

January 2009

# Chefs d'Oeuvre de l'Horlogerie Française

## *Masterpieces of French Horology*

Exhibition of 12 Unique Clocks of the 18th and 19th Centuries  
by the Great French Masters

From 19 January to 6 February 2009



### Exhibition Room of the F.P.Journe Manufacture in Geneva

François-Paul Journe is proud to open the exhibition room of his Manufacture to the public from January 19 to February 6, 2009 to present "Chefs d'œuvre de l'Horlogerie Française", an historic collection of 12 unique clocks made between 1770 and 1851, from the private collection of Italian connoisseur Ausano Musa.

This exhibition will feature 12 Masterpieces of French Horology made by **the great French Masters of the 18th and 19th centuries: Lépine, Louis Constantin Detouche, Bouchet and Robin**. Among these 12 magnificent clocks, some were **made for major figures of French history, such as Louis XVI King of France and Empress Josephine de Beauharnais**. These extremely rare clocks bear witness to the importance of the horological works of the period and contribute to the renewed appreciation of the horology of France, the birthplace of François-Paul Journe.

François-Paul Journe, with his extensive knowledge of horological history, organises each exhibition to demonstrate a theme of significant importance in the history of time measurement and to allow the public a better understanding of the history of exceptional horology.

François-Paul Journe believes that contemporary watchmaking must take into account the history of horological science, for history informs and enriches his watches of exception. His insistence on uncompromising integrity in the realisation of innovative pieces and his daily commitment to defending the fundamental values of haute horology make him a link between the golden age of horological science and contemporary watchmaking.

The F.P.Journe Manufacture will become the privileged guardian of these splendid examples of French patrimony for the duration of this unique exhibition; it is pleased to present to the public these "Masterpieces of French Horology".

## The Exhibition Room of the Manufacture F.P. Journe

A special place that reminds that time measurement was once a science...

The exhibition room of the Manufacture was inaugurated in April 2007; it is located at the entrance of the historic building at the corner of the rue de l'Arquebuse and the rue de la Synagogue. It is here that this unique collection of 12 clocks "Chefs d'œuvre de l'Horlogerie Française" from the 18th and 19th centuries, is presented.

Upon mounting a short flight of stairs, visitors are greeted by the stunning astronomical clock made by French horologist Detouche in 1855 for the Paris Universal Exhibition. As if it were the guardian of the premises, this three-metre high clock eloquently symbolises the beating heart of the Manufacture. A few feet away, a terrestrial sphere that belonged to the dauphin of Louis XIV is surrounded by antique watchmaker's workbenches, machines and tools that seem to await the return of their long-gone masters.

Visitors raise their eyes to the ceiling to discover a reproduction of the first sky charts by Apianus, astronomer to Charles V, reminding us that time measurement was once a science.

This atmosphere, imbued with history and culture, far removed from the contemporary watchmaking industry and the production of short-lived luxury accessories, is closer in spirit to the great watchmakers of the past, those masters who created instruments allowing safer navigation at sea, and better organisation of life on land.

A thought-provoking visit that will encourage reflection on the history of time measurement and its future; a visit that will allow us to better appreciate the work of a unique watchmaker who follows in the footsteps of past masters while remaining resolutely modern.

His unique vision and conception of the watchmaking ethic has allowed F.P.Journe to win numerous awards, including these, at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie of Geneva:

2002	Octa Calendrier	Special Jury Prize
2003	Octa Lune	Prize for Best Men's Watch
2004	Tourbillon Souverain	Golden Hand « <i>Aiguille d'Or</i> »
2005	Chronomètre Souverain	Prize for Best Men's Watch
2006	Sonnerie Souveraine	Golden Hand « <i>Aiguille d'Or</i> »
2008	Centigraphe Souverain	Golden Hand « <i>Aiguille d'Or</i> »

Excellence, authenticity and chronometry are the essence of a F.P. Journe watch. Unique in the watch industry, each movement is made in 18K rose gold, produced entirely within the Manufacture, and is completed with a case in precious platinum or 18K red gold.