

Mon: Cover Barnett Ch 8

Fri: Research Paper 1

- covers one topic (focused topic)
- should address a question/issue (also focused on small area)
- must present evidence that:
 - * is not from the texts (Mondschein, Barnett) or class notes
 - * is reliable
 - has been reviewed
 - has some degree of permanence
 - this excludes most online sources (Wikipedia, YouTube, etc, ...)
- * to find sources
 - look at course website and follow search articles
 - use Tomlinson library
 - use JSTOR

Medieval clocks

We could bound the period in which the verge-and-foliot clock could have been invented via:

Not before ~1270 - writing of Robertus Anglicus

Not after ~1380 - Salisbury Cathedral clock.

The exact evidence is not clear cut and mostly consists of written records from contemporary writers.

We now consider where such clocks might have been installed and used. Sources for the information come from:

- * Rossum, The History of the Hour pgs. 98-113
- * Landes, Revolution in Time pgs 71-82. pgs 125-172 and Ch 4.

Clocks in Towers

The written record overwhelmingly focusses on large scale clocks during the 14th century. There is comparatively little written about smaller scale household or portable clocks.

Such large scale clocks indicated time via:

- 1) bells and other sound producing devices
- 2) automata displays - now called monumental astronomical clocks

Bells had already become somewhat commonplace in the 13th century in Europe.

Q. What sort of evidence exists for the omnipresence of bells in the 13th and 14th centuries?

How could we corroborate this?

→ e.g. Garceau article.
↳ image BCN Cathedral

These bells were operated by various mechanical means and these came to resemble the gear train and escapement of verge-and-foliot clocks.

Q. What evidence exists for this?

Another way of indicating time was via automata. These clocks had various fanciful displays.

Demo: Prague Clock

Wells Cathedral Clock

Such clocks appeared in towers in public spaces or on religious buildings. Initially these appeared in Italy in the 14th century (Rossum pg 129 → 133)

Demo: Torre del Mangia Siena Wikipedia

Torre dell'Orologio Padua

These clocks all attempted to indicate time to the public.

Uses of Public Clocks

By the 14th century clocks had moved from the confines of monasteries and into the public realm. The main users of such clocks would have been: Q - who would these have been?

- 1) the church (outside monasteries)
- 2) rulers and aristocrats
- 3) bourgeoisie - merchants, etc,...

Landes. 74-75

Demo: Show Garceau pg 201-202.

1) The church would have used public clocks + bells to:

- * summon public to worship
- * remind public about the religious purpose to their lives

} Garceau
pg 204

2) Rulers and aristocrats - rulers + aristocrats actively promoted the use of public clocks in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Q: What would be possible reasons for this?

- * allow for orderliness in public lives

Rossum pg

- * demonstrate power, prestige.

3) Bourgeoisie - by the 14th century cities had begun a revival in Europe. This result in a class of merchants, traders, financiers

Landes pg 75-79

- increasingly people worked in small factories on a cycle not attached to night or day.

In this regard the bourgeoisie could use public clocks to regulate urban worklife.

Lp Le Goff pg 159

Demo: Show Boerner (2011) article - S curve.