

Watchmaker Roger W Smith visits Bonhams Clock & Watch Exhibition The creator of handmade watches examines the world's most significant antique watches

Submitted by: Dr John C Taylor OBE

Tuesday, 11 September 2018

The UK's best known watchmaker, Roger Smith OBE (<https://www.rwsmithwatches.com/>) visited the Clock & Watch Exhibition (<https://www.clockexhibition.org.uk/>) at Bonhams and examine two very famous, historical watches, rarely seen by the public as they are part of a private collection owned by Dr John C Taylor OBE (<http://www.johnctaylor.com/>).

One is a Thomas Tompion watch from London dated 1697. It is the best preserved of Tompion's early repeating watches, the innovative movement being concealed from prying eyes by the employment of secret secure latches. Pre-balance-spring watches were generally single-handed, but in this superlative production by the era's premier maker, its accuracy justifies two hands, for hours and minutes, read against boldly set out numerals. The Tompion has a top that can be pressed to ring out the first quarter hour that has just passed and the hour that has just passed.

The second is the technologically advanced David Ramsay royal watch – precisely 300 years old this year and made for a King. The silver case upper and lower covers are engraved with scenes from St Luke's Gospel. In contrast, the inside of the top and bottom covers has engravings of the Royal coat of arms and a superbly clear Royal portrait of James 1 himself. The dial has so many features, including the age of the moon in days, the phase of the moon and the planetary hour.

Both watches were handmade by craftsmen who even made their own tools to create these masterpieces.

Roger W Smith said, "It is interesting to see how technical advances took off very, very quickly in these apparently primitive times. For me, it's a wonderful opportunity to see these 'never been seen altogether before' clocks and watches at first hand."

The Exhibition Dates: Now until – Friday September 14, 2018

Times: Weekdays 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Location: Bonhams, 101 New Bond Street, London, W1S 1SR

Admission: Free to enter. For further information please visit the website:

<http://clockexhibition.org.uk/>

Roger W Smith was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2018, for his outstanding services to watchmaking.

The exhibition is considered to be best collection of clocks for several decades, with many historical clocks seen together for the first time.

Examples of reviews can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeRM3oL2kLg>

A flavour of the exhibition can be seen here (although film alone cannot express the beauty of the

timepieces. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-jpCldWm1k>

ENDS

Dr John C Taylor OBE (<http://www.johnctaylor.com/>), one of the exhibition's contributors, will be available for interview, by prior appointment. High resolution images are available on request.

Media information provided by Famous Publicity. For more information please contact Tina Fotherby at tina@famouspublicity.com or call 07703 409 622 (in attendance at the exhibition).