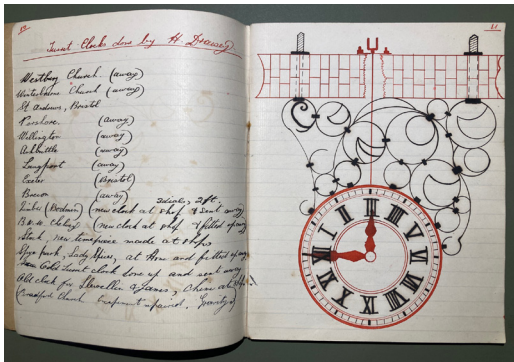


AHS London Lecture Thursday 11 September 2025

Dorota Pomorska, *Stories from the AHS Archives*

As announced elsewhere in this journal issue, the AHS has recently launched its archive catalogue, opening up an array of records, created and collected over decades by horological experts and enthusiasts, to researchers. In this lecture, in addition to providing an overview of the contents of the varied AHS archive collections, our archivist will talk about some personal favourites she came across during the many months of cataloguing. Frances Tennant's images of clock dials taken during her career as dial painter and restorer instantly spring to mind; so does John Castle's painstaking pre-internet era research for a book on famous clocks, which never got published. There are more: Mildred Frederiksen's 1950s scrapbooks of anything clock-related, be it a musical score, a piece of news or a children's story; and Henry



Henry Draisey archive, ref. DRA/01/006. Clockmaking notebook no. 6 (n.d., early twentieth century).



Philip Thornton archive, ref. THO/01/062. Tracing from the repair file for a clock signed Quare, London, repaired for Mr Ilbert (January 1937).

Draisey's notebooks, apparently written – in perfect calligraphic script and hand-illustrated throughout – when he was training as a clockmaker in the early twentieth century. Finally, Dorota will talk about what it takes to create a well-curated, easily accessible and physically cared for archive, to ensure its long-term preservation for the enjoyment of all. She will also highlight some conservation nightmares, where incorrect storage of documents in various formats can result in an irretrievable loss of valuable information.

Dorota Pomorska holds master's degrees in English Studies from her native Gdańsk, Poland, and in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic from Cambridge University. In 2010 she received a professional Diploma in Archives Administration from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She has been working at The London Archives (formerly London Metropolitan Archives) since 2002, first as a catalogue editor and then as archivist, cataloguing, looking after and publicising a number of archival collections, from mediaeval to modern. It is her work on the records of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, deposited at TLA, that brought her into the world of horology and led to her current position as part-time AHS archivist.

Attending London Lectures

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