

## AHS London Lecture Thursday 30 July 2015

Françoise Collanges

### Exhibiting horology across the Channel: International Exhibitions in London and Paris 1850-1870

In 1851, Prince Albert opened in London the first International Exhibition in the purposely-built Crystal Palace, starting a phenomenon so successful that it survives to this day. Showcasing every possible type of human production from dozens of countries, those exhibitions were from the start a way for each country, each industry, each company, each maker and each trader involved to show, share and learn in order to adapt and expand their activities.

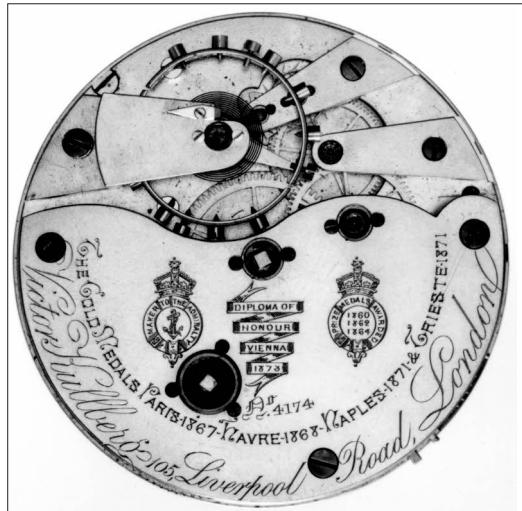
Horology was a key sector for the development of all kind of industries and trades, and thus found quite naturally its

place in the Exhibitions. However, these events were also of diplomatic and political importance, and the study of the first four International Exhibitions, organised twice in London (1851 and 1862) and twice in Paris (1855 and 1867), is a fascinating occasion to study several aspects of the history of clock and watchmaking, in a period of transition for this trade, as well as for the organising countries, United Kingdom and France.

This will hopefully offer a new point of view on the shared history of horology across the Channel.



Françoise Collanges is a free-lance conservator of clocks and researcher. After more than ten years as a curator in several French museums, she specialised in clocks at West Dean College.



The inscriptions on this hunter watch n. 4174 by Victor Kullberg refer to prizes and medals awarded at a range of exhibitions, including those held in London in 1862 and in Paris in 1867. British Museum, number 1958,1201.1030.

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