

London Meeting Lecture Thursday 10 March 2011

The Gretton Project

by Dennis Radage (book co-author Warner Meinen)



The objective of the Gretton Project is to produce an illustrated history of the clocks and watches of Charles Gretton, clockmaker (1648–1731).

The presentation will describe how two clock collectors - one from the Netherlands, the other from the West Coast of Canada - became co-authors of the (proposed) book.

It will explain how 126 Gretton clocks and watches were identified, how more than half of these were located and how the authors managed to photograph all of the located clocks, compiling a photographic library exceeding 13,000 images.

The presentation will then give some insight into who Charles Gretton was, his life, his achievements and of those that were apprenticed to him. Examples of Gretton's spring clocks, longcase clocks, lantern clocks and watches will be shown. Gretton was a man of many interests and talents, he was a family man, a churchman, a business man, a politician, a philanthropist, and of course a renowned clockmaker.



Charles Gretton lived through the Plague and the Great Fire of London in 1666. He was a contemporary and associate of the most distinguished English clockmakers. While coming from a humble Lincolnshire background, he excelled and became one of London's most notable clockmakers. He died in London in 1731.



Dennis Radage was born in Surrey, England and graduated in Electronics and control in the UK in 1964. He has lived in Canada since 1968, now in Vancouver BC. He retired from corporate life in 2003 to focus on his passion for clocks. Dennis has been collecting clocks for almost forty years, he collects mostly English clocks spanning the period 1675 to 1875.