

# F.P.JOURNE

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## Invenit et Fecit



Grand Prix d'Horlogerie  
de Genève

2006

### FRANCOIS-PAUL JOURNE RECEIVES FOR THE SECOND TIME THE HIGHEST DISTINCTION

#### L'AIGUILLE D'OR –The Golden Hand FOR THE SONNERIE SOUVERAINE

**The Sonnerie Souveraine, Full Grand Strike with Minute Repeater, a functionality and operational safety protected by 10 patents.**

The grand-strike clockwatch is the most complex of horological creations. The greatest difficulty in its construction is to achieve full clockwatch capability from the limited energy in a wristwatch, without compromising on the sound and reliability of the chime.

In this watch, a single mainspring provides enough energy for 24 hours of grand strike (96 full chimes in passing), without using the minute-repeater. The chiming functions alone use up almost 60% of the main-spring's energy, and in silence mode without the chime, the movement is running for five days.

Constructing this movement has been a permanent search to save energy in maximising mechanical efficiency. The result is a low-tension movement with gentle mechanisms that have to be very finely adjusted to ensure unfailing chimes 35,040 times a year.

Operating a chiming watch has always been risky. If you do the slightest thing wrong, like setting the time while the chimes are ringing, you damage precious mechanisms.

Thus, the first entry in the specification book for this watch was: "make it safe to use by an eight-year-old child." I have to admit that the eight-year-old set me the toughest assignment of my career. To meet the demands, I had to construct a movement on new mechanical principles. In this piece, 10 patents underwrite the "Invenit" of this work of watchmaking art. The "Fecit" took me six years.

I'd like this watch to make you feel you can communicate with time itself. Above this illusion, I invite you to explore your new domain in carefully ready the instruction manual.

Each Sonnerie Souveraine is called by the name of its owner. Therefore, you give to your watch a purpose, an identity and a soul. Thank you for being its guardian.

François-Paul Journe

Montres Journe SA, 17 rue de l'Arquebuse, 1204 Genève – Suisse  
Tél: + 41-22 322 09 09 - Fax: +41-22 322 09 19 - website: [www.fpjournes.com](http://www.fpjournes.com)