin (Patek Philippe used it until 1990). It usually features only two hands for indicating hours and minutes operating at 21,600 beats per hour, with 36 jewels. Being a very thin and credible caliber, it has proved an ideal base for modular complications like perpetual calendars. Used in significant watches that were presented during the ‘Revival’ period, it is worth mentioning the evolution of this legendary mechanism in the 20th century.

AP has used this caliber under reference 2120/2121(date) in dress models like 5273/5286, and primarily in Royal Oak since the beginning of its introduction in 1972 (2-hand ref.5402 “Jumbo”). Cal.2120/2800 with Dubois Depraz module has been used (with gradual upgrades) in perpetual calendar models since 1977, with more than 4,500 dress watches (ref.5548+) produced in 1978-1993. Arguably, the most significant model has been the Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar introduced in 1984 (ref.25554) and primarily the leap year editions 25810 (120th Anniversary LE model of 120 gold pcs) and 25820 (steel) since 1995 and 1998 respectively.

PP had used this caliber under reference 28-255 in dress models like Calatrava 3593 (33mm produced in 1970-1973) and Ellipse 3589/3604 (1970s) and primarily in the first Nautilus editions produced in 1976-1990.

VC has used this caliber under reference 1120/1121 in several dress models like 2045Q/2050/2051/7390/7614, but also in the luxury sport model 222. In 1983, this historic brand introduced its first modern (leap year) perpetual calendar dress model ref.43031 produced till 2006 in an approximate volume of 2,000 pcs, housed in 36mm gold or platinum cases. During the 1990s, there are three more complicated watches of interest. The jumping hour models Haure Sautante ref.43040 produced in 1993-1995 (LE 250 G18K + 150 PL pcs) and Saltarello ref.43041 produced in 1998-1999 (LE 3 x 200 G18K pcs), plus the artistic and unusual Mercator model featuring twin retrograde hands, produced in 1994-2004 in a volume of 638 pcs (first page photo).

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Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO JAEGER LECOULTRE 920 MOVEMENT

1983 - VC LEAP YEAR PERPETUAL CALENDAR 43031



Photo credit www.thecollectedman.com

1995 - AP ROYAL OAL LEAP YEAR PERPEUAL CALENDAR 25810



Photo credit www.pygmaliogallery.com

1998 - VC SALTARELLO RETROGRADE JUMPING HOUR 43041



Photo credit www.watcprozine.com



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO PATEK PHILIPPE NAUTILUS

Designed by Gerald Genta, it was introduced in 1976, and got its recognition in the 1980s and 1990s. It is perhaps the most prestigious timepiece in history, fully overpriced today. Expressing my own opinion, it is not a collectible item, and does not belong to safe boxes. Either you have the financial capacity to buy it and wear it all the time, or put your money on other collectible watches. Moreover, such an iconic watch does not deserve to be “spoiled” by multiple versions with all kinds of complications, addressed to neo-rich people, interested only in showing off.

Apart from the brand quality status, the major characteristic of this model is the inspired and innovative case design featuring a monobloc two-part construction, equipped with a “front loading” automatic movement. The bezel is held with four screws at position 3 and 9, and the overall design facilitates theoretical water resistance up to 120m (subjected to exclusions in recent editions) contributing to the watch sporty mode and all around use.

All the preferable editions have two-part cases, and approximately cover the first 30 years of production, until the middle 2000s.

- Ref.3700/1 (1976-1982) and ref.3700/11 (1982-1990) are the very first 2-hand (“Jumbo”) versions, equipped with Cal.28-255, based on the legendary movement JLC-920, housed in circa 42mm (primarily) steel, steel-gold, gold cases.
- Ref.3800 (1981-2006) is a smaller 3-hand version, equipped first with “in-house” Cal.335 and later with Cal.330, housed in 37.5mm cases. It is worth mentioning that this model was succeeded by ref.5008, produced only for three years till 2009, housed in 38.5mm open back cases being perhaps the most balanced and coveted edition in this model line diachronically, at least for connoisseurs.
- Ref.3710 (1998-2006) is one of the most significant overall featuring power reserve indication, equipped with Cal.330, housed in 42mm cases.

During the 20th century, this model has been produced in several editions, with three-part cases since 2006. On the one hand, the new case construction is more practical for servicing, on the other hand, deprives the model character, especially considering the sibling Aquanaut model, introduced in 1997. Among all the recent editions, my one and only preferable is the Annual Calendar ref.5726 since 2010 featuring a complication that was first presented by Patek Philippe in 1996.



Revival Timepieces

TRIBUTE TO PATEK PHILIPPE NAUTILUS



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Revival Timepieces**TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - PP PER.CALENDAR CHRONOGRAPH 3970**

For many connoisseurs, it is the most significant Patek Philippe series timepiece of all times, available from 1986 to 2004, in a volume of 2,400 pieces, following the brand's most representative line of watches since 1941. It was equipped with the legendary Cal.LEMANIA-2310, housed in 36mm gold18k or platinum (latest and very rare) cases.



Photo credit www.acollectedman.com



Revival Timepieces

TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - IWC GRANDE COMPLICATION 3770/9270

It was presented in 1990 (after seven years work) being the first automatic grande complication timepiece (21 displays) featuring minute repeater (first R&P project) and perpetual calendar, applied on the chronograph Cal.VALJOUX/ETA-7750, housed in gold or platinum cases of 42mm. The production lasted till 2010, for 50 pcs per year.



Photo credit www.thewatchbox.com

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Revival Timepieces

TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - VC MINUTE REPEATERS 30010/20/30

This trilogy of repeaters was introduced by Vacheron Constantin in 1991 and kept in production till the middle 2000s, based on the hand wound Cal.1755 produced in a limited series of 200pcs, for all three editions including perpetual calendar ref.30020. Skeletonized ref.30030 is housed in 36.5mm gold (35pcs) or platinum (15pcs) cases.



Photo credit www.sothebys.com

$\Phi\Sigma$

Revival Timepieces

TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - ALS POUR LE MERITE FUSEE-TOURBILLON

One of the four foundational models of A.Lange & Sohne in 1994, in a LE of 200pcs, spoken immediately and produced till 1998. The project was assigned to R&P featuring a hand wound tourbillon caliber with constant force utilizing a chain & fusee application (like ALS pocket watches), housed in 38.5mm gold18k or platinum cases.



Photo credit www.quilandpad.com

Revival Timepieces

TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - GEORGE DANIELS TRIBUTE

British master watchmaker Dr. George Daniels (1926-2011) was the most inspirational figure of the 20th century for the development of independent watchmaking. He hand-crafted 27 unique watches, among them his two first wristwatches, one 4-minute tourbillon chronograph in 1991, and the “spring case” 4-minute tourbillon in 1992.



Revival Timepieces

TOP CLASS COLLECTIBLES - GEORGE DANIELS TRIBUTE

Daniels most significant technical contribution is the co-axial escapement, a patent acquired by Omega in 1998. Besides his unique creations, there are 2 limited series with co-axial escapement movements, the Millennium 36mm model equipped with a modified automatic Cal.ETA-2892 supplied by Omega, and his anniversary hand wound 40mm watch, conceived in 2009 on the 35th anniversary of his invention. Both watches were produced in a limited series of 47 and 35 pieces respectively by his (one and only) apprentice Roger W.Smith, one of the best independent watchmakers today.



Photo credit www.hodinkee.com

George Serafimides