

Albin Schaefer

The

Watches

from St. Mikael 1747

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The Watches from St Mikael 1747

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Foreword

In 1953 an incident occurred that would cast new light upon the manufacturing of watches with false signatures.

Finnish fishermen were 1953 caught by their anchor wire during fishing near the island of Borstö in the archipelago of Åbo, off the southwestern coast of Finland. The spot where it happened was noted and later navy divers were sent down where they found the upright standing wreck of the ship St Mikael at some 42 meters depth.

Christian Ahlström has documented in his book “Sjunkna Skepp” that St Mikael in 1747 was sailing from Amsterdam to St Petersburg destined for the royal household of the Russian emperor.

Swedish divers under the management of Gösta Bojners examined the wreck at the beginning of the 60s. The Bojners group retrieved dozens of gold and silver objects, including the golden pocket watches and snuff boxes that had been kept in the ship cabin which earned the Borstö wreck its reputation as a treasure ship. In the shipment, there was more than a dozen watches, and 11 of these are today stored in The National Maritime Museum in Helsinki. A couple of these watches are in private Swedish ownership and a couple of them are likely to be found in Finnish private collections.

The Finnish laws regarding relics of antiquities were introduced in 1963.

The research material is unique since it represents a group of watches, from a very exact and limited time period, packed in the same box with the same destination. These would otherwise free from this context have a restricted value of proofing their connection to both time and place as well as to their internal relationship.

This book is a presentation of the research that the watchmaker and author Albin Schaefer did in cooperation with the Finnish Maritime Museum.

The research work started in autumn 2000. During a first visit to the Finnish Maritime Museum in Helsinki where the finds from the sinking ship were stored, an initial preliminary inspection of the watches was made.

In November 2001 the author visited the museum in Helsinki again to meet with the researcher Maija Fast and the photographer Markku Haverinen, to take photographs and study the watches further. Now it could also be outlined guidelines for how the continuing research work should be carried out.

With the help of photographs and notes, further studies could be performed.

Here we present the results of this research.

The Watches from St Mikael 1747

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Summery of the found watches

The watches found in the wreck are signed :

(The museum numbers)

- 62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris
- 62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris
- 62001:3 Ren=el London
- 62001:4 Trahniets London
- 62001:5 Cabrier London
- 62001:6 Re Kurnab London
- 62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder
- 62001:8 Trahniets London
- 62001:9 Poy London
- 62001:10 Cabrier London
- 62001:11 Drakrub London

Besides the ones in the Museum, there are also:

Watch in private ownership signed **Schreiner, Mathias** (born 1662 in Friedberg). There is a similar watch signed Schreiner London in Heimat museum, Friedberg, dated approximately 1730.

Watch signed **Cabrier London**, finding from the wreck of St Mikael, other private ownership according to articles in the Swedish SUOF magazine number 8-10 and 11 during the 1980s.

In addition, there are probably two watches in private Finnish ownership.

A first preliminary inspection of the watches was made in Marinmuseet in Helsingfors September 28th, 2001, where the following was noted:

- 62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris.** A protective case in metal, gilded edges and charner, cannot determine what it was previously dressed in. Simple inner case in gold. Movement in french style. Gives a first impression of being very genuine.
- 62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris.** Protective case. Exterior and inner cases in gold with artistically turned decorations. Eight scalloped starts in the middle, hallmarked IR. Beautiful watch of high class. Movement in french style (Friedberg?)
- 62001:3 Ren=el London.** Protective case, previously dressed in sharkskin?

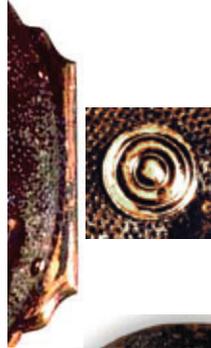
(Similar to 62001:11) Exterior case in gold repousse with a motives of a man who carries out a fish to a lady. Smooth inner case in gold. Stamped IFG. Gold hands. Balance cock with nearly straight foot line, pierced, very decorated wings, clam motive. (Friedberg?)

- 62001:4 Trahniets London.** Not inspected by mistake (there were two) and I thought I had already seen it. The signing should be understood as Steinhart, mirror imaged.
- 62001:5 Cabrier London.** Protective case equal to 62001:8? Smooth exterior and interior case in silver. Stamped MV under a crown. Silver dial with room for the signing. Balance cock with a pierced framed foot in a slight angle.
- 62001:6 Re Kurnab London.** Protective case equal to 62001:10. Exterior case in gold repousse, motive two sitting gentlemen and a lying dog. Tinted gold. Inner case with pierced decoration. Dial in gold, movement with repetition. Balance cock with straight foot line, motive a squirrel, clam decorations. (Friedberg?)
- 62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder.** Movement with lever escapement and percussion with repetition. Protective case very damaged, probably silver. Exterior case silver with motifs of a small Japanese temple, a lady with a fan and a servant with an umbrella. Size approx 5,5 cm. Inner case silver repousse in mint condition. Sharp hand-engraved signature on the movement without specifying the location. Silver dial with the name Fü=Felder.
- 62001:8 Trahniets London.** Protective case previously dressed in leather? Dial in silver. Balance cock with wings and pierced and framed foot with a slight angle, airy ornaments, clam-shaped decorations. The signatures can be interpreted as Steinhart mirrored, same as for 62001:4. Sex masters in the period 1648 to 1750 by the name of Steinhart are mentioned in the Heimat Museum catalogue, all from Friedberg.
- 62001:9 Poy London.** A protective case in metal with edgings in silver? It cannot be determined what it was previously dressed in. Flat exterior case in silver. Silver dial signed Poy London. Cock with thin broken through foot with a weak angle. Clam shaped decoration. Hallmark PC under a crown.
- 62001:10 Cabrier London.** Protective case with gilded edgings and charner, decorated button and centrum knob previously dressed in chagrin/sharkskin. Simple inner case in gold with movement in french style!
- 62001:11 Drakrub London.** Protective case previously dressed in leather. Possibly gilded inner- and exterior case. The signature should be interpreted as Burkhard mirrored. In I.G.H. Baillie's book, a Joseph Burkhard from the mid 18th century is mentioned, with one watch in the Prague museum and one in Schloss Museum Berlin.

Compilation of similarities in the protective cases



62001:6 Re Kurnab London



The protective cases of 62001:6 and 62001:10 are identical in decoration knobs, position of the opening button and charner as well as its sharkskin or ray-fish covering.



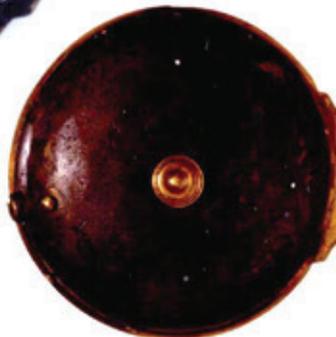
62001:10 Cabrier London



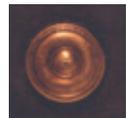
62001:11 Drakrub London

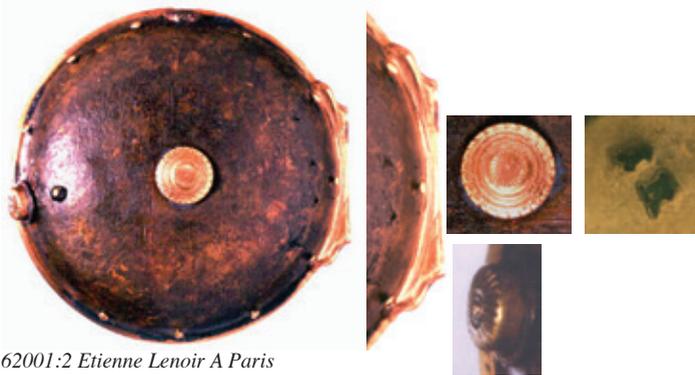


The protective cases of 62001:11 and 62001:3 seems to be identical to those of 62001:6 and 62001:10 however the remains of the covering (ray-fish?) is minimal.



62001:3 Ren=el London





62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris

The decorative knob of 62001:2 show engravings, but its opening button is identical to the one on 62001:10.

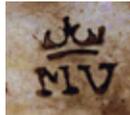
All other details are alike. The covering could have been made different and bulkier in this case but is now almost all gone.



62001:4 Trahniets London

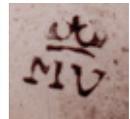
Since the watch has the same signature as the one on 62001:8 (Trahniets) we can without further ado sort this case to the same family of protective cases as the one above, regardless of the difference in presentation.

The design of its charner and the opening button is similar.



62001:5 Cabrier London

The protective cases of 62001:5 and 62001:8 show matching details and the watches have the same stamps, and even two interchangeable rivet holes (the rivets are still there on this one), between the charner and the centre.



62001:8 Trahniets London

The main appearance is comparable to that of the previous watches, but these two have probably been covered with turtle shell. See the holes from the covering design in the middle. (Predominantly silver rivets).



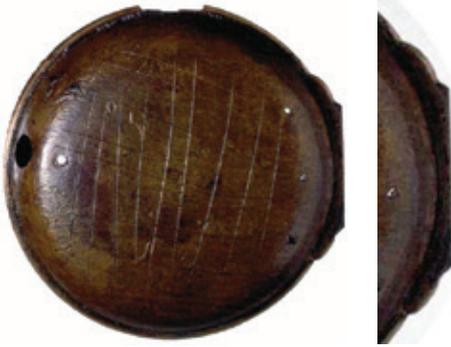
62001:9 Poy London

This protective case shows great similarities with those of **62001:5** and **62001:8**.

This case has also probably been covered with turtle shell, see the holes from the dressing decoration.

The corroded charner (silver?) is also comparable to the ones of **62001:5** and **62001:8**.

The three cases have not had gold protection towards corrosion.



62001:1 Ju.n Le Roy A Paris

The protective case has some a bit deviating details compared to the others of the group.



Hallmarks

The three holes next to the charner do not occur on the others. Nor does the scratches or carvings under the case covering correspondingly exist in the other watches.

There is also some deviation from the others in the position of its opening knob. The absence of rivets in the edge may indicate that a thick turtle imitating varnish has been used for covering. Hence the scratches to fix the varnish?

The basic presentation of its shape and charner can however not be excluded to resemble those of the other members of the group. This might, however, be an established design and it does therefore not necessarily mean that this watch belongs to the group.



62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder

The protective case of this watch is notably deviating from the others in style and presentation.

The charner has, for instance, a shape that differentiates on its protective case as well as on its exterior case from the design of the others, and nothing indicates that it has the same origin of manufacturing.

Conclusions on the protective case design

The identical protective cases of **62001:6** Re Kurnab London and **62001:10** Cabrier London bring these protective cases together to the same origin.

62001:11 Drakrub London and **62001:3** Ren=el London tie these protective cases to the same origin for the same reason.

62001:5 Cabrier London and **62001:8** Trahniets London is tied to the same origin by the similarities of their protective cases.

62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris is attached to the same origin by the likeness of details on **62001:4** and **62001:10** Cabrier London.

The signature Trahniets London on the watches **62001:4** and **62001:8** bind these two protective cases to a common origin, despite different appearances.

In addition **62001:9** Poy London should be brought together with the origin of **62001:4** and **62001:8** although the protective case has a somewhat different appearance. Coinciding details in the watch mechanisms are accounted for on the following pages.

62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris *cannot* be brought together with the others due to the differences in the details of its protective case, it's carefully designed balance cock and fine signature. This gives a genuine impression.

62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder can *in no way* be brought together with the other watches and should be regarded as made by a different watchmaker. Maybe it was Johannes Fürstenfelder from Aichach, father of Benedikt Fürstenfelder, Augsburg.

Movement with inner case



62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris



62001:2

Etienne Lenoir A Paris



62001:4 Trahniets London



62001:5 Cabrier London



62001:6 Re Kurnab London



62001:8 Trahniets London



62001:9 Poy London



62001:10 Cabrier London



62001:11 Drakrub London

The signatures of the movements



62001:4 Trahniets London



62001:8 Trahniets London

62001:4 and 62001:8 are tied to the same origin due to similarity in name.



62001:5 Cabrier London



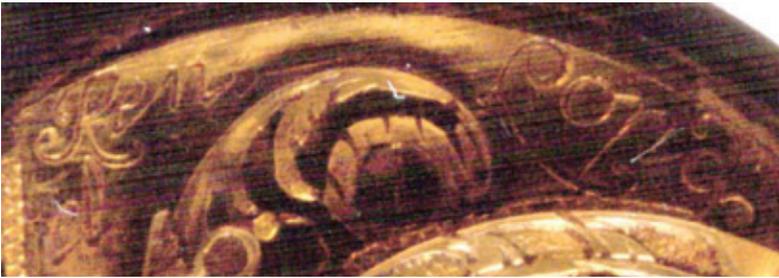
62001:10 Cabrier London

62001:5 and 62001:10 are tied to the same origin due to the similarity in name and engraving style.

62001:5 and 62001:8 is also tied to the same origin due to the previously shown similarity in protective cases and hallmarks.



62001:9 Poy London



62001:3 Ren=el London



62001:11 Drakrub London

62001:9 Poy London is tied to 62001:3 Ren=el London and 62001:11 Drakrub London due to the likeness of the signatures.

62001:3 can also be tied to 62001:11 due likeness in protective cases, and with 62001:10 due to likeness in the dials.



62001:6 Re Kurnab London

62001:6 Re Kurnab London is tied to the same origin as 62001:10 Cabrier London due to the identical protective cases.

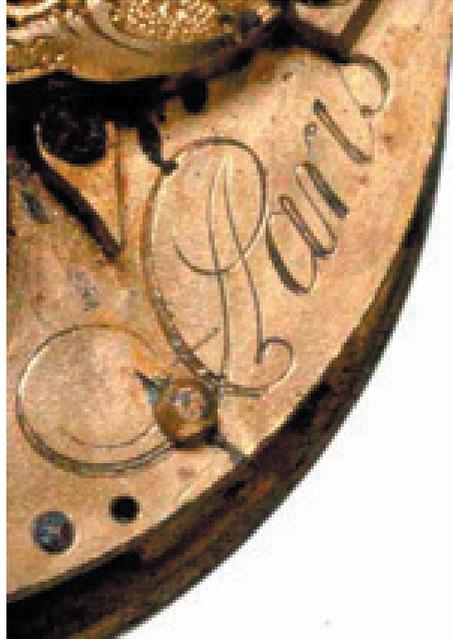
The signature, however, could be made by a different person, and the engravings are a bit different compared to 62001:10.

62001:6 Detail of the inner case signed
"Londo" not "London"!



62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris

62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris is tied to the same origin as 62001:10 Cabrier London due to the likeness of the protective cases, despite the difference in style of signatures.



62001:1 Ju.n Le Roy A Paris

62001:1 Ju.n Le Roy A Paris. The masterly performed signature seems to have no connection to the other watches. The "r" in the signature has, for example, no likeness with the "r" in either the Trahniets or Cabriel signatures. In addition, the protective watch case has very doubtful connection to the other watches.

The watch gives an impression of being authentic.



62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder

62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder The signature show no similarity to any of the others, neither by look or skill. This should be considered as being made by a separate master.

The watch is of high quality, and the design and execution of the watch reveal great workmanship and skill. The master would with honour have signed this masterpiece himself.

Conclusion on signatures

62001:4 Trahniets London, 62001:5 Cabrier London and 62001:10 Cabrier London is tied to the same origin as the signature most likely as made by the same hand.

The signatures on 62001:3 Ren=el London, 62001:9 Poy London and 62001:11 Drakrub London appears not to be made by the same person. Since a large number of watches employed several engravers this does not rule out the same origin as other factors indicate that this exists.

62001:3 Ren=el London is also tied to 62001:6 Re Kurnab London and 62001:10 Cabrier London by the likeness in their protective cases.

Since 62001:4 and 62001:8 are both signed Trahniets London, and 62001:5 and 62001:10 are both signed Cabrier London they are tied together by likeness in names.

62001:5 Cabrier London, 62001:8 Trahniets London and 62001:9 Poy London are also tied to the same origin due to the likeness in protective cases and hallmarks.

62001:6 Re Kurnab London is tied to the same origin as 62001:10 Cabrier London due to the identical protective cases, but the signatures could have been made by different engravers. The style of the engravings on the dial also differs from the other.

62001:9 Poy London can be tied to 62001:3 Ren=el London and to 62001:11 Drakrub London due to likeness in signatures and protective case.

62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris is tied to the same origin as 62001:10 Cabrier London, due to likeness in details on the protective case, despite differences in the signatures.

Both 62001:1 Ju.n Le Roy A Paris and 62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder show unique signatures that don't resemble any of the others.

62001:10 signed Cabrier London, but with the text "Avance" and "Retard", in French!





62001:3 Ren=El London

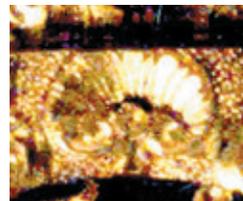
Details of balance cock



62001:3 Ren=el London



62001:8 Trahniets London



62001:6 Re Kurnab London

Eight of the watches has the signature "London". The consistency of the clam-shaped ornament on the foot of the balance cocks on six of the eight watches, caught in the same time and place, show that the watches as a group are of the same origin.



62001:4 Trahniets London



62001:9 Poy London



62001:11 Drakrub London



A comparison of 62001:3 with 62001:8 and 62001:4 with 62001:9 shows that the clam shaped decoration have the same design, though of two different models, and this binds them to the same origin.



62001:5 Cabrier London

The seventh watch **62001:5** with a different style of ornamentation on the foot of the balance cock does not contradict this since other details bind the watch to the same origin as the others.

The detail on **62001:5** is meant to look like the mascaron, common on English watches, but the execution does not seem to be of the same calibre.



Compare the decoration with the mascaron on this one, a watch from early 18th century, signed L. Morel. (Authors ownership).



62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris



Note the beautifully curved bars of the letters "r" and "n".

62001:1 Ju.n Le Roy A Paris shows also in the design of the balance cock a style of its own, and can therefore not be grouped with the other watches.

The balance cock does not only differ in design but also in the elegant engraving.



62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris



62001:10 Cabrier London



62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris



62001:10 Cabrier London



62001:2 and 62001:10 has a similar cross-shaped leaf decoration. Could be of similar origin and/or engraver. These two are also tied to the same origin due to likeness in the protective cases.



62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder

The balance cock shows no similarities that can group this watch with the others. The design and execution is a sign of great workmanship.



62001:6 Dial



62001:2 Balance cock



62001:10 Dial



62001:7 Case

The clam-shaped decoration can be found on all watches. As it is common on other watches from Friedberg (and also Switzerland) it strengthens the theory that the watches can be tied to this geographical origin. Augsburg was at this time the centre for the manufacturing of balance cocks and bridges, amongst other things.



62001:6 Re Kurnab London

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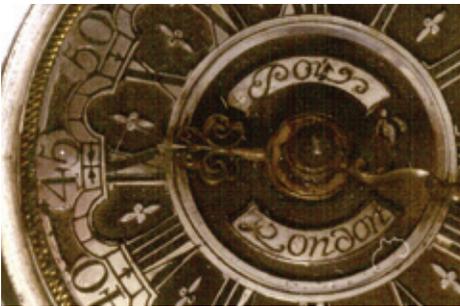
Details of the dials



62001:4 Trahniets London



62001:8 Trahniets London



62001:9 Poy London



62001:10 Cabrier London





62001:5 Cabrier London



The digits on watch 62001:5 has a somewhat deviating style on the upper line on the number 5, but the similarity in other details can tie it to the same origin as the other five. The style is the same as on 62001:9, see the previous page.



62001:6 Re Kurnab London



The engraving on 62001:6 could have been carried out by another engraver. See also the engravings on the movements.



62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder

The style on the dial of 62001:7 does not coincide with the others.



The design and the engraved numbers on the dials of the watches to the left, 62001:4, 62001:8, 62001:9 and 62001:10 exhibit the same style and has possibly been done by the same hand.

The other dials are made of enamel, but their condition allows hardly any comparison.



62001:1 J.n Le Roy A Paris



62001:2 Etienne Lenoir A Paris



62001:4 Trahniets London



62001:5 Cabrier London



62001:6 Re Kurnab London



62001:7 J=M=Fü=felder



62001:8 Trahniets London



62001:9 Poy London



62001:10 Cabrier London



62001:11 Drakrub London

Schreiner, Mathias



The watch was found in the wrecked ship St Mikael.

Protective watchcases in brass. Previously covers with chagrin with charner parted in seven. The protective watchcase and the hallmark tied it to the same case maker as to the other watches cases with the exception 62001:1 and 62001:7.

Splendid Watch with repeater movement signed M Schreiner 486. The inner case with arched glass. Bell with a hole for the key.

The diameter of the case only 27 mm.

Watches signed "Schreiner, London" can be found at Heimatmuseum in Friedberg, dated approximately 1730.



The inner case with pierced design of animal heads and rocailler.



The diameter of the movement is only 20,3 mm.



Case in gold, made in the style of rococo. Three ladies and a gentleman, with ray pattern in the background.



The characteristic clam decoration, in silver.



The signature "M Schreiner 486" ties this watch to same origin as the other watches.



Mirrored signatures from Friedberg

Watchmaker Joseph Spiegel from Arnach, active from 1736 has been mentioned as the one responsible for signing de fake signatures on watches from Friedberg. As a reason for this assumption was his habit to sign his, and possibly others, name mirrored.

Watches by Speigel, signed Legeips and Miroir, mirror in French, is known in Friedberg before 1750 and several can be found in museums and collections such as private collection in Leipzig, British Museum London, Landrock collection, Seiffenrersdorf, Art museum in Budapest, Prague Nation museum, Watch museum in Genf and, of course, Heimat museum in Augsburg.

Spiegel is known for his horizontal table watches and the so-called coach watches of impressive sizes and high-quality performance with beautifully decorated cases with artistic motifs performed by special case makes, a real master.

Spiegel was, judging by his signature, active in Augsburg, London and Paris. He signed his watches with Miroir á Paris, Miroir Londra, Miroar London, J. Miroir Augsburg, Jo. Legeips London, depending on where he was living (?).

Was Spiegel's German sounding name not accepted in London or Paris? The relationship between Germany and French/England has at time been tensed. Could this have made him mirror his name to change the signature but yet keep his name? Maybe he adjusted the name to the place he, perhaps, was living in?

Compare with the Swedish royal watchmaker André Hessén in Paris 1775-1790, who changed his name Anders to the French André. He was born in Norr Hesse By (hence the name Hessén) in Stora Tuna, Dalarna, Sweden and was born with the name Anders Bengtsson, son of the watchmaker Bengt Andersson, 1709-1761.

Could it have been the habit of Spiegel to 'mirror' his name in the signature Legeips that inspired others to do the same? It is, of course, possible that other watchmakers didn't mirror their signatures before 1736, but there are watches signed 'Schreiner London' dated approx. 1730 to be found in Heimatmuseum, Friedberg.

There is today a German music group calling themselves Legeips, and they have a homepage on Internet amusing themselves and others by mirroring their name and other words like Nemmoklliw/willkommen, seum/neues, and kisum/musik.(!)

Eight mirrored signatures from Friedberg

	Born	Master	Died
DRAKRUB / BURKHARD Ferdinand B, Friedberg	1712	1735	1773
LEGEIPS / SPIEGEL Joseph Friedberg, Friedberg/Augsburg		1736	1750
MOMIS LEIR / SIMON RIEL Simon Riel, Friedberg	1769	1775	1811
REHEAPPAH / HAPPACHER Philipp Happacher, Friedberg	1711		1790
RELLAHEL / SCHALLER Balthasar Schaller, Friedberg	1662	1690	1747
TRAHNIETS / STEINHART Anton Steinhart, Friedberg	1706	1730	1767
RENGAW / WAGNER Johann Georg Wagner, Friedberg	1714	1740	1791
RENPUARG / GRAUPNER Paul Gottfried Graupner, Augsburg		1726	1757

Signs on watches from Friedberg - "London" or "Paris"

Cabrier LONDON

Etienne Lenoir, A PARIS

Cabriel, (not Cabrier), LONDON

Joseph Legeips LONDON

Bauman, Sebastian A PARIS

Miroir, LONDON

Drakrub, LONDON

Momis Leir, PARIS

Drakrup, PARIS

Reheappah, LONDON

Eckert, LONDON

J.G.Rengaw, LONDON

Strixner, LONDON

Renpuarg, LONDON

As it appears some ten different watchmakers, some in high positions in society, senators and mayors, could very well have interacted with some merchant/publisher with good disposal of the watches. Was watch manufacturing in the hands of merchants who knew what would sell the best?

Studies of the salvaged watches from the St Mikael ship sunken in 1747 show that almost all of them had false signatures.

After going over all the details in type and design for the protective watchcases opening knobs and charner, shows that ten out of twelve of the protective watchcases has the same origin of manufacturing although the watches are signed differently.

The connection to Friedberg of the protective watchcases is definitely proven by the fact that the privately owned watch is carrying the signature Schreiner, Mathias, but also that the mirrored signatures Drakrub/Burkhard and Trahniets/Steinhart are known Friedberg watchmakers, see list enclosed.

In addition the watch 62001:7 J=M=Fu=felder can be derived to Friedberg / Aichach. Furthermore, it has been concluded with utmost certainty that the same hand has done both the “Traniets London” and the “Cabrier London” signature in this watch shipment. (see Steinhart, Anton)

Skilful watchcase-makers and silversmiths seem to have been suppliers of watchcases and dials, sometimes just with a “London” signature, ready to be used for various watches. In the watchcases, the mark IR, (Augsburg?) IFG, IAG, and MV, PG and PC under a crown have been found, similar to the ones used by Peter Courtaud (1721) and Phillip(s) Garden (1738) in London.

The similarities on the balance cock, also show that the watches as a group are of the same origin. Possibly there might have been access to ebauches, or parts for these by original equipment manufacturers already in those days. Augsburg was at the time a centre for manufacturing among other things balance cock and bridges, where the manufacturing was done by skilful wives and daughters of watchmakers.

The manufacturing of chains for watches was for example in London done by labour at home in the late 1700s, mostly done by women but also children from nine years of age took part in the work. It is generally believed that the chains previously was imported from Switzerland where there were known manufacturers in La Chaux de Fonds and Le Locle already in 1750. The conditions were probably similar in Augsburg and Friedberg.

Already in 1760 mainsprings, chains and pinion wire was manufactured also in Stockholm, by the fine/smith Olof Beckelin.

Yet only a small part of the watch production in Friedberg had false signatures.

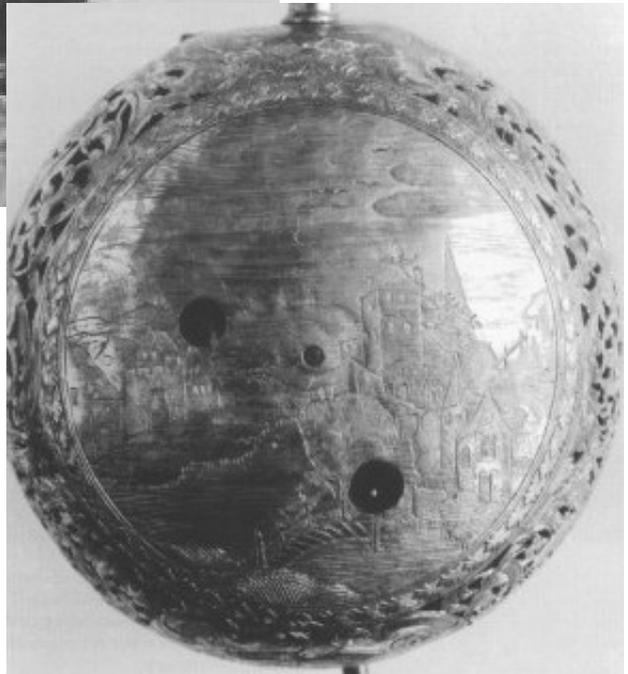
The main part was masterpieces of high quality with original signatures like the coach watch signed Benedi=Fürsten=Felder Friedberg from approx. 1725 on the opposite page.

The watch making in Friedberg was during the whole of 18th century well known

for its manufacturing repeater watches, from pocket watches to magnificent coach watches in artistically designed watchcases, manufactured by skilful watchcase/makers and goldsmiths and silversmiths. This has been thoroughly covered in the exhibition catalogue 'Friedberger Uren' by Adelheid Riolini-Unger, Heimatmuseum Friedberg 1993.



62001:10 Cabrier London



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62001:6 Re Kurnab London

List of watchmakers active in Augsburg/Friedberg

	Born	Died	Active	
BAIR, Georg	1638	1699		Friedberg
BAU(E)R, Joseph, son of Joh. Michael B.	1795	1870		
BAUMANN, Sebastian	1729	1805		Friedberg
BAUR, Franziskus Borgias	1766	1831		
BAUR, Joh. Michael, senior			1764-	Friedberg
BAUR, Joh. Michael, junior	1765	1826 or 1846		Friedberg
BAYR (Bair), Georg	1638	1699		
BEITELROCK, Johann	1700	1758	1736-1758	Augsburg
BOLLINGER, Joh. Wolfgang			1725-1760	Friedberg
BRADEL, Nikodemus			1753-1770	Augsburg
BRADEL,(BRADL) Antony			1739-1770	Augsburg
BROD(T), Johann Georg			1755-1792	Augsburg
BRODT, Johann Georg			1786-1793	Augsburg
BRODT, Joseph Ignati	1756		1791-1798	Augsburg
BROSY, Mikael		1733		Friedberg
BROSY, Johann Paul, son of Mikael B.	1692	1756		Friedberg
BURCKHARD, Ferdinand	1712	1773		Friedberg
BURCKHARDT, Joseph	1762	1796		Friedberg
DEIS, Johann Michael	1700	1787		Friedberg
DELLE, Johann Daniel		1747		Friedberg
DÖLLE, Thomas		1689		Friedberg
ECKERT, Heinrich	1717	1788		
ENGELSCHALK, Leonhard		1685		Friedberg
ENGELSCHALK, Ferdinand, son of Johann Georg E.	1681	1755		Friedberg
ENGELSCHALK, Johann Christian	1655	1706		Friedberg
ENGELSCHALK, Johann Georg, son of Leonhard E.	1656	1687		Friedberg
ERB, Albrecht, watchmaker at the imperial court in Vienna 1659	1628	1714	1661-1714	Friedberg
FERRER, Johannes Baptista			1760	Augsburg
FLEINER, Johann Georg		1754		Augsburg/ Friedberg
FRIEDL, Sebastian	1790	1872		Friedberg
FÜRSTENFELDER, Johannes, watchmaker(?) in Aichach				
FÜRSTENFELDER, Benedikt	1680	1754		Friedberg
GAIL, Matthias	1633	1705		Friedberg
GEGENRAINER, Franz Xav.	1730		1766-1788	Augsburg
GLENCK, Johann Martin		1741		Friedberg

	Born	Died	Active	
GOEGEL, Joseph	1775	1834		Friedberg
GRAUPNER, J. G.			1720	Augsburg
GRAUPNER, Paul Gottfried		<1757	1726-	Augsburg
GRUNDLER, Andreas	1705	1742		Friedberg
HÄCKHL (Häckl-Heckhl), Conrad	1686	1743		Augsburg
HAGN, Caspar, son of Johann H.	1787			Friedberg
HAGN, Johann born in Aichach	1761			
HALAICHER, Johann Oth	1612	1689	1636-1689	Augsburg
HAPPACHER, Bartholomäus, son of Philipp H.	1749	1826		Augsburg
HAPPACHER, Leonhard, son of Xaver H.	1830	1878		Friedberg
HAPPACHER, Ludwig, son of Xaver H.	1831	1856		Friedberg
HAPPACHER, Philipp	1711	1792		
HAPPACHER, Xaver, son of Bartholomäus H.	1795	1855		Friedberg
HECKEL, Frans Joseph	1725	1796		Friedberg
HECKEL, Franz Elias	1721	1776		
HECKEL, Johann	1673	1743	1722-1743	Friedberg
HECKEL, Joseph Antoni			1700	Friedberg
HECKHEL, Francesco			1730	Friedberg
HECKHEL, Johann	1673	1743		Augsburg/ Friedberg
HECKL, Johann	1770	1823		
HECKL, Johann Sebastian, son of Conrad H	1730	1793	1749-1793	Augsburg
HECKL, Joseph Anton, Urmakarson		1802		
HELBIG (Helwig), Franz Carl		1771		Friedberg
HENGGI, Joseph	1785	1831		
HENGGI, Joseph Anton		1802	1785-1802	
HEPP (Höpp), Ulrich			1769-	Augsburg
HO(C)HENADL, Adalbert, later watchmaker at the imperial court in Vienna.			1711	Friedberg
HO(C)HENADL, Johann		1743		Friedberg
HOHENADL, Adalbert (Martin), son of Adalbert H. senior.	1713		1740-	Friedberg
HOHENADL, Andreas, son of Adalbert H. senior.	1714	1793	1740-1793	Friedberg
HOHENADL, Franz, Andreas, son of Adalbert H. senior.	1712			Friedberg
HÖRMANN, Georg Eichstädt			1725	
HORN, Johann Martin	1750	1786		Augsburg
JEGER, Johann Georg			1766-1768	Augsburg
KELLER, Johann Michael		1679		
KHREITMAIER, Franz, son of Johann K.	1670	1714		Friedberg
KÖBERLE, Wilhelm Eichstädt			1680-1720	
KORNMAN, Johann . Friedberg	1640	1719		Friedberg
KORNMAN, Johann Georg, son of Johann K	1673	1743		Friedberg

	Born	Died	Active	
KRAITMAYR, (Kreuthmeyer) Johann Sebastian, son of Johann K.				Friedberg
KRAITMAYR (Kreittmayer), Elias (I), son of Johann K.	1639	1697		Friedberg
KRAITMAYR, Wiguläus		c:a 1660		Friedberg
KREITTMAYR, Elias (II), son of Elias (I) K.	1676	1720		Friedberg
KREITTMAYR, Johann Georg, son of Wiguläus K.		1660-1675		Friedberg
KURZ, Sebastian	1743	1828		Friedberg
LECHNER, Franz, married to watchmakers daughter Mari Josepha Bannrukker			1798	
LECHNER, Matthäus	1778	1843		
LECHNER, Sebastian, son of Franz L.	1799		1835-	Friedberg
LENCK, Egidius			1776-	Augsburg
LENZ, Johann Georg, married 1785 to watchmakers daughter Anna Mahl				
LENZ, Paul	1770	1855		
LIPP, Matthias	<1762		1788-	
MÄGELE (Mägeli), Ignaz			1780	Augsburg
MAHL, Sebastian			1785-	Friedberg
MANGMEISTER, Vitus			1753-	Augsburg
MÄRTEL, Ferdinand, mayor	1728	1784		Friedberg
MAYR (Mayer, Meyer), Jakob	1720		1750-	Augsburg
MAYR, Ignaz	1774	1858		Friedberg
MAYR, Jakob		1714	1672-1714	Augsburg
MAYR, Johann Georg	1636			Friedberg
MAYR, Johann Peter			c:a 1740	Augsburg
MAYR, Sebastian	1804	1844		
MERZ, Antoni	1684	1726		Friedberg
NIGGL, Joseph, journeyman in Graz 1749	c:a 1723		1749-	
POLLINGER, Johann Wolfgang			1740-	
REHLE, Johann	1684	1726		
RIE(H)L, Johann, (Jakob), son of Simon R.	1780	1849		Augsburg
RIEL, Simon	1738	1811		
ROLL, Georg			c:a 1550-1599	
ROTH, Franz Anton			1759-1790	Augsburg
RUEPP, Benedikt			c:a 1820	Friedberg
RUMEL, Johann	1748	1826	1776-1826	Friedberg
RUMEL, Johann Baptist(a)	1689	1760		Friedberg
RUMMEL, Augustin	1660	1706		
SCHALLER, Balthasar	1662	1747		
SCHE(N)NER (Schöner), Christoph	1660	1710	1681-1710	Augsburg

	Born	Died	Active	
SCHENK, Jakob	1793-94	1846		Friedberg
SCHREINER, Karl Mathias, son of Mathias S.	1730	1782	1762-1782	
SCHREINER, Mathias	1662			
SEITZ, Elias	1688	1742		Friedberg
SINGER, Joh. Christoph	1775	1843		
SPÄTT, Johann Anton			1740-	
SPIEGEL (MIROIR, LEGEIPS), Joseph	1736	1760		Friedberg
STRIXNER, Jakob	1699	1770		Friedberg
STRIXNER, Franz, son of Jakob S.	1745	1818		Friedberg
STRIXNER, Andreas, son of Jakob S.	1751	1830		Friedberg
STRIXNER, Johann Jakob, son of Jakob S.	1755			Friedberg
TANSPET, Joseph			1763	Augsburg
TEGER, Johann Georg			1750	Augsburg
TREFFLER, Caspar		1743		
TREFFLER, Sebastian	1714	1791		
TREIBLER, Johann	1644	1682		
TREIBLER, Johann Christian, son of Johann T.	1651			
VOGL, Thomas			1791-	Augsburg
WAGNER, Johann Georg	1714	1791		Friedberg
WIDMANN, Michael	1770	1848		
WÖHRLE (ELRHOW), Joseph		1761		Augsburg
WOLF, Sebastian	1728	1798		
WÖRLE, Johann Michael	1739		1766-	Friedberg
WÖRLE, Johannes	1754	1820		
ZEIDLMAJR, Andreas, son of Vitus Z.		1728		
ZEIDLMAJR, Joseph	1741	1818		
ZEIDLMAJR, Vitus		1720		
ZWACK, Johann Georg			1797-	Friedberg

Watchmakers names:

Adelheid Riolini-Unger "Friedberger Uhren"

Heimat Museum der Stadt Friedberg

G.H. Baillie "Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World".



62001:9 Poy London

Watches carefully renovated by the museum's curator, after 200 years in the ocean depths.

Epilogue

Considering that this is just one shipment limited in time and that the manufacturing in Friedberg went on for another 50 years after this incident (and surely long before) you may get an idea of the number of false signatures on watches on the market.

It has been estimated that during the early 18th century there were approximately 25-30 watchmakers working simultaneously in Friedberg. This number increased successively to some 40 watchmakers operating during the last decade of the century. During the first 25 years of the 19th century this number decreased to about half and after 1850 only just some ten watchmakers remained active.

The watch manufacturing entered a new stage and Switzerland was now dominating the market in Europe. It has been more than 250 years since the watch shipment followed the galliot St Mikael into the deep, and here we are with all questions to answer.

It has been a fantastic research task to be able to, in this way, get an insight in the makings of this time. I am very grateful to The Maritime Museum of Finland that benevolently has supplied me with the research material.

Thank you.

The author.



Albin Schaefer

Finnish fishermen were 1953 caught by their anchor wire during fishing near the island of Borstö in the archipelago of Åbo, off the southwestern coast of Finland. Later, navy divers were sent down and found an upright standing wreck at a depth of some 40 metres.

The recovery of the cargo that had been stored in the cabin was made by Swedish divers in the early 1960s and proved to contain a number of valuables, among other things gold and silver objects and watches.

Chinese porcelain was salvaged in the 1990s by Finnish marine archaeologists. Research has shown that the ship's destination was to the imperial court in St Petersburg and the Empress Elisabeth Petrovna.

The shipwreck has been and is still of great interest to researchers in different areas.

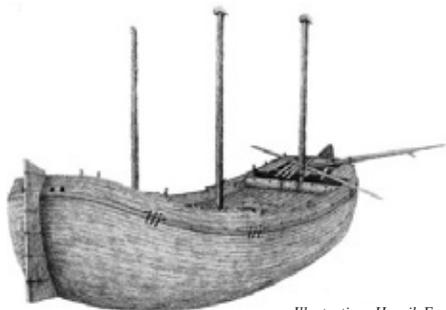


Illustration: Henrik Forsell

The Borstö wreck today. The ship masts stand vertical and the ship has been preserved well in the deep of the Finnish archipelago.

This booklet presents the thorough research done to establish the origin of the watches found on the wreck St Mikael.

The research material is unique since it represents a group of watches, from a very exact and limited time period, packed in the same box with the same destination.



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