

# It's All about the Youth

by Robert Gary (CA)

Recently, my wife and I were viewing the horological exhibit at the Science Museum in London when a group of students came through on a class outing. After all but one student had moved on to other exhibits, my wife noticed him intently examining the horological items in the cases. My wife approached the young man and asked, "Do you find the clocks interesting?" With a huge smile he responded, "Oh, yes! Very much so." This is why we give money to the NAWCC, to ensure that horological history is available to future generations such as this young man.

When my wife and I sat down to decide how we would distribute the funds we designated in our budget for charitable giving, one of the IRS designated deductible charities that came to mind was the NAWCC, its National Watch and Clock Museum and its Library and Research Center. Our first thought was: "Why should we donate money to a museum?" Then we remembered the young man we met in London. We give for him and all of the young people yet to come.

Every museum is a collection, and most began as someone's personal hobby. The Getty Museum in Los Angeles was J. Paul Getty's personal collection; the Frick

Collection in New York was the personal collection of Henry Clay Frick; the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, DE, was the private holdings of Henry Francis du Pont; and the British Museum in London was founded in 1753 with the collection of Sir Hans Sloane. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, perhaps the largest museum in the world, was begun with a financial gift to the American people for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge" by James Smithson, a British national who never set foot in the United States. Why are our timepieces any less significant, or less worthy of financial support, than the items in those collections? Why are the masterpieces of horology any less valuable or less desirable to preserve than statues, oil paintings, or watercolors?

When you visit Europe and explore museums, such as The Worshipful Order of Clockmakers collection at the Science Museum in London, the Musée International d'Hologerie in Switzerland, the Astronomisch Physikalisches Kabinett in Kassel, Germany (home of Burgi's equation clock circa 1591), or the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon of the Zwinger, Dresden, Germany (repository of the Baldewein astronomical clock circa



Two girls learn about a water clock at the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, PA. COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WATCH AND CLOCK MUSEUM.

1563-1568), aren't you forever grateful that those entities had the foresight to preserve these masterpieces? Why should we in the United States, and you as a member of the NAWCC in particular, be any less diligent in building and maintaining a collection of the finest examples of horology in existence?

You take great pride in your collection or you wouldn't bother to collect. The fact that you have put in hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands of dollars into it indicates your love for these pieces. Your personal collection is your way of preserving horological history. You know that your hobby requires financing, and museums are no different. The reality that museums require conservationists, archivists, curators, and other professionals, as well as storage areas, exhibit areas, meeting rooms, and other facilities to preserve and showcase these pieces, increases the financial need. Most museums, including such esteemed institutions as the British Museum, the Frick Collection, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Smithsonian, solicit donations to help defray costs in various ways, such as placing collection boxes at the exits, creating their own websites, and employing professional fundraisers for their endowment campaigns.

Another division of your Association deserving of attention is your Library and Research Center, second only to the Library of Congress in the total number of horological ephemera, books, and magazines in its archives. The reality of the expense of maintaining, restoring, and exhibiting these items is the same for the Library and Research Center as it is for the Museum. The financial support of members and nonmembers is essential to the support and continuation of these two wonderful institutions.

Do you not want to leave the establishment of these institutions for future generations to see and to experience the magnificent timepieces as your legacy? How many beautiful, historically important timepieces have been destroyed simply because prior generations did not have the foresight to preserve them?

There are many ways you can donate to the NAWCC, large and small. You may designate the Museum, the Library and Research Center, the Association itself, or specific projects within any of those institutions. If you decide to restrict your funds to a specific use, such as repairing damage from the 2011 earthquake or digitizing the membership records, rest assured that the administration and the Board of Directors are bound by law to honor such requests on all accepted gifts. If you would like a list of the current items or programs that most urgently need funding at this point in time, please call Ex-

ecutive Director Steve Humphrey for more information. If you desire public recognition of your donation, you can allocate specifically for that purpose. These funds include:

- NAWCC Endowment Funds where the principal is always preserved and a set amount of income is used each year to support the Museum, the Library, education programming, and the NAWCC
- For All Time 75th Anniversary Endowment and Capital Campaign funds that are held in perpetuity to produce income for the Museum, the Library, education programming, and the NAWCC, as well as allow for the replacement and maintaining of our equipment and facilities
- John Harrison Endowment Society, which recognizes those donating \$1,000 or more
- 1943 Heritage Society, which recognizes planned gifts
- Partners in Time Annual Fund that funds projects and programs, which would not otherwise be possible, as well as provides ongoing support to the Museum, the Library, and education programming.

There are major naming opportunities available as well. If, for example, you donate \$10 million to the Museum, you may place your name on the Museum building, or for differing dollar amounts, you can endow various employee positions. There are dozens of opportunities available for allocating your donation with special recognition being given.

There are many ways you can assist your Association, but perhaps the greatest contribution you can make is to establish a living legacy of financial support for the NAWCC, whether beginning now or upon your death. Such a legacy will ensure the existence of the horological artifacts that are so dear to our hearts for generation, after generation, after generation to witness and enjoy.

If you need assistance on the best way to accomplish this, please contact Steve Humphrey at 717.684.8261, ext. 209. He will be happy to help you.

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*Editor's note: Robert Gary is a member of the Development Committee, whose responsibilities include raising funds for the For All Time 75th Anniversary Endowment and Capital Campaign. The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code, and gifts to the NAWCC are tax deductible under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the code.*