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FRANCOIS-PAUL JOURNE DECORATED « CHEVALIER DES ARTS ET LETTRES » BY THE FRENCH MINISTRE OF CULTURE

While its creations F.P.Journe – Invenit et Fecit have been crowned with the highest horological distinctions, François-Paul Journe has been decorated this morning Tuesday April 4th, 2006, with the medal “Chevalier des Arts et Lettres” by Nicolas Mettra, Consul Général of France in Geneva, in the name of the French Minister of Culture, Mr. Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres. The event took place at the auditorium of the Fondation Arditi in Geneva. A beautiful award pour this exiled French citizen born in March 1957 in Marseille.

How can you become a watchmaker when you are born in Marseilles? The merit goes actually to his uncle. This how at the age of 13, the future laureate of the Aiguille d'Or from the Grand Prix d'horlogerie of Geneva made his first steps in the horological industry. After having gone to the watch making school in Marseille, he pursue his studies in Paris, before joining his uncle who owns an Atelier specialized in antique horology and where he restores exceptional collection time-pieces. That will be a fantastic opportunity for the young François-Paul to discover the most striking achievements in the history of watch making and also meet renowned collectors. Rapidly, he is constructing his own watch, with a tourbillon. It will take 5 years of his free time.

He then accumulates special orders, in setting each time new technological goals. Today he is distributed in 40 points of sales in the world, with 5 Boutique under his own name. He endlessly continues to invent: « I am going where nobody will be able to imitate my work » he says.

The integrity of François-Paul Journe in the realization of exclusive watch mechanisms, and his daily commitments in defending the fundamental values of Haute Horlogerie impose him as the natural link between the golden age of horology and contemporary watchmaking.

Since 2002, François-Paul Journe has received distinctions every year at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie of Geneva, except in 2007, while he was a member of the Jury:

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> »

The other Prizes :

1994 Prix Gaia Best Watchmaker – 2003 Chronomètre à Résonance, Watch of the Year in Japan - 2004 - Tourbillon Souverain, Watch of the Year in Japan - 2006 Sonnerie Souveraine, Watch of the Year in Japan - 2008 Répétition Minute, Watch of the Year, Los Relojos del Año (Tiempo de Relojos).

