

THE WORKING LIBRARY OF CHARLES ALLIX

Charles Allix was the foremost dealer in watches in the United Kingdom until 1972. He also ran the finest horological bookshop from his home at Bradbourne Farmhouse in Sevenoaks. He took over the business from Malcolm Gardner of Earnshaw Street W1 whose catalogues had been issued since 1932. These he continued and elaborated and remarkable they were, including that of the wholly exceptional library of Professor Torrens of Dublin whom he knew very well. They are still a joy to peruse, often, now, with considerable envy, considering the provenance of some of the publications. For a brief period until 1996 he produced, with others, catalogues of interest. All of these, throughout all these years, have produced a wealth of information of exceptional use.

Charles also acted as a dealer and as a consultant. His knowledge is unrivalled, covering a vast area of horological history. He wrote the definitive book on carriage clocks published in 1974 and has also written many learned articles in *Antiquarian Horology*, journal of the Antiquarian Horological Society – he was on the Society's council for many years. His articles are written so very, very well, always authoritative and erudite and expressed so beautifully that even an amateur would understand, and with a real sense of the joy of discovery and with a wit and dexterity which is so refreshing, never at the expense of content. There is no-one of serious horological knowledge that he does not know and who does not rely on his judgement. His memory is prodigious and almost nothing escapes his attention - a beady eye indeed and an immensely shrewd assessment.

Now that he has retired, Charles feels that it is time to part with the remaining elements of his library and much valuable research documentation. Quite apart from the so valuable and interesting pieces relating to John Harrison, this should present a field day for those of us who value his judgement so highly (as I especially do) and who will simply enjoy owning something from such an eminent library.

John Cheetham, January 2012

Being a working library the books contain many annotations in Charles Allix's and other hands, and have numerous cuttings, notes, photocopies etc. tipped in or loosely inserted. Some also contain the signature of Charles Allix.