

London Meeting Lecture 21 January 2010

William Edwards Miller : Portrait Artist, Horological Collector, Museum Benefactor

by David Thompson

Amongst the celebrated great horological collectors, William Edwards Miller is not generally known. Born in 1851, he became a successful and prolific society portrait artist. He painted members of the British aristocracy and clergy, including William Gladstone, Alice Liddell and the young Lord Harris of Belmont fame. However, his presentation of fine clocks, watches and instruments to the old Guildhall Museum, the Science Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford places him as a generous benefactor to the rich and varied horological collections in Britain today.

David Thompson's talk will look briefly at Miller the artist but then turn to Miller the collector of clocks and watches and Miller the benefactor of various museums. His talk will be illustrated with fine examples from Miller's collections.



The notable horological collector, W.E. Miller.



David Thompson, Curator of Horology at the British Museum.



Fine clock-watch by Zimmerman from the Miller collection.