

safer than the living and the near''.

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**CLOCK & WATCHMAKERS AND
ALLIED WORKERS IN CANADA
1700 TO 1900**

John E. Langdon
Anson-Cartwright Editions,
Toronto, 1976
208 pp., \$8.00

John Langdon's latest book gives us a catalogue of Canadian clock and watchmakers from the French regime into the twentieth century. Readers of this *Journal* will know that the author has in the past contributed important work in the field of his special interest that of the making of hand-wrought silver by the craftsmen who worked in Canada from the late seventeenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century. He is the recognized authority in his field and to collectors and students alike his works are the bible on silver. *Canadian Silversmiths and their Marks 1667-1867* was published in 1960, followed by a second volume *Canadian Silversmiths 1700-1900* published in 1966. The second work contained additional information about the silversmiths, profuse illustrations, an index of silversmiths by cities and towns, lists of the silverworkers' initials and lists of designs of the maker's punchmarks or stamps. In 1968 Langdon brought out a small hard-covered book *Guide to Marks on Early Canadian Silver* of much use and comfort to collectors both for content and portability.

In 1970 Langdon gave us another invaluable aspect of the craft of wrought

silver with his *American Silversmiths in British North America 1776-1800*. In this book he dealt with the thirty-nine silversmiths who came to Canada with the Loyalists and initially settled mainly in the Maritime Provinces. At that time of low income and small population there was a limited demand for silver and making a living out of silversmithing was difficult. Langdon described in biographical sketches the movements and activities of these men; men such as Charles Oliver Bruff who was one of the most outstanding of the American silversmiths to make a contribution to the craft in Canada.

It is in the context of his previous contribution that this present listing of clock and watchmakers takes its full value. In each of Langdon's publications on silversmithing he has brought attention to the fact that many of the silversmiths had a second string to their bow, often that of clock and watchmaking. Over 4000 makers are listed alphabetically by name with their location and date in this new publication. There is as well, a geographical index giving the number of clockmakers in the different cities and towns of Canada. The information has been gleaned over a period of thirty years from census returns, Parish records, civil lists, city directories and commercial credit records.

In his introduction Langdon makes several significant points related to his compendium. The first is that the clock and watchmakers frequently extended their usual activities in other areas of metal work, such as gunsmithing, jewellery-making, repair of surveyors' instruments and locks, as a means of coping with hard times. One might speculate that cabinet-making was a useful side line for not a few such as the American late eighteenth-century clockmaker Simon Willard and the late nineteenth-century Ontario clockmaker Arthur Pequegnat.

The second point is the interesting degree of geographic mobility of the

craftsmen, particularly from East to West which reflected, as Langdon observes, the growth in population and expanding markets for time pieces. Both points are nicely expressed by the cover illustration of a circular watchcase paper of the well-known craftsman William Stennett. The paper identifies him as "Watchmaker, Jeweller and Silver-smith" and the printed location of Kingston has been overwritten in pen and ink "King Street, Toronto."

This new publication is undoubtedly the definitive listing of Canadian clock-makers, the product of a life time of compilation in the course of research and study of silver in Canada. Without reference to style, type of mechanical techniques or materials used, it is nonetheless an infinitely useful hand book for the horologist, while the private collector will await the illustrated guide to Canadian clocks and watches; this definitive inventory is an essential precursor to further work of that kind.

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