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The following is a summarization of discussions which occurred on the E-mailing list (listserver) Clocks. To join in this and other horological discussions please join the mailing list Clocks or Clocksmiths.

This list was compiled by Parnav Singh (singhp@sunrise.cs.jmu.edu) and downloaded from the E-mailing list Clocks. Please see the file csigup.mcc for details on how to join this mailing list.

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### Chronology of the Development of Watches

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- 1470 First spring driven watch
- 1470 Fusee introduced in Italy
- 1500 Spring-driven, drum-shaped table clock
- 1505 Peter Henlein makes the first watch
- 1510 Stackfreed introduced to control tension in the mainspring
- 1520 Brass used in France to make watches
- 1525 Jacob Zech introduces his fusee
- 1550 Screws used in metal
- 1575 Balance wheel is introduced
- 1600 First watches are produced in London
- 1610 Enamel cases come into vogue
- 1630 Watch glasses are first used
- 1635 Paul Viet uses enamel dials
- 1650 Round watch cocks are used
- 1658 Robert Hooke invents the "straight" balance spring
- 1665 Watch fusees made of chain instead of gut
- 1674 Christian Huygens invents the spiral balance spring
- 1676 Motion works and minute hand introduced by Daniel Quare
- 1680 Second hand introduced
- 1694 Nicholas Facio first uses jewels in watches

- 1695 Cylinder escapement used by Thomas Tompion
- 1710 Dust caps invented
- 1715 Oil sinks invented by Henry Sully
- 1720 English Hallmarking used on silver cases
- 1722 Rack lever escapement invented by Abbe de Hautefeuille
- 1734 First bimetallic compensation invented by John Harrison
- 1750 Watch makers in America begin production
- 1750 White enamel dials are in general use
- 1770 Engine turning for decorating watch cases
- 1775 Thomas Harland of Norwich, Connecticut makes watches
- 1780 Pocket watches are made thinner than ever
- 1780 Automatic winding is invented by Abraham Louis Perrelet
- 1782 Isochronism introduced by John Arnold
- 1785 Draw applied to lever
- 1800 Single cases replace the pair cases
- 1801 Tourbillion watch made by Abraham Louis Breguet
- 1809 Luther Goddard makes watches
- 1820 Keyless winding introduced by Thomas Prest
- 1833 Antoine Le Coultre establishes his watch factory or workshop.  
It is here where all the company's cases and movements are still  
made by hand.
- 1835 First Pitkins watches produced
- 1842 Watches could be set by hand instead of key
- 1842 Jacob Custer watches made
- 1844 Antoine Le Coultre invents the millionometer enabling the world to  
make measurements exact to a thousandth of a millimeter.

1847 Le Coultre presents the world's first movement with a crown winding mechanism.  
This signals the demise of the key wound watch.

1850 Howard and Dennison produce the first Waltham watch

1852 First Boston watch produced

1853 First factory-made watches are sold

1857 Boston Watch Co. fails

1857 First American watch to use a quick-train

1859 Appleton Tracy and Waltham merge

1866 First American-made railroad watch produced for the  
Railroad company

1868 First American stem-wind watch

1876 Henry Abbott patents his stem winding attachment

1877 Auburndale Rotary sells for \$10

1878 Double-roller used by the Adams and Perry Co.

1878 First dollar watches produced for \$3.50

1880 Watches are produced in huge quantities compared to earlier  
hand-made ones

1883 Seth Thomas decides to produce pocket watches

1885 New York Standard produces its first pocket watch

1892 First watch to sell for \$1.00 by Ingersoll

1893 First watch produced with the Hamilton label

1898 First 23J watch made by Hampden Watch Co.

1900 Wrist watches come into vogue

1903 Le Coultre achieves its dream of making the slimmest watch movement  
in the world. This mechanical miracle is only 1.38 mm thick, while even  
the much more complicated chronograph is only 2.88 mm thick.

1904 Ansonia begins to produce watches

1908 Wilsdorf coined the name Rolex.

1908 Premier Maximus introduced at \$250.00

1910 A Rolex movement was sent to the School of Horology in Switzerland.

It was judged to be excellent and was awarded the world's first wrist watch chronometer rating.

1910 First electric watch for Burgess Battery Co. (labeled Corona Watch Co.)

1915 Seth Thomas ceases watch production

1926 The 1st waterproof Rolex rolled off the assembly line. The Rolex Oyster Case was born. To further insure the safety of this marvelous movement Wilsdorf created a screw down crown using a twin lock system.

1926 Le Coultre develops the Duoplan, a watch whose accuracy is way ahead of its time.

1927 All Rolex watches carried the name inside the case, on the movement and the dial.

1927 Buster Brown pocket watch

1928 The Rolex Prince, became a best seller with its dual dial and rectangular case.

1928 An engineer at Le Coultre by the name of J. L. Reutter devises the first Atmos clock. This table clock does away with the need for winding - it derives all its power from minute fluctuations in room temperature.

1929 Le Coultre enters the record books with the smallest watch movement of all time. It measures 14 x 4.8 x 3.4 mm and weighs less than a gram.

1929 New York Standard fails

1931 Rolex invented the "Rotor" - a semicircular plate of metal that with gravity, would move freely to wind the watch. Thus, the Rolex Perpetual (automatic) movement was born.

1931 Le Coultre unveils the Reverso. A classic from the beginning the Reverso has a rotating mechanism which allows the watch to be rotated 180 degrees protecting the crystal and dial from damage. It was one of the first watches to be equipped with built in shock resistance.

1933 Mickey Mouse pocket watch

1945 Rolex introduces the 1st watch to display a date on the dial.

1952 Rolex introduces its first diving watch. Later this watch is renamed the Submariner.

1953 Jaeger - Le Coultre makes history when it unveils the Futurematic. The world's first fully automatic watch without a winding crown.

1954 Rolex introduces the first ladies oyster perpetual watch.

1956 Rolex introduces the President model. The first oyster watch that also has

a day/date feature. The first model produced was presented to President Eisenhower.

1957 Hamilton makes the first electric wrist watch

1959 Bulova Accutron tuning fork wrist watch introduced

1969 Last pocket watch made by Hamilton

\*\*\* END \*\*\*

I want to thank Pranav Singh for unselfishly sharing all of his hard work.

A service from, E-mail address: Mike@atmos-man.com

Mike Murray Founder of Clocksmiths

A specialist in Atmos and 400-day clock repair.

Also, I overhaul most plug in electric clocks.

In continuous horological service since 04/01/1982.

Mike's Clock Clinic Membership: NAWCC

1600 Maryland Avenue

Myrtle Point, OR 97458-1508

Phone: 541-559-1090 or 877-286-6762

My main Web site is located at "<http://www.atmosman.com/>"

Main FTP site is located at:

"<http://home.earthlink.net/~atmosman/earthftp.html>"

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