

## London Meeting Lecture Thursday 15 March 2012

### The Great Collectors: J. Pierpont Morgan

by David Thompson

John Pierpont Morgan (1837–1913), world famous industrialist, financier and banker was an avid art collector who amassed a considerable collection of varied materials which he kept in London and some of which was exhibited at the South Kensington Museum (Victoria & Albert Museum).

Whilst Morgan is best known as a collector of gem stones and rare books, he nevertheless collected a considerable number of clocks and decorative watches, the latter being chronicled in G.C. Williamson's monumental 1912 catalogue of Morgan's watches. Towards the end of his life, Morgan transferred his collections to New York and on his death they passed to his son John Pierpont Morgan, II (Jack) who in 1917 donated over 7,000 pieces to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Morgan's collection of clocks and watches was and is highly regarded. Whilst not concerned with technical developments, it nevertheless ranks highly where 16th, 17th and 18th century decorative material is concerned. David Thompson's talk will provide insights into the treasures which Morgan acquired and will compare and contrast them with similar material in other collections.



David Thompson, Curator of Horology at the British Museum.



Cases of two French watches - above mid-17th century, below first quarter 17th century - both donated by J. Pierpont Morgan in 1917. Images courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

