



Louis Constantin Detouche

Astronomic Regulator with Complications and Compensated Pendulum

Was shown at three Universal Exhibitions:

London 1851 / The Centennial Exhibition of French Art in Paris, 1800 to 1889 / Paris, 1900

Front signed: "C. Detouche, No 8974 à Paris" circa 1849-1851

Back signed: "C. Detouche, 8974, 158 rue Saint-Martin 160"

With a plaque marked "Silver medal" 1849

Constructed for the London Universal Exhibition of 1851, this clock was the first in the Exposition de l'histoire des mondes, where it won the Gold Medal, the highest distinction of all categories combined. It represents social harmony during the 2nd Republic. Afterwards, it was shown at the Centennial Exhibition of French Art, from 1800 to 1889, and at the Universal Exhibition of Paris at the Petit Palais, in 1900.

Very important gilt bronze astronomic table regulator with multiple complications: The hour of sunrise and sunset, solar horizon, hours, minutes, seconds, days of the week, phases of the moon, annual calendar with equation of time. Movement with fusée and chain, one-month power reserve. Under the hour and minutes dial, the detent escapement with one-second remontoir is visible.

Height 90 cm / Length 75 cm

The Astronomic Regulator

Very important gilt bronze astronomic table regulator, remarkably chased in the neo-classical style.

The summit, with the dials, is surmounted by the mask of Apollo, scrolling acanthus leaves, and flower garlands. It is supported on two square dentilled pillars, ending a palmette, on which are seated two putti, allegories of Day and Night, one of whom is holding the torch of love.

The stepped and moulded base is ornamented with chased acanthus leaves, and laurel leaves entwined with ribbons. A central medallion depicts three classical figures.

The movement

There are nine enamel dials. At the summit, three small dials indicate, respectively, the time of sunrise, the position of the sun, the time of sunset. A ring dial indicates the seconds, a small auxiliary dial indicates the hours and minutes. Below are two round dials, one indicating the day of the week, the other showing the phases of the moon. Two semi-circular apertures show the equation of time, the date and the month. With compensation balance.

Louis Constantin Detouche_ (1810 - 1889)

The son of watchmaker Constantin Detouche, Constantin-Louis was born in Paris on October 20, 1810. Trained by his father, who had made skeleton clocks, Constantin Louis took over his father's business. In 1845, he became associated with Jacques-François Houdin, who had long worked in the Breguet workshop. The extremely fruitful partnership resulted in the development and perfection of various ingenious mechanisms.

They were invited to the Exhibition of the Products of Industry of 1849, where they received a silver medal. They took part in the London Universal Exhibition of 1851, where they were awarded a gold medal. Both horologists were then invited to the 1855 Paris Universal Exhibition, where they also received a gold medal.

Detouche was awarded the cross of the Legion of Honour by Napoleon III; King Frederick VII of Denmark made him Knight of Draneborg. After the fall of the Second Empire, having received many prizes and medals, he retired, and became Mayor of Villemonble (1871-1879).

*In 1887, he published a revised and corrected edition of Claude Saulnier's *Traité d'horlogerie moderne théorique et pratique*, commonly called the "C. Detouche edition". The renowned horologist registered many patents and used several signatures throughout his career, the most common among them being "C. Detouche", as well as "C. Detouche, F(ournis)seur de la ville de Paris" and "C. Detouche, Horloger de l'Empereur."*