

London Meeting Lecture Thursday 20 January 2011
The Horological Collector Revd. Henry Leonard Nelthropp
by David Thompson

In 1891 the Reverend Henry Leonard Nelthropp, MA FSA (1822-1901), who had recently joined the court of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, made great efforts to ensure the future of John Harrison's fifth timekeeper along with notes and drawings in Harrison's own hand.

His hard work resulted in the acquisition of that historically important piece by the Company, and for that alone Nelthropp will be remembered.

But there are many more clocks and watches in the Company's collections who owe their existence to the Rev. Nelthropp. He was an astute collector and an enlightened horologist and he presented his whole collection to the Company in 1894. From early watches of the pre-balance spring era to pocket and marine chronometers, Nelthropp had wide ranging interest and knowledge.

Our Chairman, David Thompson, will look at the man and his collections and there will be much to inform, delight and entertain.



Portrait of the Reverend H.L. Nelthropp (1822-1901).
Photo Clockmakers' Company.



David Thompson, Curator of Horology at the British Museum.



The fifth marine timekeeper (H5) made by John Harrison and completed in 1770. Photo Clockmakers' Company, © National Maritime Museum.