



BENJAMIN LEWIS

# VULLIAMY

1780 – 1854

A CHAMPION OF  
BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP

## THE EXHIBITS

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DESCRIBED BY  
Peter Thomas



A view of No.68 Pall Mall around 1830 which was occupied from 1765 to 1854 by successive members of Vulliamy clockmaking family and used as their business premises. Illustration from 'Old and New London' published in 1890.

Image courtesy of David Penney

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The idea to provide annual temporary displays focussing on a particular maker provides an opportunity to bring together a number of objects held in private ownership and thus rarely seen in public. The organisers take this opportunity to thank all those loaning the items exhibited in these displays for their generous support.

Thanks go to the members of the Clockmakers Collections Committee for their encouragement, patience and expertise, which on a practical level has enabled tight deadlines to be met.

I would also like to mention the expert help of Ralph Baber, Jonathan Betts, Tobias Birch, Andrew Canter, Andrew Crisford, Carol Morgan, David Penney, Heather Sharpe, Roger Smith, Sir George White and Anne Wright.

Very many thanks are due to the Master Keith Scobie-Youngs, the Wardens, Company Clerk Simon Gray and Members of the Court of the Clockmakers Company, as this display would not have been possible without their backing.

And lastly to our Curator Anna Rolls, who has put a considerable amount of work into organising this display. In particular, she has very successfully interpreted a huge amount of detailed historical input, distilling it into something digestible to the non-specialist and yet acceptable to those already immersed in the subject.

Dr Peter Thomas  
Chair Collections

September 2024.





# INTRODUCTION

In this, the second of a series of annual displays to be held in the Clockmakers' Museum at the Science Museum, we turn our attention to Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy.

A year after the Library Committee of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers was formed in 1814 of which Benjamin Lewis was a member, he donated three items from the sale of effects belonging to Alexander Cumming a Scottish watchmaker and instrument inventor; effectively this was the start of the Clockmakers' Museum collection you can see today. Benjamin Lewis became Master of the Clockmakers' Company five times and was, during his lifetime, the driving force behind the expansion and development of the collection.

Benjamin Lewis was the last of four generations of royal clockmakers to run the family business which he took over in 1811, and this display brings together a collection of items manufactured under his management.

One of the key sources of knowledge that enable us to gain a better understanding of who some of his clients were, the various specialist craft skills involved, and the costs associated with a particular object, are the surviving Vulliamy workbooks. These detail the various stages of manufacture and also document the identity to some of the best craftsmen of the period. Benjamin Lewis numbered most of his clocks and watches; as you will see all of the items in this display have a number, or in the case of his watches, a letter code which was used up until c.1840. Under his management the surviving Workbooks cover the period 1820 to 1831 which provide details relating to four exhibits in this display.

Benjamin Lewis' insistence on using only the very best materials and craft skills without particular regard to cost, produced some of the finest quality work of his day. He actively sought out individuals who could produce exceptional standards of skill and championed these attributes to his potential customers (exhibit 4).

His dedication to the highest quality of manufacture and the reputation he gained from supplying royalty and the aristocracy, gave him an opportunity to pursue the supply of clocks for emerging new markets, such as the rehousing of public institutions. This display includes a turret clock movement made for the front lodge of London University (exhibit 5), a striking wall clock made for the General Register Office (exhibit 8) and a mantle clock made for the Oriental Club exactly 200 years ago (exhibit 9).

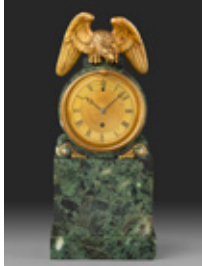


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# 1 Vulliamy No. 1470 Green Marble Clock

London, c.1840



**Case:** The drum-head top section enclosing the movement supported by a pair of trusses with gilt-metal spiral mounts, surmounted by a gilt-metal eagle.

**Dial and hands:** Gilt dial 11 cm diameter signed Vulliamy London, with the gilt bezel formed as a serpent eating its tail or ouroboros (an ancient symbol of eternity). The chapter ring with Roman numerals, engine-turned centre with 'open-heart' hands.

**Movement:** Chain fusee timepiece with circular brass plates separated by four turned pillars and signed on the backplate 'Vulliamy London 1470'. Half deadbeat escapement, 21 cm pendulum with steel rod of rectangular section extending down into the hollowed-out plinth, with circular lead filled bob stamped '1470' and with rise and fall mechanism planted on the top of the circular brass plates.

**Dimensions:** H 32 x W 14 x D 12.5 cm

L2024-109 on loan from a private collector.



Vulliamy No. 1470  
Green Marble Clock



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy No. 1470  
Green Marble Clock



Image by Colin Crisford

## 2 Vulliamy No. 649 Mahogany and inlaid brass clock with alarm London, c.1817



**Case:** Arch top brass inlaid case with foliate cast handle to the brass lined raised pad, recessed panel to the front with cut brass foliate inlay, now with glazed sides protecting mahogany fretwork inset panels, all mounted on a plinth with adjustable bun feet.

**Dial and hands:** Circular white enamel dial signed 'Vulliamy London' with Roman numerals, Breguet-style blued-steel 'moon' hands with split pointers and concentric brass hand to set the alarm. The enamel edge of the winding aperture protected by an inset brass collet.

**Movement:** The eight day five pillar single chain fusee movement with arched brass plates shaped to fit the case, with half deadbeat escapement and rectangular sectioned steel pendulum rod with bob stamped '649'. The pull cord subsidiary alarm train with large double-ended clapper striking on a bell mounted on the back-plate and pendulum holdfast signed 'Vulliamy London 649'.

**Dimensions:** H 26 (handle up) x W 16 x D 11.5 cm

L2024-110 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy No. 649  
Mahogany and inlaid brass clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy No. 649  
Mahogany and inlaid brass clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy No. 649  
Mahogany and inlaid brass clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford

### 3 Vulliamy No. 1338 Mahogany clock with alarm

London, c.1836



**Case:** Mahogany flat topped rectangular case with upper decorative moulding mounted on a plinth with wooden feet. The front door with integral bezel and the rear door of solid polished mahogany.

**Dial and hands:** The circular silvered dial with sunken concentric alarm dial graduated with 60 divisions and blued-steel alarm hand; engraved 'Vulliamy London'. The chapter ring incorporating access to winding squares engraved 'Set Alarm' at XII, 'Wind Alarm' at III and winding to the going train above VI. The hour hand of moon shape and the minute hand a simple tapered pointer.

**Movement:** Rectangular plates with 8-day timepiece movement, half deadbeat escapement and power for the alarm mounted on an auxiliary barrel planted on the backplate striking on a bell mounted on the top of the plates. The flattened steel pendulum rod with two-point suspension cradle and provision for the centre pin of a three-pronged pendulum holdfast (stamped 1338) which is secured into the seat-board when in use and kept in place by locking the back door which pushes against the rectangular brass holdfast. The movement attached to the seat-board by the standard Vulliamy fixing of long steel screws with knurled brass heads.

**Dimensions:** H 26 x W 15 x 11 cm.

L2024-111 on loan from a private collector.



Vulliamy No. 1338  
Mahogany clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy No. 1338  
Mahogany clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford



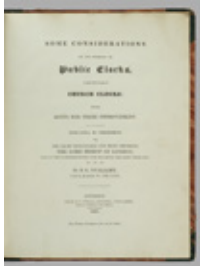
Vulliamy No. 1338  
Mahogany clock with alarm



Image by Colin Crisford

## 4 Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy

London, published by MacMillan 1828.



Inserted are letters dated 27th of March 1828 from Vulliamy and Timothy Bramah to George Lowe which accompanied the booklet, asking him to secure Vulliamy's introduction to the Directors of the new London University (now UCL) to discuss the provision of a public clock for that institution.

L2024-112 on loan from a private collector.

Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy

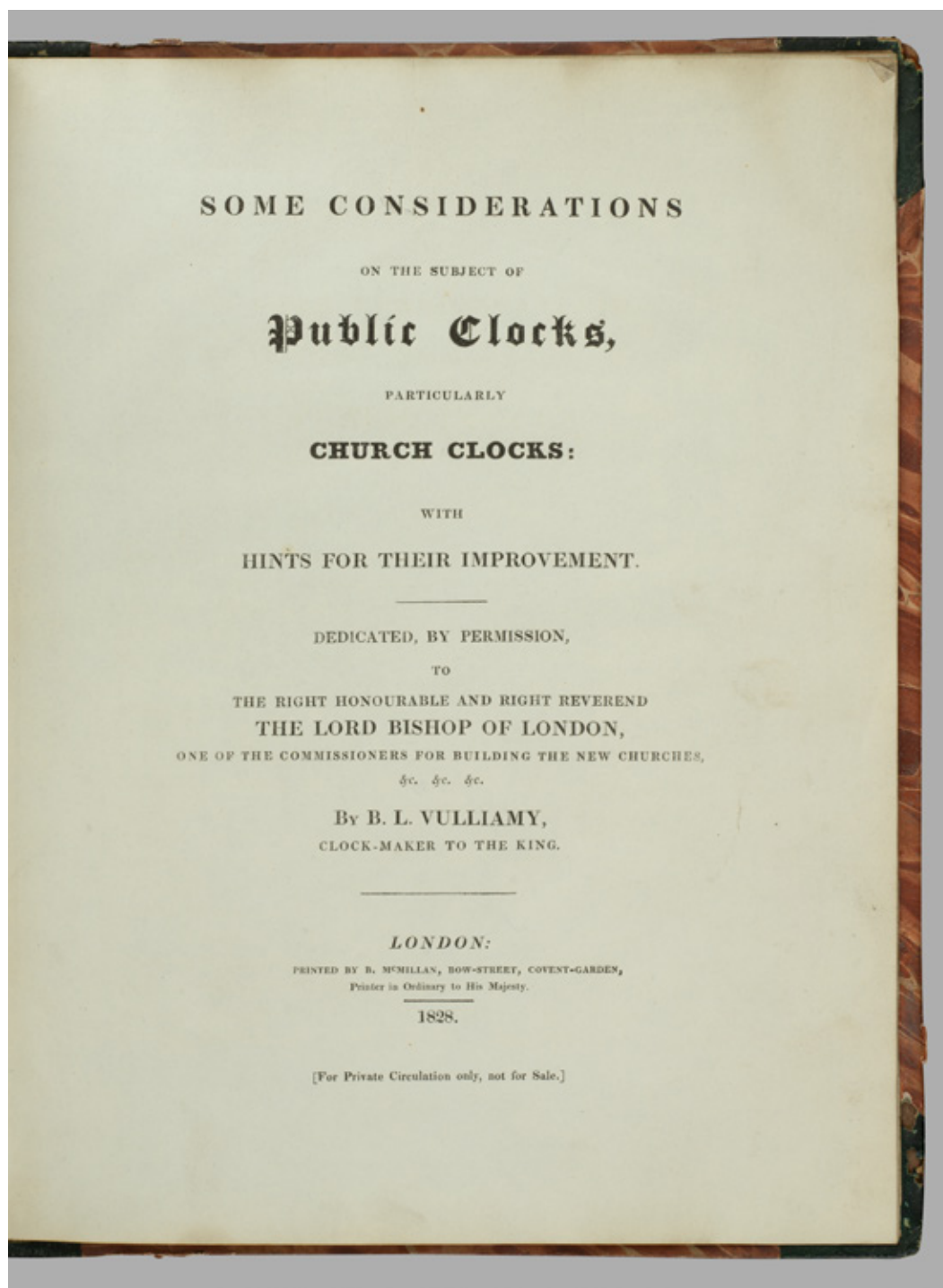


Image by Colin Crisford



Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy

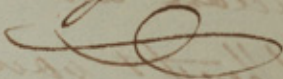
Perth  
Mar: 27th 1828

My dear Sir,

My friend Vulliamy whose Church  
Clocks are as superior to the ordinary  
kind as a Mautous' Gun compared  
with a Birmingham Musket is  
desirous of getting his name in-  
troduced to the Directors of the  
London University Hotel here  
I thought you were a likely  
person to effect this object at my  
instance he has sent you a  
copy of his Observations on Tower  
Clocks if you can assist him  
you will be promoting Scientific  
Improvement in a department

Letter from Timothy Bramah to George Lowe, promoting Vulliamy's work  
Image by Colin Crisford

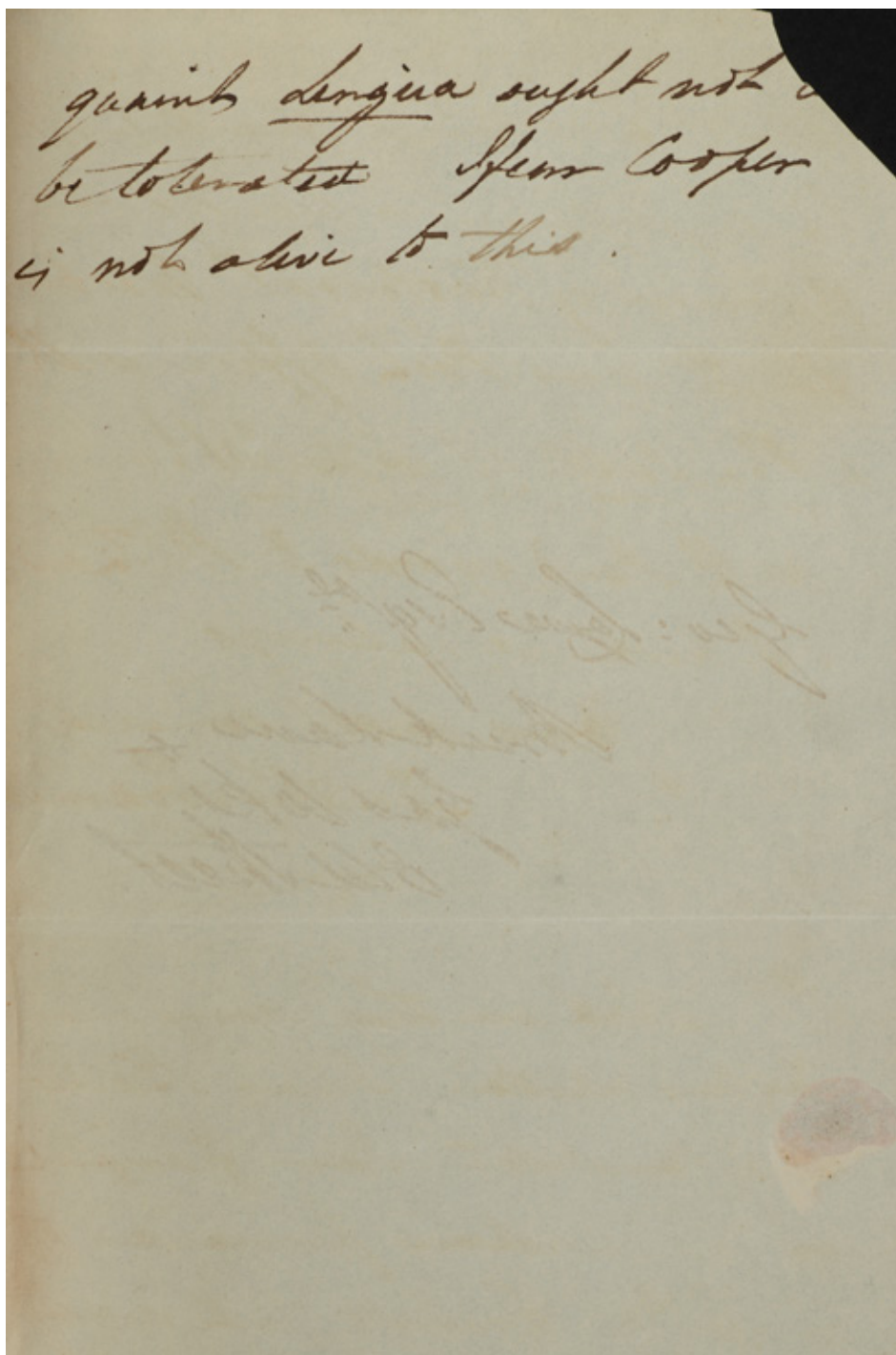
Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy

where it is much wanted Mr.  
V. is preparing a beautiful  
specimen of Astronomical Machine  
for the New Post Office with  
a Pendule of 4 1/2 Cwt!  
With kind regards to Mr. Lowe  
Believe me always  
Yours most sincerely  
Timothy Bramah  


P.S. What are they doing about  
Coopers' election I hear Barry  
is a Candidate I am fearful  
of the insidious persuasion of  
the Soc<sup>y</sup> of Friends but surely  
in a learned Establishment there

Letter from Timothy Bramah to George Lowe, promoting Vulliamy's work  
Image by Colin Crisford

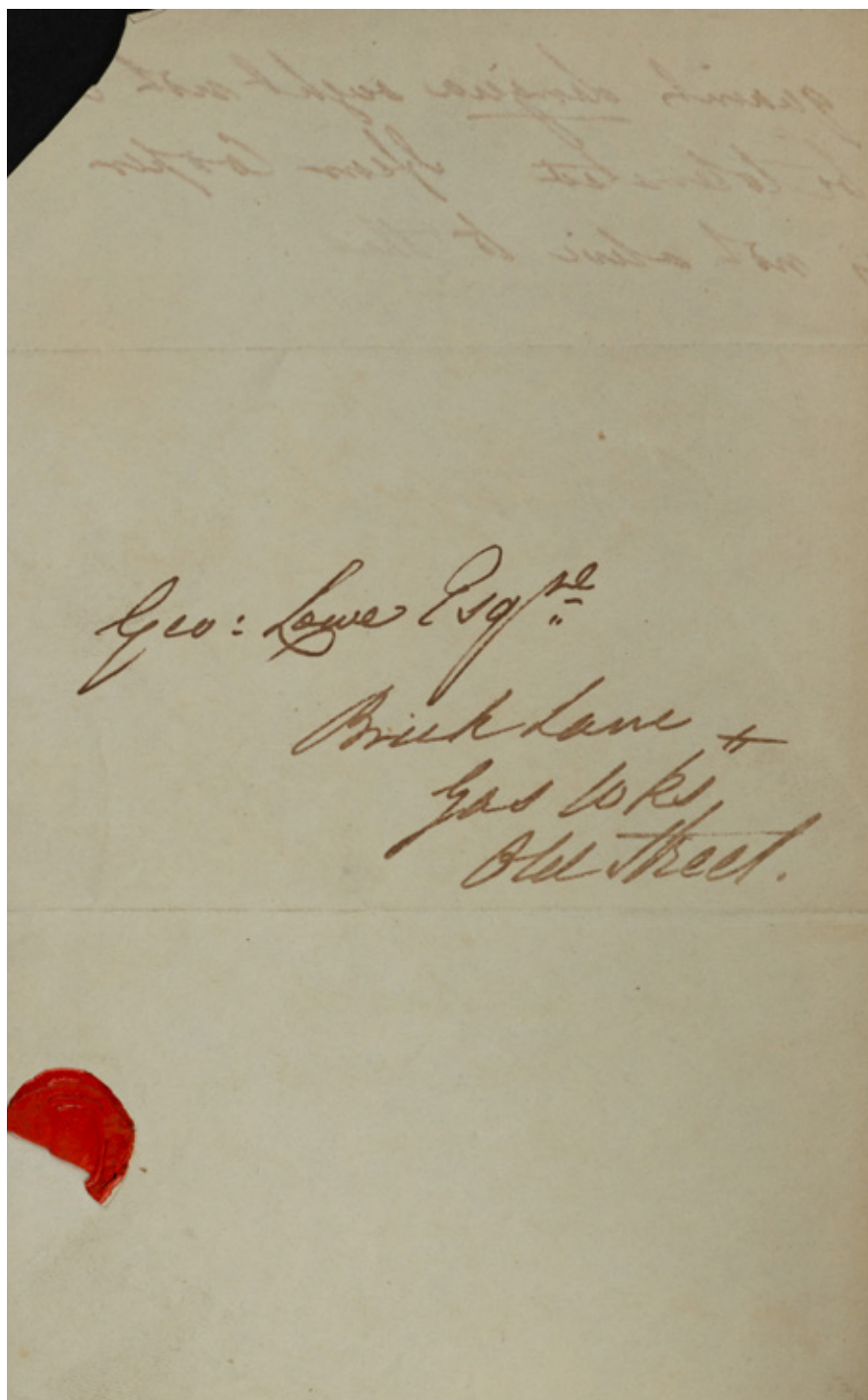
Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy



Letter from Timothy Bramah to George Lowe, promoting Vulliamy's work  
Image by Colin Crisford



Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy



Letter from Timothy Bramah to George Lowe, promoting Vulliamy's work  
Image by Colin Crisford

Some Considerations on the Subject of Public Clocks  
A booklet by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy

Path Mall  
March 1828.

Sir

Having for some time past paid particular attention to the construction &c of Public Clocks; I was induced to address a private letter on the means of their improvement, to the Bishop of London, as one of the Commissioners for building the new Churches in reply to which His Lordship was so good as to give his consent, that if I would put the subject into a more general form and print the same, I might dedicate it to him. The accompanying is the result of His Lordship's very obliging permission, which I take the liberty of sending you.

I am  
Your obt. servant

Geo. Lowe Esq<sup>r</sup>  
B. L. Vulliamy

Letter from B L Vulliamy to George Lowe  
Image by Colin Crisford

# 5

## Vulliamy No. 1002 Turret clock movement

Supplied c.1828 to the London University (now UCL)



**Case:** Originally mounted in a turret on top of an entrance lodge to UCL.

**Dial and hands:** Missing.

**Movement:** Turret clock movement 1828.

**Note:** Now with replacement half deadbeat pallet assembly manufactured in 2024 by Dan Batty.

**From the surviving workbooks:** Last recorded work date 14.10.1828.  
Movement by Vale.

**Dimensions:** H 29 x W 25 cm includes extended base plate fixing bracket.

L2024-106 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy No. 1002  
Turret clock movement

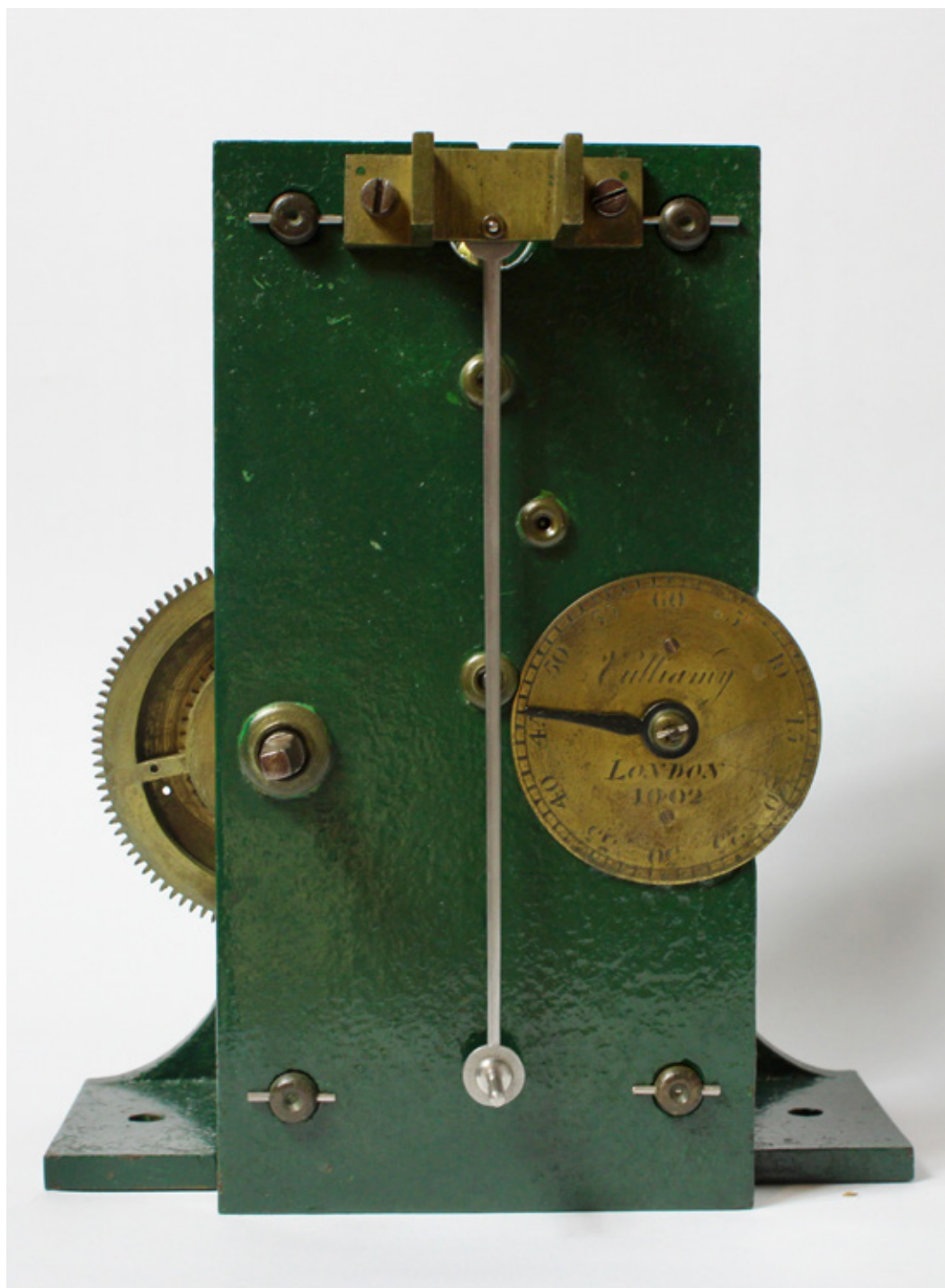


Image by Catherine O'Connor



Vulliamy No. 1002  
Turret clock movement

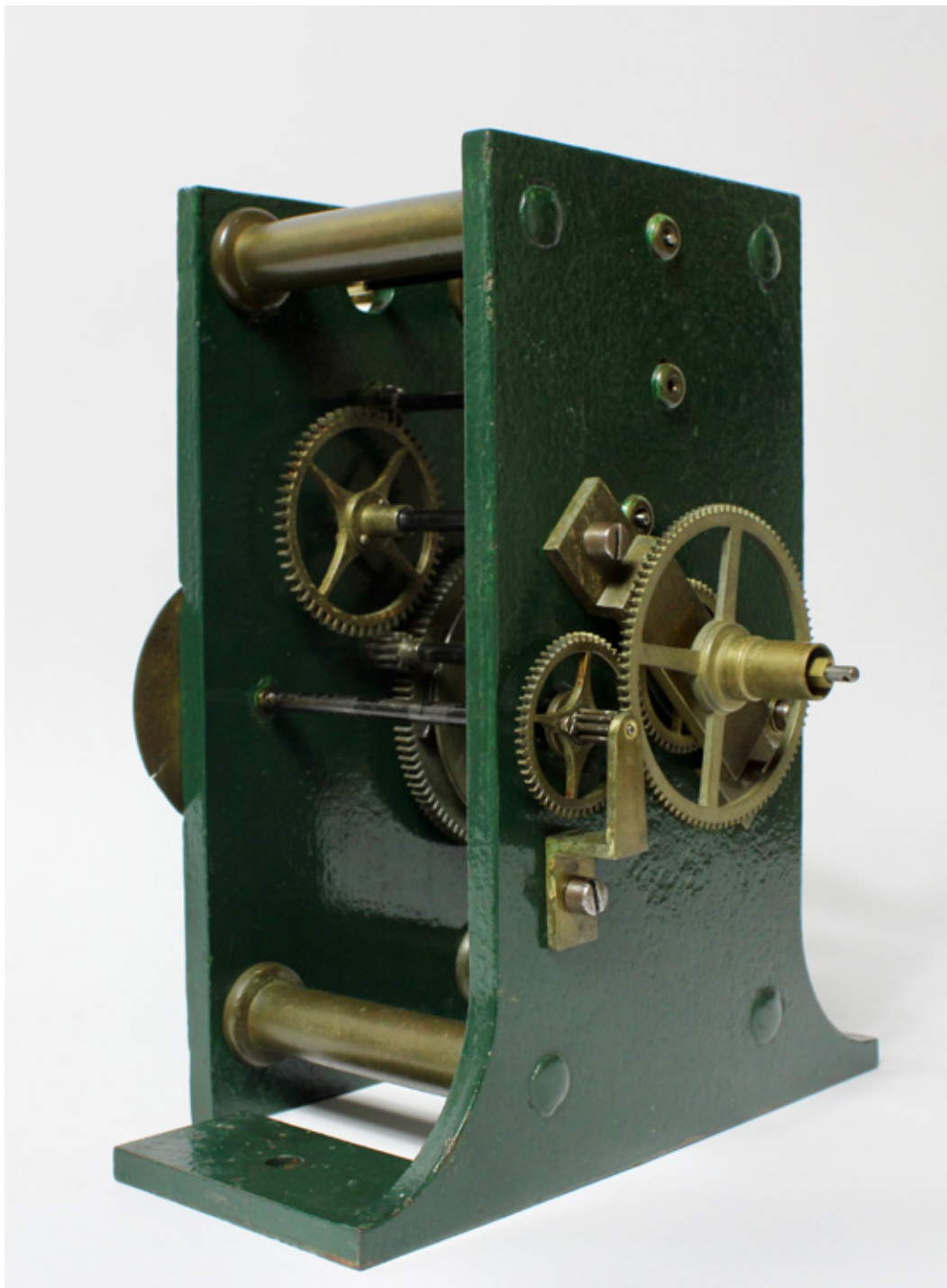


Image by Catherine O'Connor

Vulliamy No. 1002  
Turret clock movement

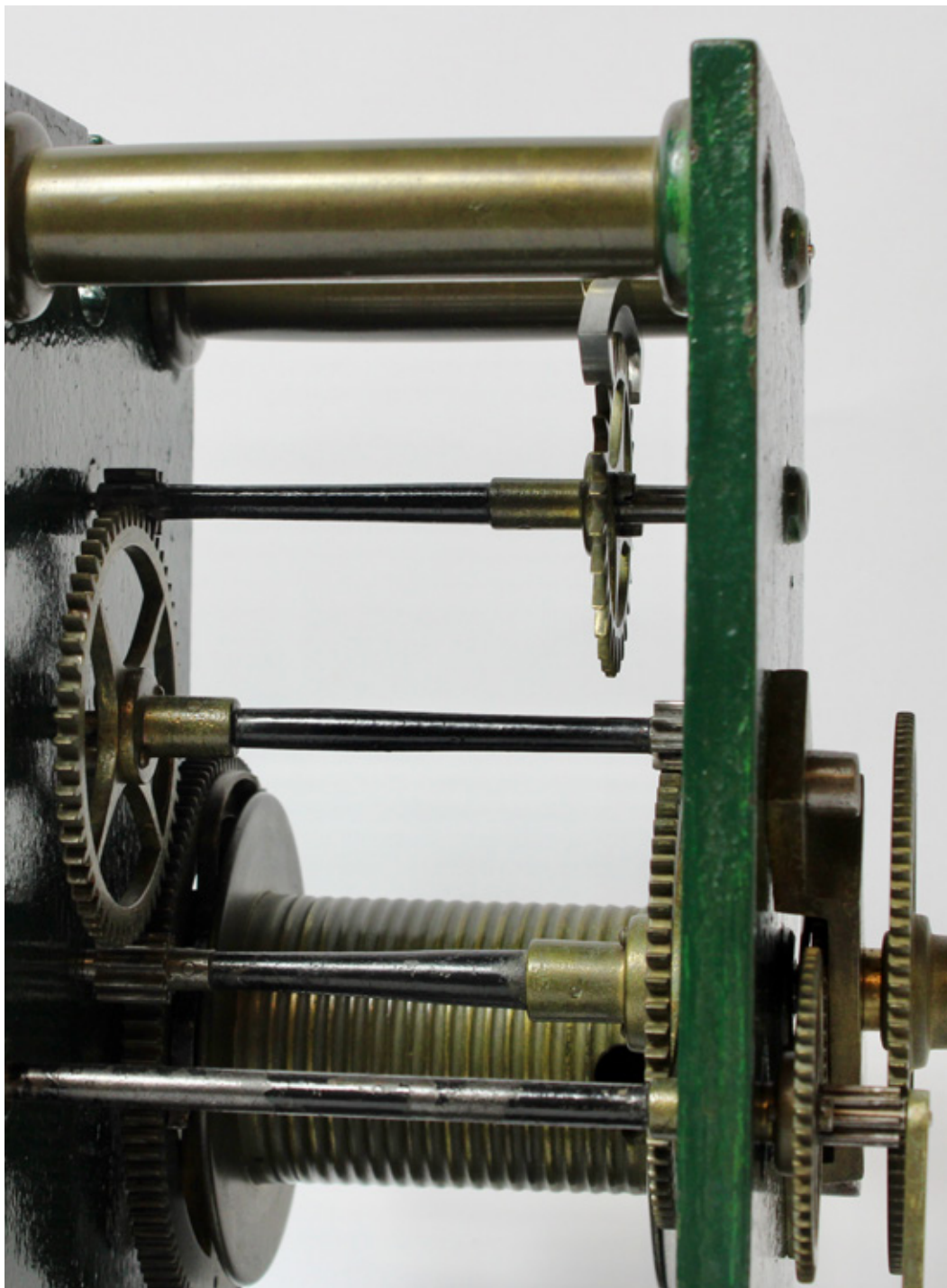
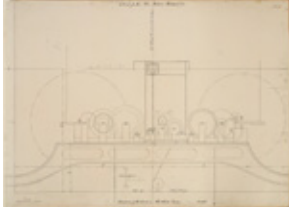


Image by Catherine O'Connor

## 6 Drawing for the Palace of Westminster clock

London, 1844 – 1846



When plans were being developed for a new clock tower at Westminster Palace, Charles Barry asked his friend Benjamin Lewis to design its clock. Benjamin Lewis took two years to produce a set of drawings, but due to clashes with various stakeholders, his clock was never built.

The contract for the clock (famously known as 'Big Ben') was eventually awarded to Edward John Dent (1790 – 1853).

Reproduced by kind permission of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

## Drawing for the Palace of Westminster clock

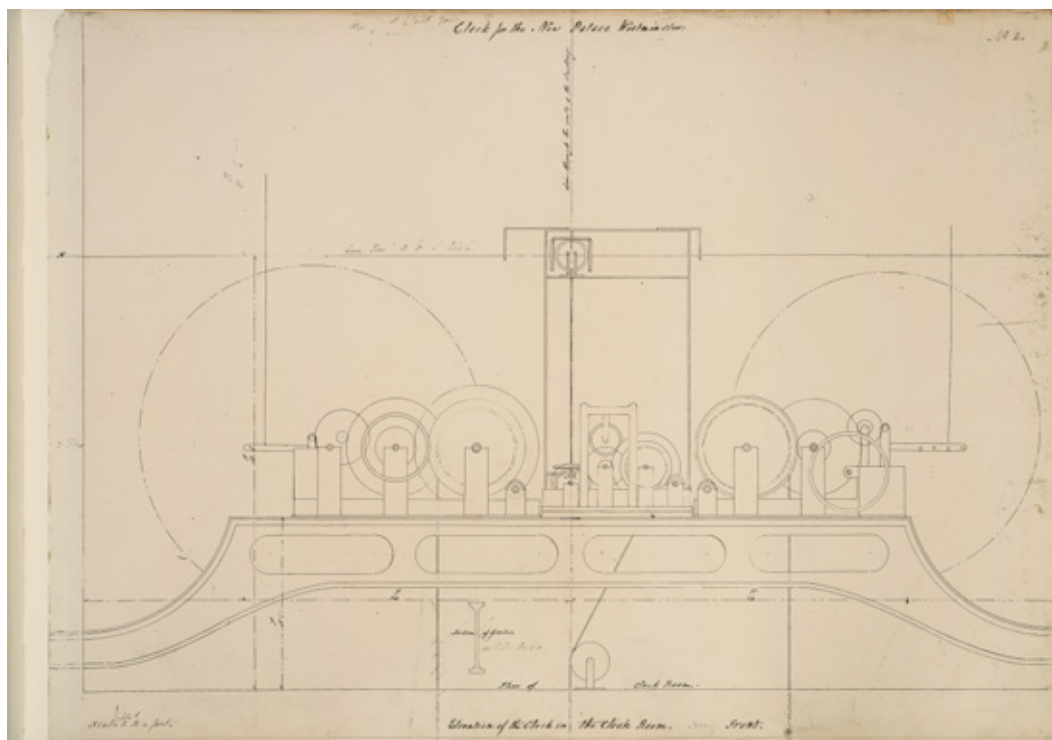


Image by Colin Crisford

## 7 Vulliamy No. 1394 Mahogany Striking wall clock

London, made for the General Register Office, c.1837



**Case:** Solid mahogany circular case with rear removable panel.

**Dial and hands:** 40 cm silvered dial engraved with the Royal Cipher of Queen Victoria and 'General Register Office' above the winding squares and signed 'Vulliamy London' beneath. Heavy cast brass bezel framing a flat glass. With blued-steel heart shaped hour hand and tapered pointer minute hand.

**Movement:** 8 day rack striking five pillar movement with twin gut fusees and half deadbeat escapement. Striking on a bell placed above the geared rise and fall platform mounted on the top of the shaped plates. The 36 cm long pendulum with heavy pendulum bob weighing just over 1 kg numbered '1394' and the movement signed 'Vulliamy London 1394'.

**Dimensions:** Dia 60 x D 18 cm

L2024-121 on loan from a private collector.



Vulliamy No. 1394  
Mahogany Striking wall clock



Image courtesy of David Penney

Vulliamy No. 1394  
Mahogany Striking wall clock



Image courtesy of David Penney

# 8

## Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

### Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817

London, c.1840 & 1847



**Case:** Mahogany veneered oak carcass with classical pediment top to a rectangular case sitting on a plinth with square mahogany pad feet. The front door incorporating a silvered sight ring.

**Dial and hands:** The circular silvered dial with Roman numerals engraved Vulliamy London above VI and with

blued-steel hands.

**Movement:** The single chain fusee movements with four pillars and half deadbeat escapement. The rectangular section steel pendulum rod with hole to allow retention against the seat-board with a three pinned rectangular brass plate and with circular brass lead filled bob stamped 1784 / 1817.

**Note:** The holdfast is secured in place by locking the back door.

**Dimensions:** H 32 x W 18 x D 14 cm

L2024-114 & L2024-113, on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy Nos. 1784 & 1817

Two identical mahogany clocks showing the movement of No. 1817



Image by Colin Crisford



# 9 Vulliamy No. 853

## Rosewood clock made for the Oriental Club

London, 1824



**Case:** The Classically styled Rosewood case with stepped chamfer top of typical Vulliamy form, decorative brass stringing below the top moulding, large brass framed side panels and rear glazed door. The front door incorporating a gilt sight ring and lower recessed panel with two upper recessed quarter panels. A lead weight is incorporated into the base of the case for extra stability. The case stands on four adjustable cast brass bun shaped feet.

**Dial and hands:** The circular silvered dial with aperture for rise and fall square at XII, blued-steel hands and engraved 'Vulliamy London'.

**Movement:** The substantial movement with tall narrow plates separated by six latched and screwed pillars with chain fusee, Harrison's maintaining power and rise and fall mechanism mounted on top of the plates. Ebony lozenge section pendulum rod with large lead filled brass bob. The back plate signed 'Vulliamy London 853'.

From the surviving workbooks: 'Delivered 30th December 1824 to the Oriental Club, Holmden the movement £8-10-6, case by (Thos) Brownley £5'.

**Dimensions:** H 40 x W 24 x D 15 cm

L2024-119 on loan from the Oriental Club London.



Vulliamy No. 853  
Rosewood clock made for the Oriental Club



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy No. 853  
Rosewood clock made for the Oriental Club



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy No. 853  
Rosewood clock made for the Oriental Club



Images by Colin Crisford

# 10 Vulliamy No. 795

## Small rosewood travelling clock

London, delivered to Christopher Nugent in 1823



**Case:** Chamfer top classical styled case by Lowther constructed in solid Rosewood. With brass inset canted corners, brass framed glazed side panels and glazed rear door. The case stands on cast brass acorn feet.

**Dial and hands:** Chased and engraved silvered arched dial with Roman numerals signed Vulliamy London. Blued-steel hands with rise and fall adjustment at XII.

**Movement:** Bell striking eight day chain fusee movement by Holmden with substantial plates separated by four baluster pillars. Half deadbeat escapement with rise and fall mechanism to the pendulum suspension. The rectangular sectioned pendulum rod with large brass bob and pendulum holdfast mounted on the backplate, signed 'Vulliamy London 795'.

According to the surviving workbooks, this clock was delivered on the 6th of November 1823 to Christopher Nugent Esq. to take to Chile. The movement was supplied by (John George) Holmden who charged £11-11s, and the case by Lowther, £3-3s.

**Provenance:** Christopher Nugent was appointed Consul General to Chile in 1823.

**Dimensions:** 20 x W 13 x D 12 cm

L2024-107 on loan from Tobias Birch



Vulliamy No. 795  
Small rosewood travelling clock



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch



Vulliamy No. 795  
Small rosewood travelling clock



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch

Vulliamy No. 795  
Small rosewood travelling clock



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch

# 11 Vulliamy No. 1109

## Miniature mahogany travelling clock with alarm

London, c.1830



**Case:** Chamfer top clock in mahogany case of classical proportions with sliding detachable top to reveal the escapement which is protected by an inset glass panel. Pad feet with solid back door.

**Dial and hands:** Arched silver dial with finely engraved chased mask below dial, Roman numerals, engraved 'Set Alarm' at VI and 'Wind Alarm' at IIII on the chapter ring, signed 'Vulliamy London'.

Blued-steel hands, alarm divisions to the sunken centre with concentric gold alarm set hand.

**Movement:** The eight-day fusee movement with large gilt lever escapement mounted at the top of the plates with compensation curb to the balance spring and a curved silvered regulation scale. The alarm sounding on a bell powered by a subsidiary barrel mounted to the backplate.

**Dimensions:** H 17 x W 10 X D 11 cm

L2024-108 on loan from Tobias Birch

Vulliamy No. 1109

Miniature mahogany travelling clock with alarm



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch



Vulliamy No. 1109

Miniature mahogany travelling clock with alarm



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch

Vulliamy No. 1109

Miniature mahogany travelling clock with alarm



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch

# 12 Vulliamy No. 811

## Mahogany striking wall clock

London, sold to the Hon. Arthur Chichester in 1823



**Case:** Mahogany trunk-dial with a lower section curving into the wall incorporating a door for access to the brass cased lead pendulum bob. Side doors incorporating sound frets and rear door flush with back of the clock case.

**Dial and hands:** 36 cm silvered dial with Roman hour numerals and Arabic 5 minute marking towards the edge of the dial. Blued-steel heart shaped hands.

**Movement:** Eight day twin fusee five pillar movement striking on a large bell mounted above the top of the plates. Half deadbeat escapement with ebony rod lozenge section pendulum rod, lead filled brass bob with rating nut accessible via curved trunk door. Back plate engraved 'Vulliamy London 811'. Length of pendulum 46 cm.

From the surviving Workbooks : 'del. 27.6.1823 to Hon.Arthur Chichester; movement by Holmden £9, case by Lowther £3-3s'. Described in the surviving workbook entry as ' An eight day spring clock in a handsome mahogany dial case'.

**Dimensions:** H 61 x W 41 x D 21 cm

L2024-115 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy No. 811  
Mahogany striking wall clock



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy No. 811  
Mahogany striking wall clock



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy No. 811  
Mahogany striking wall clock



Image by Colin Crisford

# 13 Vulliamy letter code aasa

## Gold quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement

London, c.1817



**Case:** Gold barrel-edge case hallmarked London 1817. Casemaker FH (Frederick Humbert).

**Dial and hands:** Enamel dial signed 'Vulliamy London' with Roman hours and Arabic minute numerals. Blued-steel 'open-heart' hands.

**Movement:** Fullplate quarter repeating fusee movement with duplex escapement incorporating a compensation curb. The top plate signed 'Vulliamy London aasa'.

**Dimensions:** 50 mm diameter.

L2024-116 on loan from a private collector.

Letter code aasa

Gold quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford



Letter code aasa

Gold quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford

# 14 Vulliamy letter code asza

## Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement

London, c.1819



**Case:** 56 mm diameter, heavy gold barrel-edge case hallmarked London 1819. Casemaker FH (Frederick Humbert). The rear cover engraved with a crest and the dome engraved 'In memory of Jane Georgiana Dowager Lady Vernon who died May 31st 1823 aged 75 years'.

**Dial and hands:** Gold dial with matted centre in the style of Breguet engraved 'Vulliamy London', with sunken subsidiary seconds and blued-steel 'open-heart' hands.

**Movement:** Fullplate movement with narrow nosed cock and pierced and engraved slide plate covering the second signature on the top plate. Duplex escapement, flat steel balance with compensation-curb and spiral balance-spring.

**Provenance:** Georgiana, Dowager Lady Vernon, daughter of William Fauquier esq, married May 25th 1787 to George second Lord Vernon, Baron of Kinderton, who died in 1813. She died in 1823

**Dimensions:** H 61 x W 41 x D 21 mm

L2024-117 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy letter code asza

Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy letter code asza

Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford

Vuliamy letter code asza

Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford



Vulliamy letter code asza

Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford

Vulliamy letter code asza

Gold half quarter repeating watch with duplex escapement



Image by Colin Crisford

# 15 Vulliamy letter code szaa

## Silver watch with duplex escapement

London, c.1810-20



**Case:** Later silver case hallmarked 1869.

**Dial and hands:** Enamel dial with Roman numerals and Arabic minutes. Blued-steel Breguet-style 'moon hands'.

**Movement:** Fullplate movement with narrow nosed balance cock. Duplex escapement, flat steel balance with compensation-curb and spiral balance-spring.

**Dimensions:** H 86 x W 59 x D 21 mm

Clockmakers Museum No. 1183

Vulliamy letter code szaa  
Silver watch with duplex escapement



Image: The Clockmakers' Museum / Science Museum Group

Vulliamy letter code szaa  
Silver watch with duplex escapement



Image: The Clockmakers' Museum / Science Museum Group



# 16 Vulliamy No. 1164

## Gold watch with lever escapement

London, c.1851



**Case:** Slim gold engine-turned case hallmarked '1851' with 'loose-ring' pendant. Casemaker HW (Henry Webb, Clerkenwell).

**Dial and hands:** Enamel dial with Roman numerals signed 'Vulliamy London', subsidiary seconds indication and blued-steel Breguet-style 'moon hands'.

**Movement:** Plain finished three-quarter plate fusee movement jewelled to the third. Detached lever escapement of unusual 2-pin form with compensation balance and spiral balance-spring. Backplate signed 'B.L Vulliamy 1164 London'.

**Note:** The move from the firm's letter code to a serial number started during the 1840s and probably began at the number 1000.

**Dimensions:** 45mm in diameter.

L2024-123 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy No. 1164  
Gold watch with lever escapement



Image Courtesy of David Penney

Vulliamy No. 1164  
Gold watch with lever escapement



Image Courtesy of David Penney

# 17 Vulliamy letter code xia

## Gold pocket chronometer with Earnshaw's spring-detent escapement

London, c.1815



**Case:** Heavy gold barrel-edge case hallmarked 1815, 57mm diameter. Casemaker FH (Frederick Humbert). With 2-piece brass strung mahogany box, the sliding lid with brass plaque engraved with the crest of the Kirkpatrick family and their motto: 'I MAK SICKER' (I make certain).

**Dial and hands:** Silver engine-turned dial with subsidiary seconds, Roman numerals and Breguet style blued-steel 'moon' hands.

**Movement:** Plain finished fullplate fusee movement, possibly supplied by Robert Pennington. Earnshaw-type spring-detent escapement with Pennington's form of dovetail detent. Compensation balance, the spiral balance-spring with outer stud held by a screw.

**Provenance:** By family tradition this watch belonged to Midshipman James Kirkpatrick, son of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, 5th Baronet of Closeburn, Dumfriesshire Scotland. He died aged 17 aboard the 26-gun HMS Tamar whilst on duty in West Bengal in 1825.

**Dimensions:** Dia 57mm. Box: H 125 x W 95 x D 52.5 mm

L2024-122 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy letter code xia

Gold pocket chronometer with Earnshaw's spring-detent escapement



Image Courtesy of David Penney



Vulliamy letter code xia

Gold pocket chronometer with Earnshaw's spring-detent escapement



Image Courtesy of David Penney

# 18 Vulliamy No. 950

## Ormolu clock sold to the Duke of Wellington

London, 1827



**Case:** Finely cast and chased ormolu case with hinged back door on a rectangular cast plinth.

**Dial and hands:** 10cm silvered dial with engine-turned centre signed 'Vulliamy London'. With rise and fall adjustment under XII and blued-steel hands.

**Movement:** Circular 4 pillar fusee movement, 3-wheel train and high count escape wheel with half deadbeat escapement. Signed on the backplate 'Vulliamy London 950'.

**Provenance:** Sold to the Duke of Wellington reputedly for Apsley House.

**Dimensions:** H 27.5 x W 20.5 x D 16 cm.

L2024-125 on loan from a private collector.

Vulliamy No. 950  
Ormolu clock to the Duke of Wellington



Image Courtesy of David Penney

Vulliamy No. 950  
Ormolu clock to the Duke of Wellington



Image Courtesy of David Penney

# 19 Vulliamy No. 1251

## Porcelain cased clock

London, c.1830



**Case:** A Coalport porcelain case in the Rococo style with pale blue ground having multi-coloured flowers and a cuckoo.

Note: The case is without maker's marks.

**Dial and hands:** 7cm gilded dial with engine-turned centre signed 'Vulliamy London' with rise and fall adjustment under XII. Blued-steel moon hands.

**Movement:** Circular timepiece fusee movement with anchor escapement, 3-wheel train and high count escape wheel with rise and fall mechanism mounted at the top of the plates. The backplate signed 'Vulliamy London 1251'.

**Dimensions:** H 29 x W 19 x D 12 cm

L2024-124 on loan from a private collector.



Vulliamy No. 950  
Porcelain cased clock



Image Courtesy of David Penney

Vulliamy No. 950  
Porcelain cased clock



Image Courtesy of David Penney

## 20 Vulliamy No. 1895 Gilt-mounted Boulle clock

London, c.1850



**Case:** Waisted case veneered in red tortoiseshell and brass, with gilt-metal mounts, paw feet and shell casting to the top. The rear door has a finely engraved pierced gilt fret with a scroll and floral design.

**Dial and hands:** 9 cm diameter silvered engine-turned dial signed 'Vulliamy London'. Blued-steel 'moon hands'.

**Movement:** 8 day chain fusee movement signed and numbered on the circular back plate 'Vulliamy London 1895'. Steel rod pendulum with brass bob numbered '1895'.

**Provenance:** Patricia Edwina Victoria Knatchbull, second Countess Mountbatten of Burma (1924–2017).

**Dimensions:** H 26 x W 17 X D 12 cm.

L2024-120 on loan from a private collector.



Vulliamy No. 1895  
Gilt-mounted Boulle clock



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch

Vulliamy No. 1895  
Gilt-mounted Boulle clock



Image courtesy of Tobias Birch



## 21 Wax portrait of Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy aged 71 by Richard Cockle Lucas (1800 - 1883)

England, presented to the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers  
by the artist himself in 1851

Clockmakers Museum No. B1087



Image: The Clockmaker' Museum/Clarissa Bruce

## 22 Silver kettle by Edward John and William Barnard London, 1849



Presented to Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in recognition of forty years service which included being Master five times and the driving force behind the formation of the Clockmakers' Collection. The citation reads "Presented to Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy Esq FRAS,FRGS Assoc: ICE &c &ca by the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Company of Clockmakers of the City of London, in token of the high sense they entertain of the eminent services rendered by him as a member of the Court during the long period of forty years, with a degree of zeal and ability which have greatly advanced the interests and character of the Corporation 2nd July 1849' It was clearly valued by him and was specifically mentioned in his will.

Clockmakers' Museum No. 1314

Silver kettle by Edward John and William Barnard



Image: The Clockmakers' Museum / Science Museum Group



Silver kettle by Edward John and William Barnard



Image: The Clockmakers' Museum / Science Museum Group

## 23 Grande-Sonnerie Spring driven clock movement by Thomas Tompion

London, c.1680



**Dial and hands:** 192 cm square skeletonised replacement dial with subsidiary dials for pendulum regulation, alarm, wind and strike silent. Concentric alarm disc in the centre and blue-steel hands.

**Movement:** 8 day verge escapement with later pallets. Two train gut fusee grande-sonnerie trip repeat strike train held within subsidiary plates striking the quarters on progressively one, two then three bells with the hours on a further bell.

An alarm train is positioned in the upper right corner of the movement. Unable to economically repair the Tompion movement, Vulliamy replaced it with one of his own. However, recognising the historical value of the complex movement he donated it in 1847 to the Institution of Civil Engineers, who had it restored in the early twentieth century.

L2015-4265 on loan from the Institution of Civil Engineers.



## Grande-Sonnerie Spring driven clock movement by Thomas Tompion



Image: The Clockmaker' Museum/Clarissa Bruce

Grande-Sonnerie Spring driven clock movement by Thomas Tompion

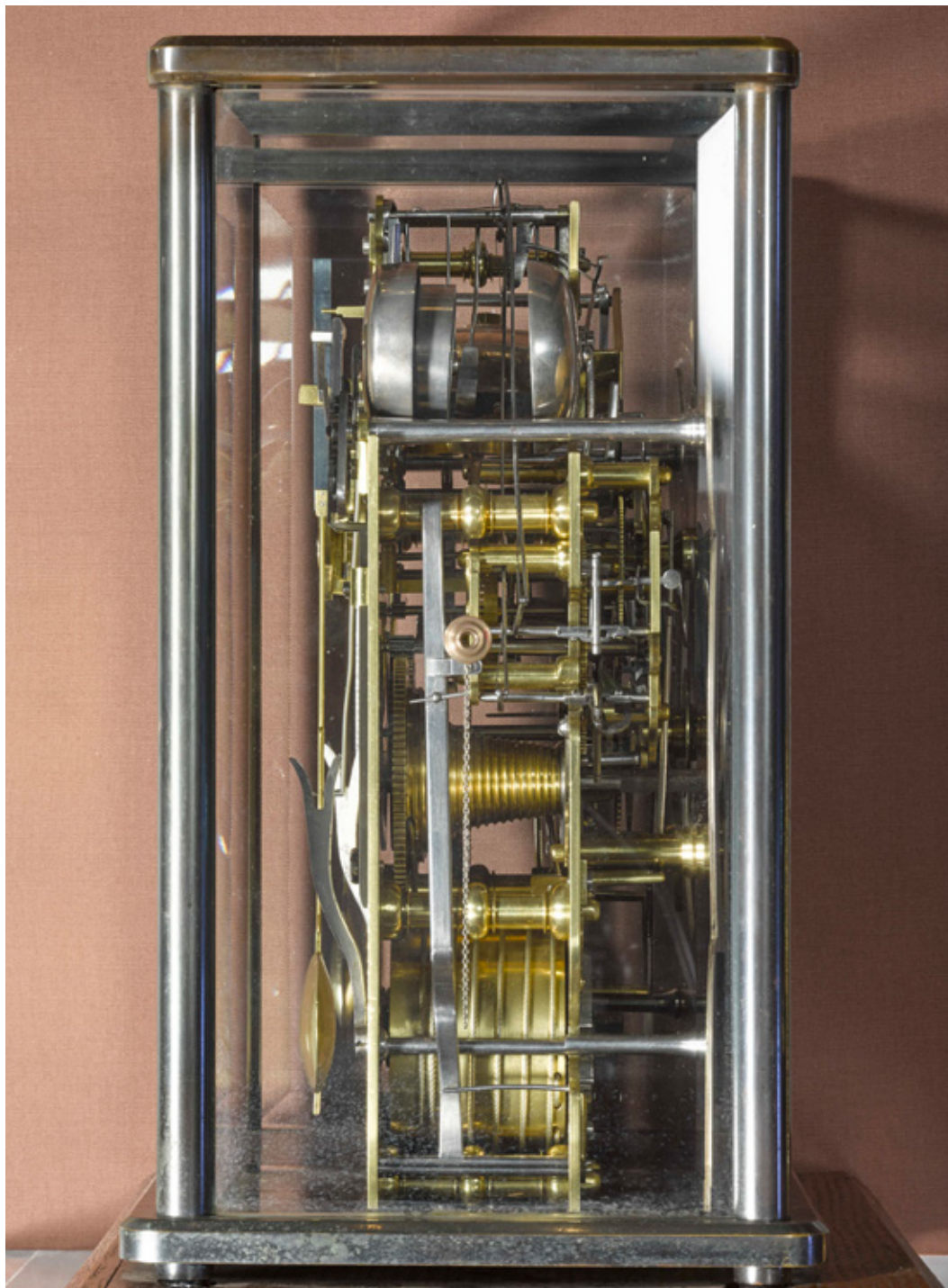


Image: The Clockmaker' Museum/Clarissa Bruce

## 24 Silver pair-cased watch with pivoted detent escapement by Larcum Kendall

London, 1786



**Case:** Hallmarked London 1786, casemaker IM (probably James Macklin).

**Dial and hands:** White enamel dial with subsidiary dials for hours and seconds. Blued-steel hands.

**Movement:** Pivoted detent escapement, brass balance with spiral bi-metallic compensation curb and Kendall's spoked-wheel.

The passing spring is operated by an inclined plane on the balance staff. Backplate signed 'L. Kendall London B + y'.

**Dimensions:** H 67 x W 54 x D 29 mm

**Note:** This watch was purchased by Benjamin Vulliamy (1747 - 1811) at the sale of Larcum Kendall's estate for £30 in 1790 and presented to the Museum by his son Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy in 1849.

Clockmakers Museum No. 422



Silver pair-cased watch hallmarked London 1786



Image: The Clockmaker' Museum/Clarissa Bruce

Silver pair-cased watch hallmarked London 1786



Image: The Clockmaker' Museum/Clarissa Bruce



## 25 Vulliamy letter code rcaa Gold watch with duplex escapement

London, c.1813



**Note:** The Vulliamy letter code moved from three to four letters c1812.

**Case:** Gold barrel-edge case 45.5 mm dia. with engine-turned back hallmarked London 1813. Casemaker FC/FHB (Frederick Comtesse and Frederick Humbert).

**Dial and hands:** Solid gold dial in the style of Breguet matted at the centre and with blued-steel 'open-heart' hands.

**Movement:** Full-plate fusee movement under a flat cap with removable sector revealing the index scale, signed on the barrel bar and on the top plate, under the pierced slide-plate, duplex escapement with jewelled roller and steel balance with spiral balance spring and Larcum Kendall-style wheel-cock (see exhibit no.24).

**Dimensions:** H 71 x W 45.5 x D 17.5 mm

L2024-118 on loan from a private collector

Vulliamy letter code rcaa  
Gold watch with duplex escapement



Image Courtesy of Colin Crisford

Vulliamy letter code rcaa  
Gold watch with duplex escapement



Image Courtesy of Colin Crisford

Vulliamy letter code rcaa  
Gold watch with duplex escapement



Image Courtesy of Colin Crisford

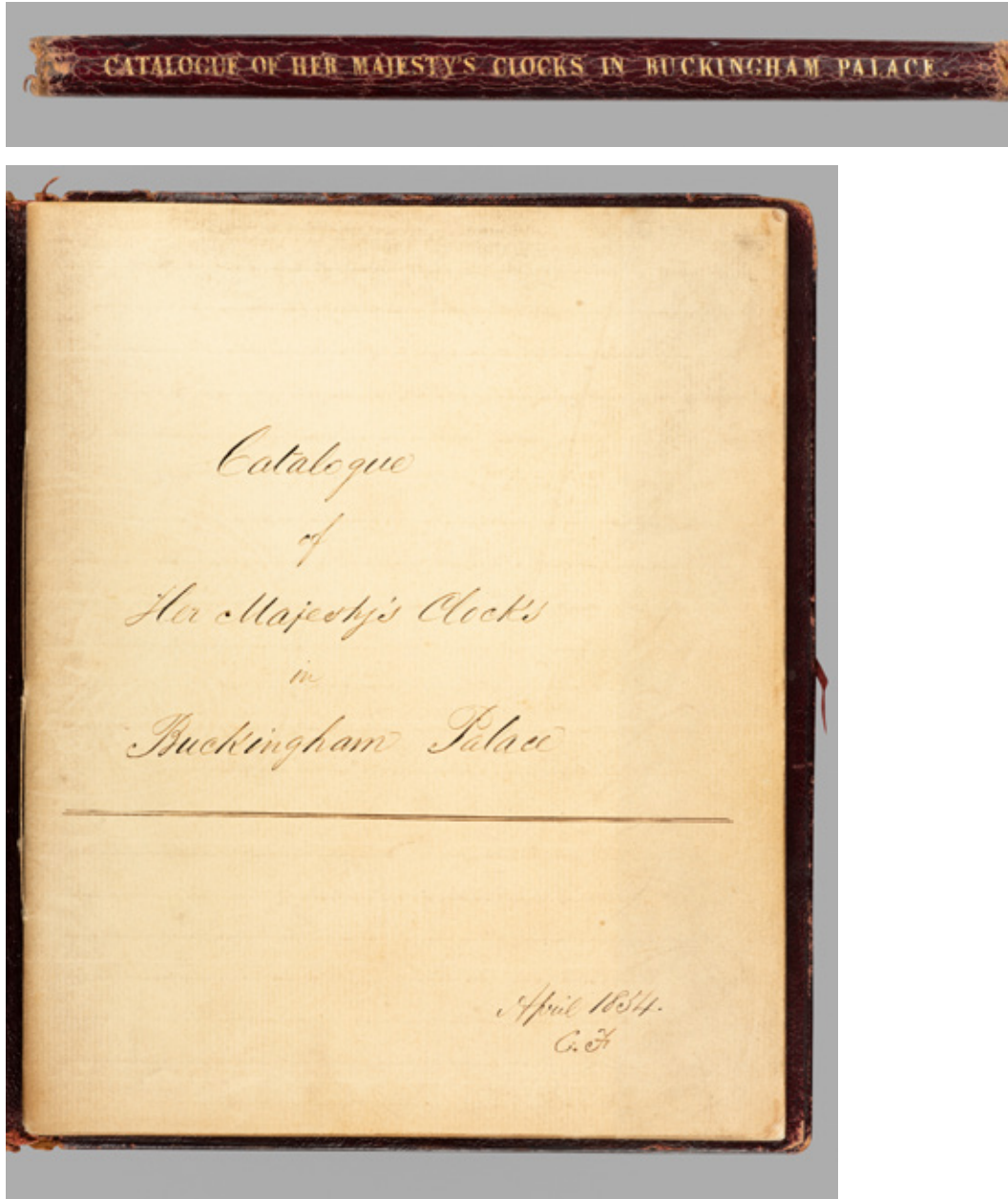
Vulliamy letter code rcaa  
Gold watch with duplex escapement



Image Courtesy of Colin Crisford



# APPENDIX



## Appendix 1

Extract from the catalogue of Her Majesty's clocks in Buckingham Palace compiled by Frodsham in 1854, showing Vulliamy no. 1324 and no. 1326 from the royal collection. These two clocks are identical to exhibit 3 (page 17) Vulliamy no. 1338.

Image courtesy of Colin Crisford

<sup>23</sup> Maker & Date	N <sup>o</sup>	Description	In What Room	Remarks	24
Vulliamy	1331	Spring Timepiece China Flowers Case	Her Majesty's Dining Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1331	Spring Timepiece Broom's Case Chain, & 1st. 1st. Pendulum	Ladies in Waiting Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1331	Spring Timepiece Broom's Case Chain, & 1st. 1st. Pendulum	• Nurses of Honor Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1334	Spring Timepiece with • Alarm • Mahogany Case	• Nursery	Good	
Howard (Minster)		Snake Clock L of the Components, & 1st. 1st. Pendulum • Mahogany Case	• Nursery	Good	

<sup>39</sup> Maker & Date	N <sup>o</sup>	Description	In What Room	Remarks	40
Vulliamy	1332	Spring Timepiece Mahogany Case 1st. 1st. Pendulum	Handkerchief Shedding Room	Good	
Vulliamy		Spring Clock • Mahogany Case	Confession Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1336	Spring Timepiece with • Alarm • Mahogany Case	• Larder Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1332	Spring Clock • Mahogany Case	• Nurses Dining Room	Good	
Vulliamy	1334	Large Shaking Clock in 1st. 1st. Case. 1st. 1st. Pendulum	• Postmaster Waiting Room	Good	

## Appendix 1

Extract from the catalogue of Her Majesty's clocks in Buckingham Palace compiled by Frodsham in 1854, showing Vulliamy no. 1324 and no. 1326 from the royal collection. These two clocks are identical to exhibit 3 (page 17) Vulliamy no. 1338.

Image courtesy of Colin Crisford

Large wrought time piece for the London University				1002.
1870	July 22	Bramah casting 2 iron plates for the frame	5 7	
		2° 14 pollars. 14 1/2 brass	5 10	
	Art.	Wale making the time piece complete from drawing with hands & galleys & time & fixing	9 9-	
		16 Kingdon painting the fig. circles & time & riv. in the dial	10-	
	July 22	Bramah cast 4 small pieces of brass 14	1 2	
		2 1 Gun Metal	9	
	July 19	Brass & patterns for frame	7 6	

## Appendix 2

Workbook entry for Vulliamy No. 1002  
Turret clock movement exhibit 5, page 26

Image courtesy of the Museum of Timekeeping



853 Eight day spring time piece in a rose wood  
 case for the Oriental Club

1824 July 29. Monthly strong fund <sup>m</sup> 207	- 26
Aug. 2. Sunday candle time	- 26
Dec. 8. Boylston Anniversary cleaning the	. 5
21. Holman the Prov. <sup>t</sup> at 862	0 10 6
3. Monthly the case solid rose wood to	
having as 9 <sup>th</sup> 862	5
the last weight	5
	<hr/> 14.5 6

Del<sup>d</sup> to The  
 Oriental Club  
 Dec 30 1824.

### Appendix 3

Workbook entry for Vulliamy No. 853

Rosewood clock made for the Oriental Club exhibit 9, page 42

Image courtesy of the Museum of Timekeeping

Small eight day spring clock with skeleton dial & 795  
 engraved plate in a solid rose wood case

1021	July 14	Adjusted the movement with chains I in & fall	11.11 -
	Aug 12	Lengthen a solid rose wood case	3.3 -
	Sept.	Thomson cleaned the clock & corrected the regulating screw	-
1023	July 12	Cleaned Thomson	-

Del'd to  
 Christopher Nugent Esq.  
 & take to Philli  
 Nov. 6. 1823.

#### Appendix 4

Workbook entry for Vulliamy No. 795

Small rosewood travelling clock exhibit 10, page 46

Image courtesy of the Museum of Timekeeping



An eight day Spring Clock in a very handsome 811  
 Mahogany Dial case. Wm. A. Chickster

1023. May 1	Novelty as to being pendulum 100.	3 6
June 9	Walden the Black, movement with rise & fall & large improved stand with 6 steel hands	9 —
May 16	Don't know the Mahogany case 14 1/2 high with wooden plate, fine wood	3 3.
June 17	Thinned brassing of P.	

Jan 27. 1823  
 Del'd to the Hon<sup>r</sup>  
 Arthur Chickster

## Appendix 5

Workbook entry for Vulliamy No. 811

Mahogany striking wall clock exhibit 12, page 54

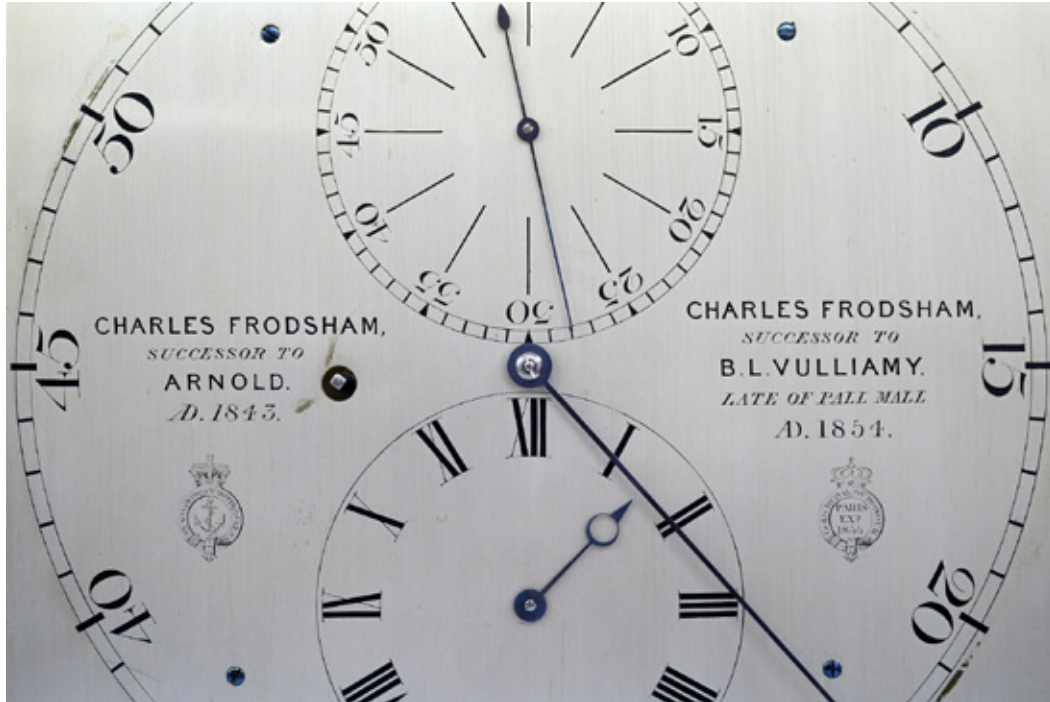
Image courtesy of the Museum of Timekeeping



## Appendix 6

Picture of the Jump premises in Mount street c.1905

Photography © David Penney



## Appendix 7

In 1854 Charles Frodsham purchased the Vulliamy business and proudly stated this on the dial of one of their regulators

Image courtesy of Charles Frodsham & Co., London