



LOUIS MOINET  
1806



MECHANICAL ART IN LIMITED EDITION



*Louis Moinet (1768 – 1853)*  
*Portrait by Raymond Perrenoud*



Courtesy of Auktionen Dr Crott, Mannheim

## THE LOUIS MOINET STORY



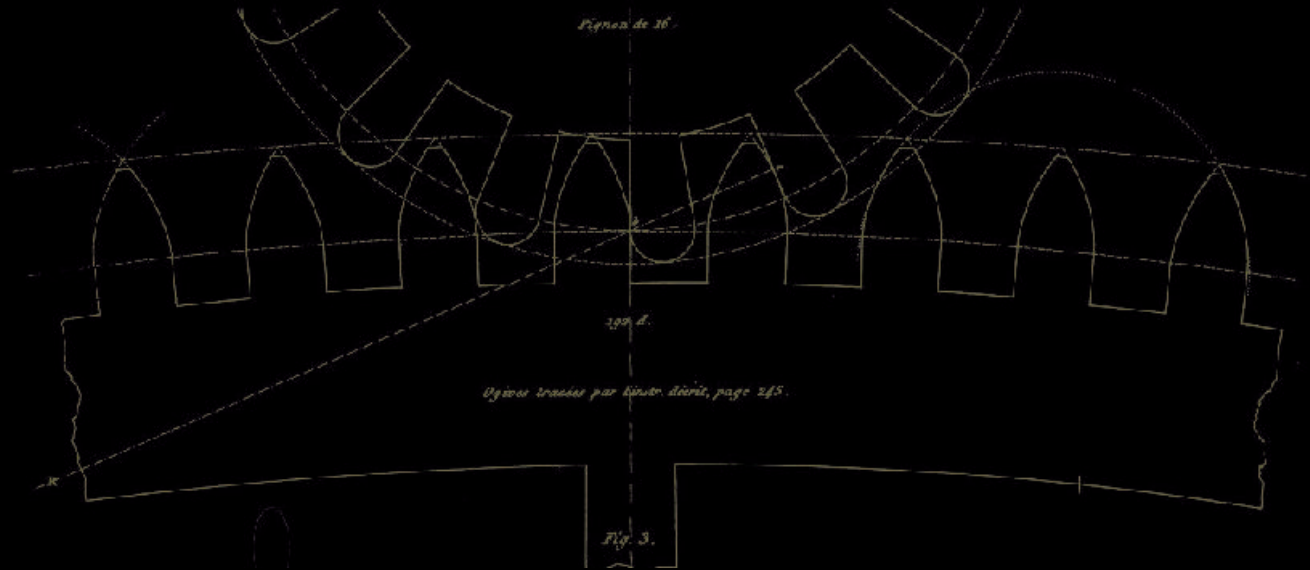
*Bourges in the 18<sup>th</sup> century*



1768

## LOUIS MOINET

Louis Moinet was born in Bourges in 1768 into a well-to-do family of farmers. During his studies, he quickly distinguished himself for his mastery of classical subjects, and he regularly took first place in academic competitions. While still a student, he was introduced to the world of watchmaking, and he spent almost all of his free time by the side of a master watchmaker. He was also privately tutored in drawing by an Italian painter.



*French Academy, Villa Medici (Rome)*

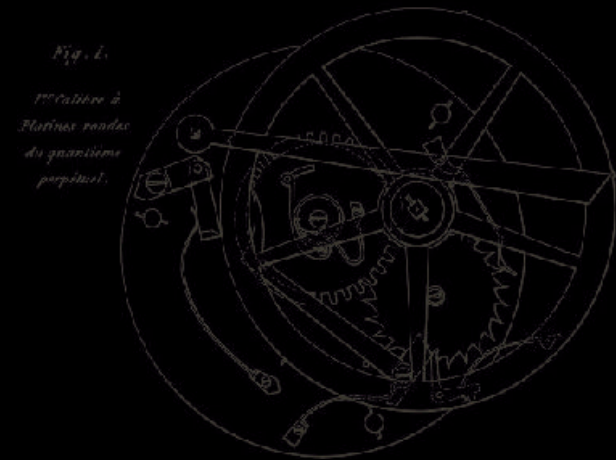
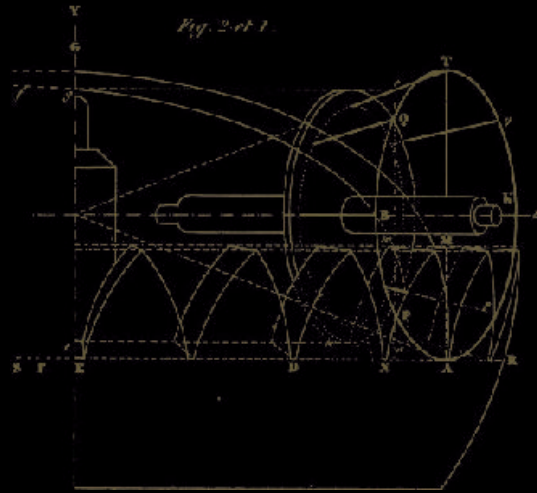
# 1788

## MASTER OF ART

By the time he was 20, Louis Moinet dreamed constantly of Italy, the classic land of fine arts. He left France for the city of Rome, where he lived for five years, studying architecture, sculpture and painting. He became acquainted with members of the *Académie de France*, which encompassed some of the finest artists of the times.

He then moved from Rome to Florence, where he learned the art of fine stone engraving in a workshop placed at his disposal by Count Manfredini, Minister of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. He also did several paintings there.





1795

## PROFESSOR OF FINE ARTS

Upon his return to Paris, he was appointed Professor of the *Académie des Beaux-Arts*, in the Louvre. He became a member of several scholarly and artistic societies, and cooperated with eminent artists such as the astronomer Lalande, the bronzier Thomire, and Robert-Houdin, the skilled automaton-maker who is considered as the “renovator of magical art”.



*Le Louvre, Paris*



# 1800

## A REFERENCE IN “HAUTE HORLOGERIE”

In parallel, he pursued his theoretical and practical study of horology, the art for which he already nurtured a passion. He renewed contact with his former teacher, and the student quickly became the master.

Watchmaking occupied his entire time from 1800 onwards. He spent long periods in Switzerland, from the Jura mountains to the Joux valley. He met many famous watchmakers there, including Jacques-Frédéric Houriet, and acquired his horological tools and instruments.

Moinet himself was described by his peers as a “gifted artist”, an “eminent scholar” and “a specialist in transcendent horology” !



*Louis Moinet (1768 – 1853)*

## PRESIDENT OF THE “*SOCIÉTÉ CHRONOMÉTRIQUE*”

Louis Moinet was appointed President of the “*Société Chronométrique de Paris*” (Chronometry Society of Paris), whose membership included some of the greatest talents of the era, and whose avowed purpose was “the development and encouragement of watchmaking, one of the finest sciences of the human mind”.

Within this setting, he cultivated ties with his fellow members including Louis Berthoud, Antide Janvier, Louis-Frédéric Perrelet, Joseph Winnerl, as well as Vulliamy, who served as the King’s Watchmaker in London.

ca. 1818 - 1822

## WORK WITH BREGUET

Louis Moinet worked closely with the great Abraham-Louis Breguet, over a period of many years, acting in the capacity of close friend, confidant and intimate advisor. The two men shared the same passion for the art of horology.





*Fig. 8.*  
1800 - 1853

## EXTRAORDINARY CUSTOMERS

In the course of his career, Louis Moinet created some extraordinary clocks for such eminent figures of his era as Napoleon Bonaparte, Tsar Alexander I<sup>st</sup>, American presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, King George IV of England, King of Naples, Marshal Ney, along with many crowned heads the length and breadth of Europe.



*Tsar Alexander I<sup>st</sup>*



*King George IV of England*



*Empire clock*  
Courtesy of Sothebys



*Tsar Alexander's clock*



*Napoleon's clock (1806)*

*Napoleon's clock can be admired at the National  
Museum from Carillon to Street organ  
NL – Utrecht ([www.museumspeelklok.nl](http://www.museumspeelklok.nl))*



*Napoleon*

# 1806

## NAPOLEON

There are some extraordinary stories behind Louis Moinet's clocks, usually crafted in cooperation with the famous bronzier, Thomire.

The “Napoleon Clock” was made in 1806 by Louis Moinet in Paris, and is equipped with an eight-day movement. It displays the hours, minutes and date.





*King of Naples' clock, Louis Moinet, ca. 1810*  
Les Ateliers Louis Moinet collection



*Joachim Murat, brother-in-law of Napoleon Bonaparte.  
Prince, Marshal of France, King of Naples and the two Sicilies*

ca. 1810

## MARSHAL MURAT, KING OF NAPLES

This exceptional clock of astonishing intricacy was manufactured for Marshal Joachim Murat, King of Naples.

The four different dials combine a full calendar indicating the hours, minutes, seconds, day, date, month and moon-phase. The movement is entirely visible from the back.



*Louis Moinet clock almost identical to the one possessed by Thomas Jefferson.  
Thomas Jefferson's clock can be seen at Monticello Museum, Virginia  
([www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org))*



*Thomas Jefferson*

ca. 1810

## THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson, signatory of the Declaration of Independence and also United States Ambassador in Paris, became acquainted with Louis Moinet, and spelled out for the latter his three criteria for the creation of the work of art : beauty, durability and utility. One can well imagine that he really loved his clock, since it accompanied him during his two White House terms of office and indeed until his last breath.





*James Monroe, 5<sup>th</sup> American President*



*The White House, Washington*

1817

## JAMES MONROE

James Monroe's clock is one of the original objects decorating the White House as it now stands. It was purchased in Paris in 1817 in order to adorn the White House that had been burned down by the English in 1814, and then rebuilt by architect James Hoban.

A large proportion of the original furniture of the White House has been lost over the years, and only a handful of these witnesses to the past remain, including the famous "Minerva" clock by Moinet and Thomire.

*Louis Moinet clock, representing "Emperor Nero" and of the same period and style as famous "Minerva" clock, which can be admired at the White House, Washington ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov))*



# 1800 - 1853

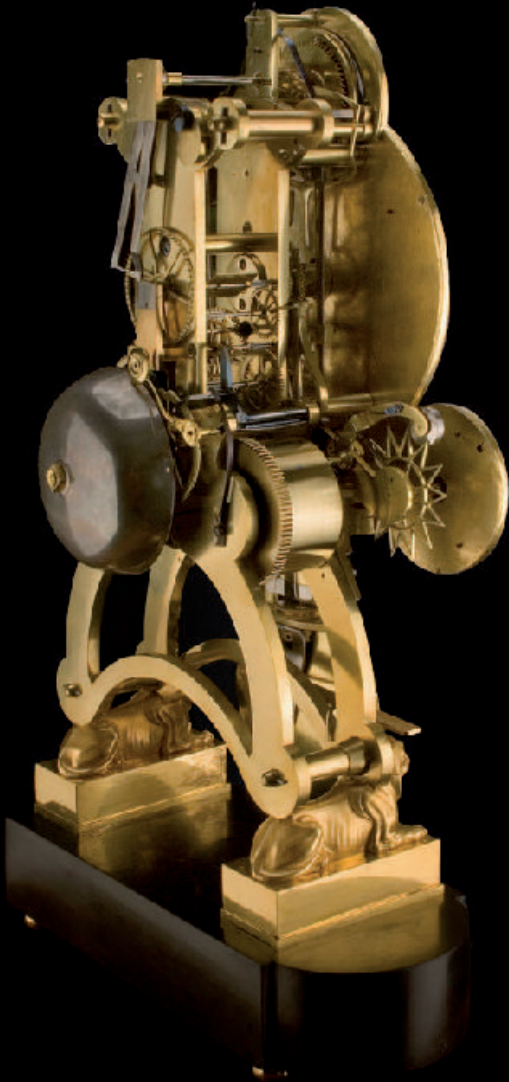
## EXTRAORDINARY MECHANISMS

The work of Louis Moinet includes alarm watches, regulators and astronomical watches. As the inventor of unprecedented concepts, he devised some truly astonishing mechanisms.

For example, several of his pocket-watch calibres boasted unusual arrangements of the components (such as with the whole set of gears built around the same pinion).

Moreover, he invented a mainspring that improved the rating of the watch – a spring he poetically described as being a “half-ripe cherry red” colour when fired in the kiln. He also developed a new balance-cock that facilitated winding.

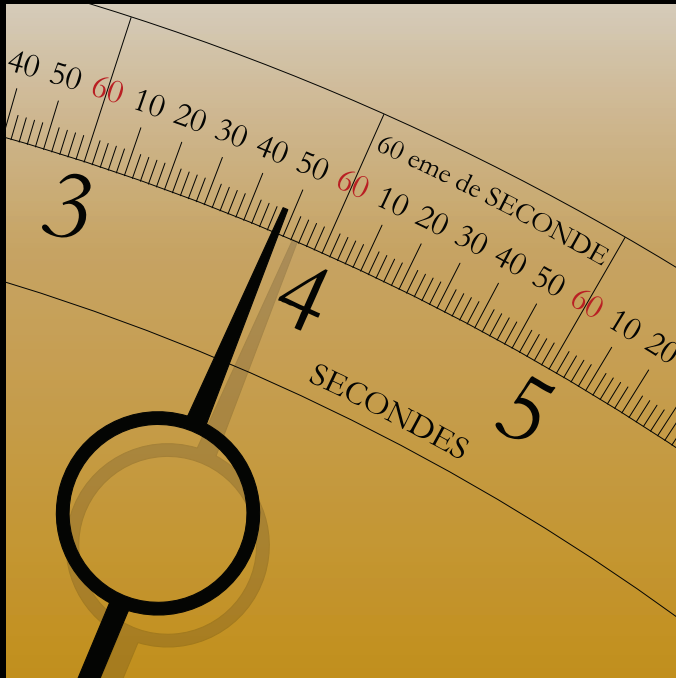
After tireless efforts, he created a construction serving to move the stud of the balance-spring stud so as to poise the escapement correctly without needing to dismantle anything. Finally, he slotted, rounded and hand-finished the gear trains of his marine chronometers in order to ensure their precision.



*Back view of King of Naples' clock, Louis Moinet, ca. 1810*



*Louis Moinet study of a toothed barrel leading to his discovery of a mainspring improving the rating of the watch*

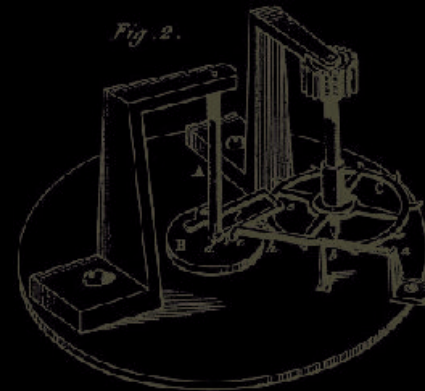


*Louis Moinet's 60<sup>th</sup> of a second counter had a degree of accuracy superior to any other time measurement*

## A PIONEER OF CHRONOMETRY

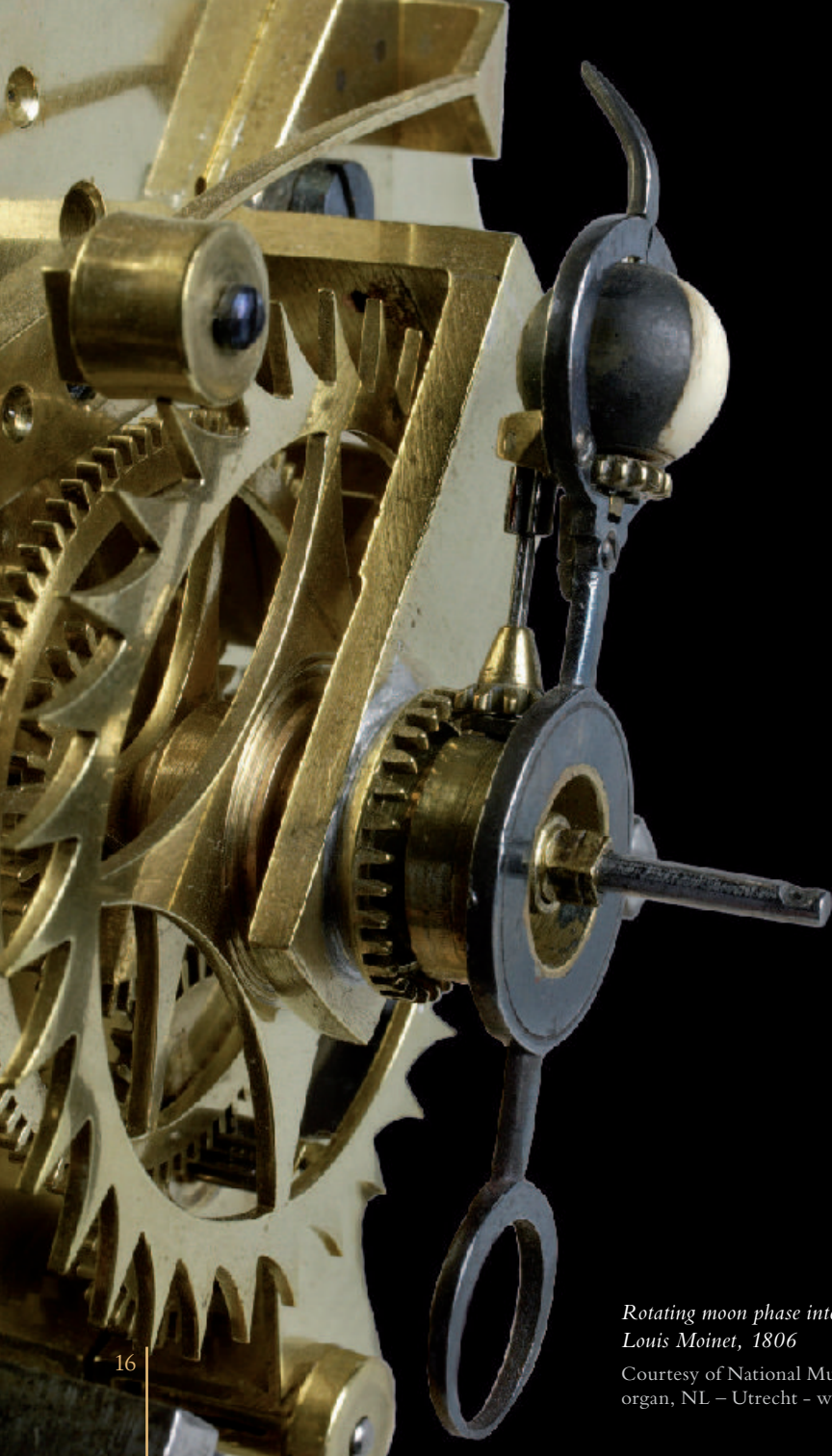
To enhance his astronomical observations, Louis Moinet invented a sensational instrument : a counter in the shape of a watch displaying 60<sup>ths</sup> of a second, and which he called a “*compte-tierce*” or 60<sup>th</sup> of a second counter. The obvious advantage was a degree of accuracy superior to any other time measurement.

One of its particularly original features was a jewelled escapement that oscillated at 216,000 vibrations per hour without any trace of wear nor increased friction during prolonged use.



*Escapement drawing, Louis Moinet, 1848*





# 1800 - 1853

## AMAZING INVENTIONS

The great originality of the “Napoleon Clock” lies in an outstanding mechanism displaying the moon phases inside the day hand, by means of a tiny ivory ball.



*Napoleon and Josephine are crowned Emperor and Empress as soon as the music box is activated. To achieve this, an ingenious mechanism physically places the imperial crown on their heads*

*Rotating moon phase integrated in the calendar hand  
Louis Moinet, 1806*

Courtesy of National Museum from Carillon to Street organ, NL – Utrecht - [www.museumspeelklok.nl](http://www.museumspeelklok.nl)





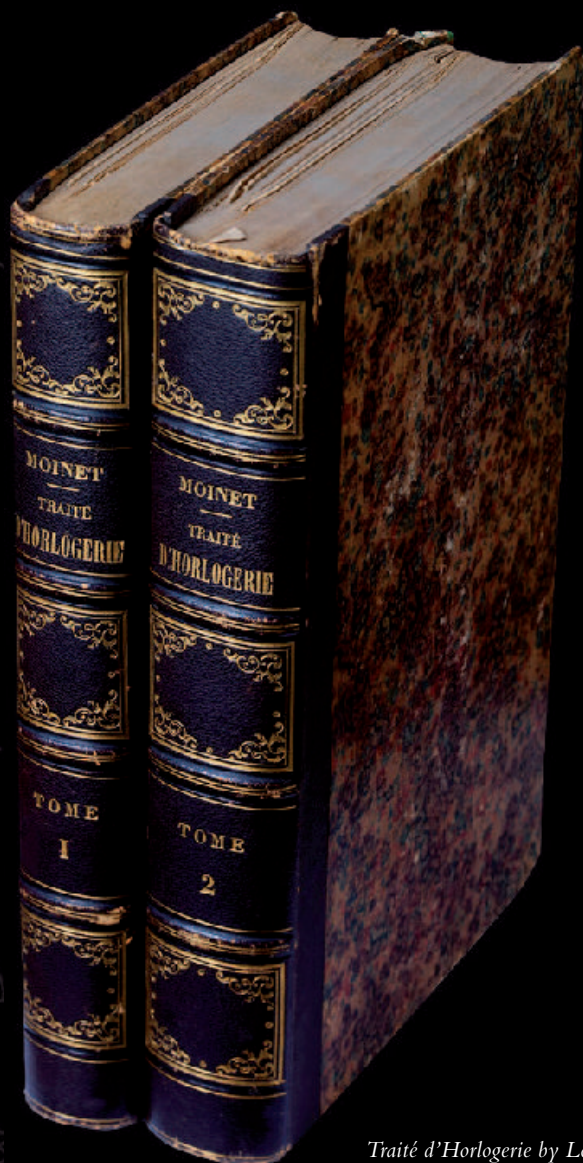
*Bronze urn clock "à cercles tournants", Louis Moinet, ca. 1810. This objet d'art belonged to Ernst August, Prince of Hanover*

## AMAZING INVENTIONS

As a maker of precision instruments, Louis Moinet was involved in maritime, astronomical and civilian horology. He was an ingenious craftsman who perfected various techniques in these fields and developed several important new improvements.



*"Rotating circles", cylinder technology used to spectacular effect.  
Louis Moinet, ca. 1810*



*Traité d'Horlogerie by Louis Moinet*

Fig. 3.  
1848

## TRAITE D'HORLOGERIE

Louis Moinet is in particular renowned for his famous *Traité d'Horlogerie* (Watchmaking Treatise). Published in 1848, reprinted in 1856 and 1875, it is widely reputed to be the finest book on horology of the century.

Comprising descriptions of the finest watchmaking techniques, it was appreciated by the great watchmakers of his era such as Frodsham, Perrelet, Saunier and Winnerl, as well as by several other scholars and connoisseurs such as HRH Prince Alexander of Orange – all of whom appear on the list of the numerous subscribers to a book that was reprinted three times and circulated as far afield as Russia and Cuba.

Louis Moinet devoted twenty years of his life to writing this two-volume treatise, which remains highly sought after to this day. It contains in particular a practical and universal method for gears that follow scientific principles duly modified by their application.







Louis Moinet (1768 – 1853)

1853

## LOUIS MOINET

The work of Louis Moinet consisted in giving life and soul to matter. Dedicated to excellence and extremely modest by nature, Louis Moinet was driven by the ambition to advance his Art rather than a desire for commercial profit – which is why he freely shared his ingenious ideas with his fellow watchmakers.

Acknowledged by his peers as a good-hearted man of outstanding intellect, he died in Paris on May 21<sup>st</sup> 1853, at the age of 85.

*“Louis Moinet is undoubtedly one of the most capable watchmakers who lived in any time and in any nation”*

*Mr Delmas, Vice-President,  
Société Chronométrique de Paris, 1853*





*The House of Louis Moinet in Saint-Blaise (NE)*

# TODAY

## LES ATELIERS LOUIS MOINET

Les Ateliers Louis Moinet is an independent company based on creativity.

Jean-Marie Schaller is a specialist of historical brands. He fell in love with Louis Moinet's unique universe and represents the younger generation in charge of maintaining the company's traditions. With his wife, Micaela Bartolucci, and a team of valiant designers, movement engineers, watchmakers and craftsmen, he offers a new and innovative concept in watchmaking with "Mechanical Art in Limited Edition".



*Jean-Marie Schaller and Micaela Bartolucci*



MECHANICAL ART

✿ ✿ in ✿ ★

LIMITED EDITION



## THE UNIQUENESS OF LOUIS MOINET

Embodying perfect fusion of heritage and innovation, Louis Moinet is truly unique and different.



*Back of the VERTALIS Tourbillon*



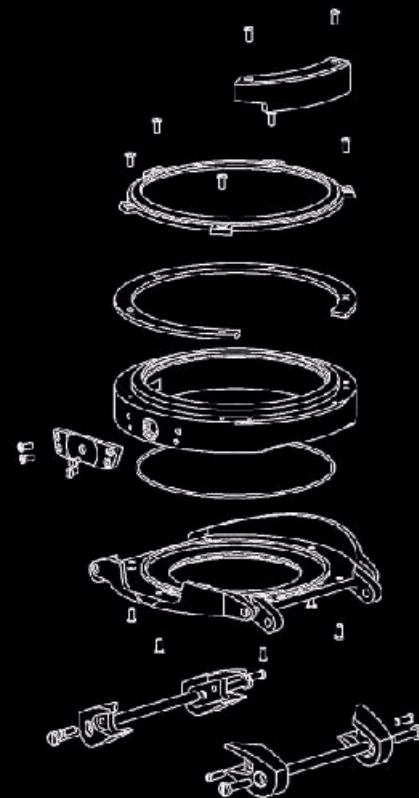


TEMPOGRAPH, an exceptional new case composed of 48 different elements

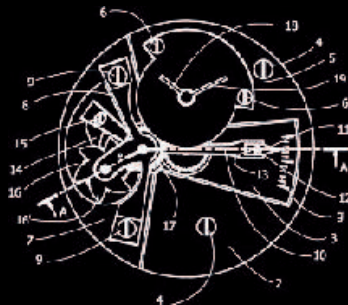


## CREATIVE WATCHMAKING

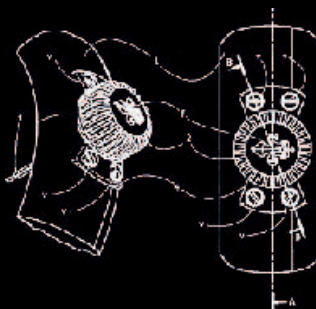
Each Louis Moinet creation features rare and distinctive mechanical movements as well as innovative component solutions.



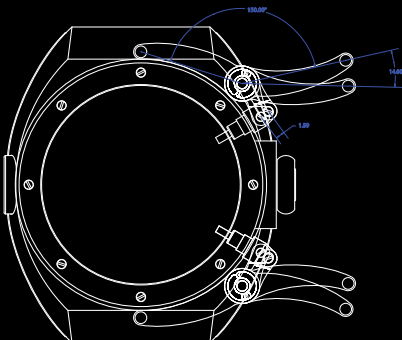




TEMPOGRAPH



CROWN GUARD



CHRONOGRAPH SYSTEM

## THE PATENTS

We never cease to invent unique watches in the vanguard of creative watchmaking :

### Pending Patent 1 : Unique “TEMPOGRAPH” technology

The technology of the TEMPOGRAPH, the first and only retrograde watch with open-heart mechanism, is protected by a pending patent.

### Pending Patent 2 : “Crown guard”

The crown guard consists of an independent stem integrated within a watertight system and held with a plate secured by four screws. It represents a major advantage compared to the traditionally soldered stem, facilitating its replacement if required.

### Pending Patent 3 : “JULES VERNE” chronograph

In his JULES VERNE line, Louis Moinet introduces a new way to use your chronograph. This advanced technical solution to “start” and “stop” the chronograph has the advantage of fully securing the handling of the functions.



*The "Côtes du Jura",  
Louis Moinet's signature design*



## ART & DESIGN

Each Louis Moinet watch carries a unique artistic spirit, embodied by creative design.

Design is highlighted by a newly invented decoration, the "Côtes du Jura" based on an exclusive proprietary manufacturing process.



Four different case designs have been registered. OLYMPIA has now become a collectible as it quickly sold out



*MAGISTRALIS*

Louis Moinet is the first and only brand to manufacture watches with an authentic piece of the moon (lunar meteorite).

The first one in the world is MAGISTRALIS. Used to craft the moon-phase display, this rare material is even more expensive than gold, diamond and platinum combined.

Of all meteorites found on the earth, the lunar meteorite (moon rock) is the rarest.



Using an authentic moon rock, a world first !





## EXCLUSIVITY

Louis Moinet timepieces are rare and exclusive. Annual production does not exceed 1,000 watches. That is why each Louis Moinet watch bears the symbols of exclusivity on its caseback.

A star indicates that the watch is part of a Limited Edition. The moon indicates that the watch is unique, and



SPIROSCOPE







LIMITED  
EDITIONS



VERTALIS TOURBILLON



VERTALIS, ONE OF THE  
FINEST TOURBILLONS  
IN THE WORLD







WORLD FIRST

THE FIRST RETROGRADE WATCH WITH VISIBLE MECHANISM  
IN THE WORLD

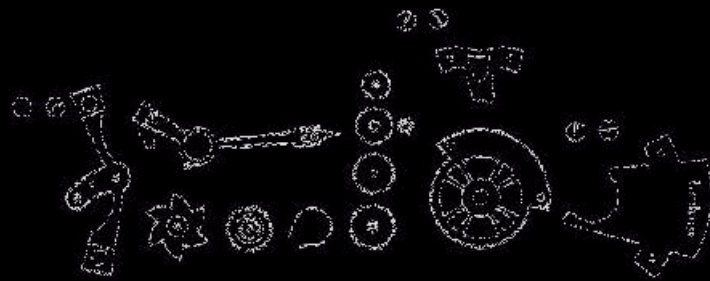
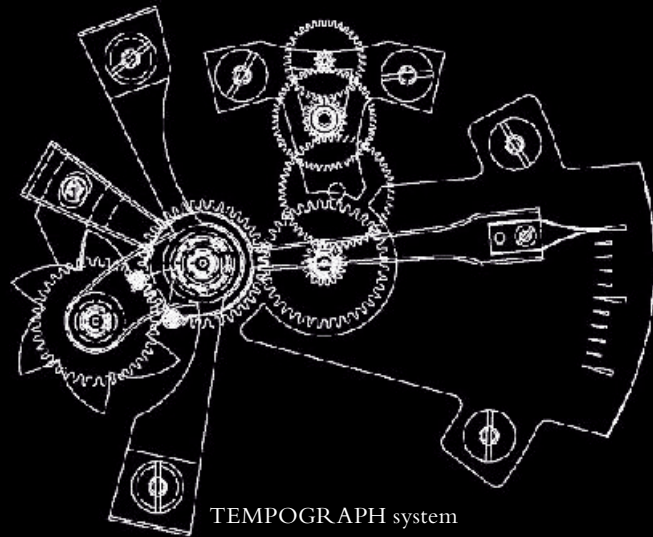


TEMPOGRAPH





## TEMPOGRAPH, A COMPLEX & PATENTED HIGH-TECH WATCH















WORLD FIRST

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST MAN TO WEAR THE MOON ON HIS WRIST ?  
LOUIS MOINET ANSWERS THIS QUESTION WITH MAGISTRALIS



MAGISTRALIS





## MAGISTRALIS, A WORLD FIRST

Louis Moinet is the world's first and only brand to create a watch featuring an authentic piece of the moon. This 2000 year-old lunar meteorite is used for the moon-phase display of the hundred-year old and extremely sophisticated complication movement (including minute repeater, perpetual calendar and single-pusher chronograph functions) powering the MAGISTRALIS.

The incredibly complex 5N rose gold and 3N case is composed of 90 different parts, while the presentation box is highly creative in its own right : Louis Moinet introduces the first musical instrument for a watch thanks to the watch stand which serves to amplify the sound of the repeater mechanism. Finally, an original copy of Louis Moinet's famous *Traité d'Horlogerie* sets the final dream touch to the fascinating history of this watch.

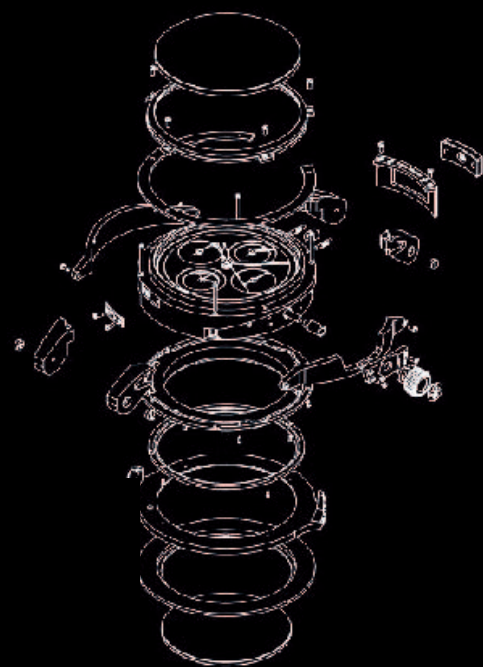
### ✿ HIDDEN SECRET No 1

Dhofar 459, the very first piece of the moon to be used in a watch



*Watch movement and its moon-phase in genuine moon rock*





# MAGIC

SPECTACULAR & OUT OF THIS WORLD



JULES VERNE “INSTRUMENT 1” & “INSTRUMENT 2”

# JULES VERNE & WATCHMAKING



*Jules Verne*  
(1828 – 1905)

## JULES VERNE AND TIME

You wear a watch. Does it make you feel that you are in control of time? Or does it not rather make you feel the opposite... that you are always chasing after time... lost...?

Jules Verne asked himself the same question. What was his answer? I leave it for you to discover by reading a short story first published in a magazine in 1854, then again in a book in 1874. The title is *Master Zacharius* and the story is set in Geneva, Switzerland.

Master Zacharius is a watchmaker, the best there is. Gradually, as the story unfolds, he starts to suppose that he controls time. I will leave you the pleasure of discovering what happens to someone who wants to show that he is God's equal...

*Jean-Michel Margot*  
*President North American*  
*Jules Verne Society*



## JULES VERNE

Did the inspired master watchmaker and the science fiction writer ever meet? That is the enigma we decided to solve in our own way, along with Jean-Marie Schaller. Jules Verne passed away in 1905, Louis Moinet in 1853. They shared a passion for innovation. And even if they did not meet, they had every reason to do so. With one mastering time and the other taming science, all for the good of mankind, in this case watchmaking and writing have something in common: accuracy. The sophistication of the movements used in Louis Moinet's systems, and the wealth of detail and extreme credibility mingled with poetry found in my illustrious ancestor's narratives, which were based on the scientific discoveries of his day, bring the two realms astonishingly close together. It is obvious that Jules Verne's work plays constantly with time and space. Several of his works of science fiction were to leave their mark on the history of literature: *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Robur the Conqueror*... These were nothing more than the accurate calculations and predictive vision of science projected into the future.

One obstacle remained: time. *Around the World in Eighty Days* captured that challenge, won by the man searching for a form of eternity. And I'll give you a scoop: Phileas Fogg travelled with a Louis Moinet.

*Jean-Michel Verne*  
*Journalist and writer*





# FROM THE MOON TO THE EARTH

JULES VERNE – DHOFAR 459

## A world first by Louis Moinet – A real piece of the moon !

Dhofar 459 is a lunar meteorite that was ejected from the moon 2,000 years ago. The meteorite, which has been authenticated by the University of California, actually added to our knowledge of lunar geology, since it came from a place that the Apollo missions did not visit. Moon stone is an extremely rare material that is even more expensive than gold and platinum combined.

## A travel from the Moon to the Earth

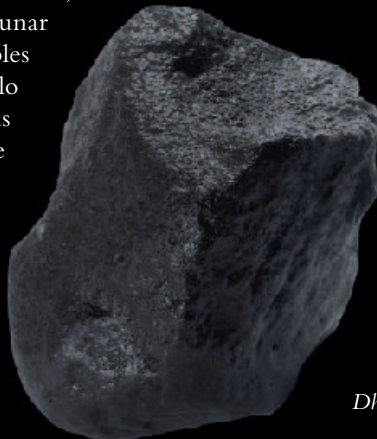
500 millions years ago, a first asteroid impacted the Moon. Then, a second asteroid impacted the moon at the same place, circa 2,000 years ago, giving birth to Dhofar 459.

Dhofar 459 was accelerated by this asteroidal impact and escaped the Moon's gravitational influence. After a journey of unknown duration, it became captured by the Earth's gravitational field and eventually landed on earth, in the Desert of Dhofar (Sultanate of Oman).

## How do we know that it comes from the Moon ?

Dhofar 459 has been analysed and classified by A. Rubin and Paul Warren, Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, Los Angeles.

Chemical compositions, isotope ratios, minerals, and textures of the lunar meteorites are similar to those of samples collected on the Moon during the Apollo missions. Taken together, these various characteristics are different from those of any other type of meteorite or terrestrial rock.



*Dhofar 459*



## What is a Lunar Meteorite?

Lunar meteorites are meteorites from the Moon. In other words, they are rocks found on Earth that were ejected from the Moon by the impact of an asteroid or possibly a comet. After orbiting the moon for a long time, they were eventually captured by Earth's gravitational field, and fell to Earth as solid objects.

## Lunar meteorites are exceedingly rare

Nearly all meteorites are pieces of asteroids. Only a few rare meteorites come from the Moon.

# “FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON”

## JULES VERNE - INSTRUMENT 1

*“Barbicane had set his chronometer to within a tenth of a second of engineer Murchison’s; this latter was responsible for lighting the powder by means of an electric spark. By this means the travellers enclosed in the projectile could follow with their own eyes the impassive hand that would mark the exact moment of their departure”.*

*Jules Verne, From the Earth to the Moon*

### December 1

Having the exact time is absolutely essential to the success of this fantastic attempt. At exactly 10:46 and 40 seconds, the moon’s zenith and perigee will simultaneously be ideal.

“Thirty-five! Thirty-six! Thirty-seven! Thirty-eight! Thirty-nine! Forty! Fire !!”

A cone-nosed cylindrical shell bursts forth from the mouth of the Columbiad – the most fearsome cannon ever built – headed for the Moon! On board this space vessel is Impey Barbicane, President of the Baltimore Gun Club and leader of the mission. This “eminently serious and focused man”, “as accurate as a chronometer” is “adventurous, but brings practical ideas to even his rashest undertakings”. With him are Captain Nicholl, his best enemy; and Michel Ardan, a capricious Parisian.

These heroes do not return to Earth until Around the Moon, in which their craft splashes down in the waters of the Pacific. This work, published in 1870, coincided with Charles Dowd’s initial suggestion for dividing the United States into four time zones!

*Patrick J. Gyger, Curator  
Maison d’Ailleurs &  
Espace Jules Verne*



# FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

JULES VERNE - INSTRUMENT 1  
CHRONOGRAPH WITH 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME ZONE

*"This firmament in which the stars move like the hands of a perfect clock that no jolt can disturb and boasting absolute exactitude; this firmament taught him all he needed to know about times and distances"*  
*Jules Verne*



LMV-17.41.50  
Black dial  
Limited Edition of 60 watches



LMV-17.41.60  
Silver dial  
Limited Edition of 60 watches





## “AROUND THE MOON”

### JULES VERNE - INSTRUMENT 2

*“Nicholl’s chronometer showed 10:20 p.m. when the three travellers shut themselves into their cannonball. It had been set to within a tenth of a second of engineer Murchison’s. Barbicane consulted it. ‘My friends,’ he said, ‘it is ten twenty. At ten forty-seven, Murchison will set off the electric spark on the wire that connects with the Columbiad’s charge. At that exact moment, we will leave our spheroid. So we still have twenty-seven minutes on earth.’ ‘Twenty-six minutes and thirteen seconds,’ replied the methodical Nicholl”.*

*Jules Verne, Around the Moon*

Accurate measurement of time was essential to these adventurers embarking on their trip Around the Moon, if they were even to attempt to achieve the aims of their spacefaring experience. So they were constantly checking their chronometers to calculate their speed and determine how much time they could still safely remain in their shell. For example, “On December 4, when the travellers awoke after fifty-four hours of flight, the chronometers showed five o’clock in the morning, Earth time. Time-wise, they were only five hours and forty minutes more than halfway through the time allowed for their stay in the projectile; but in terms of distance they had already completed nearly seven-tenths of the crossing...”

There is no doubt that a perfected measuring instrument was very useful for the calculations made by these heroes of Jules Verne – an author born in 1828, the year the first split-second chronograph was patented !

*Patrick J. Gyger, Curator*

*Maison d’Ailleurs &  
Espace Jules Verne*



## AROUND THE MOON

JULES VERNE - INSTRUMENT 2  
SPLIT-SECOND CHRONOGRAPH

*"A stunning silver collection plate that the celestial powers send spinning through the firmament, and which receives a showered offering of stars"*

*Jules Verne*



LMV-18.41.50  
Black dial  
Limited Edition of 60 watches

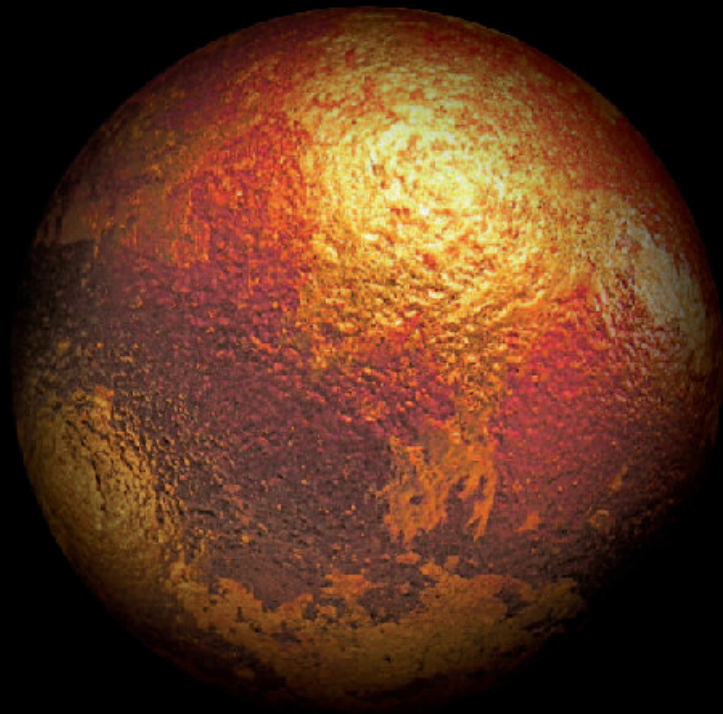


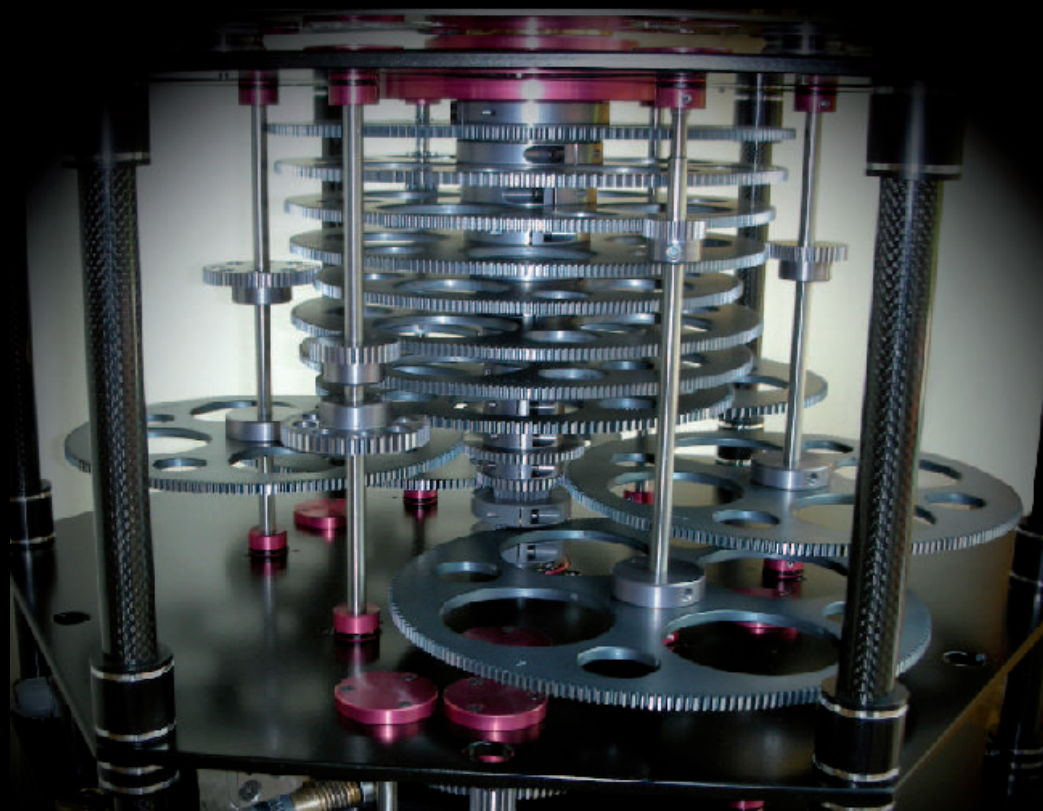
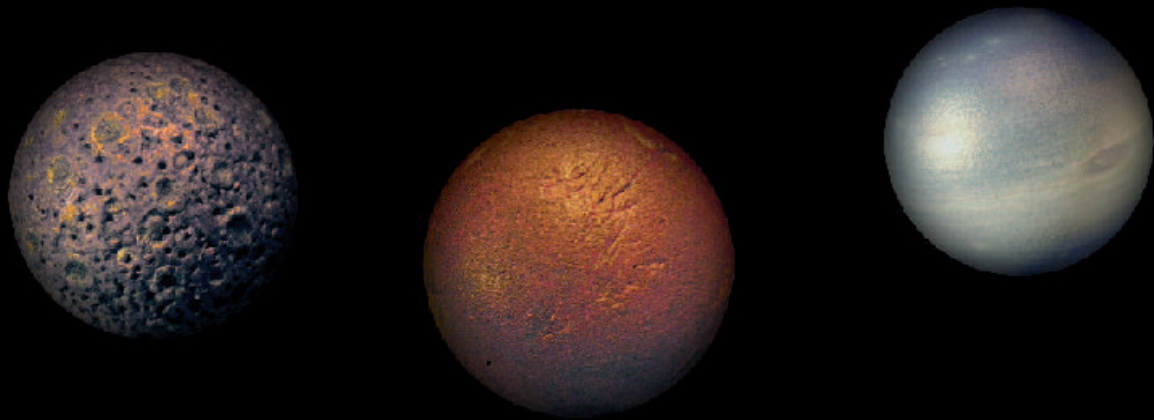
LMV-18.41.60  
Silver dial  
Limited Edition of 60 watches





SCOOP 2010







## Sahara 99555

Legendary meteorite, considered as the “Rosetta Stone” of Solar System. The oldest known rock of our solar system and the oldest meteorite found on earth.

Origin	Possibly Mercury
Age	4 564 000 000 years old (precision : 300,000 years)
Found	Sahara, 1999 (unknown coordinates)
Publication	Meteoritical Bulletin No 84, 2000
Authentication	Institute für Planetology, Münster, Germany





## Jiddat al Harasis 479

Mars Meteorite.

Martian meteorites are Martian rocks that were ejected from Mars by impacts and later fell to the Earth as meteorites.

Origin	Mars
Found	Sultanate of Oman, 2008 (19° 47.139' N 55° 51.21' E)
Publication	Meteoritical Bulletin No 97, 2009
Authentication	Russian Academy of Science, Moscow



## Itqiy

Unique and mysterious asteroid formed near the Sun. It has provided invaluable scientific information on parts of the solar system rarely sampled.

Origin	Asteroid close to the Sun
Uniqueness	How this rock was formed remains a mystery
Found	Western Sahara, 1990 (26° 35' 27"N, 12° 57' 8"W)
Publication	Meteoritical Bulletin No 85, 2001
Authentication	University of Arizona, Tucson



## Dhofar 459

Moon Meteorite.

Lunar meteorites are moon rocks that were ejected from the Moon by impacts and later fell to the Earth as meteorites.

Origin	Moon
Found	Sultanate of Oman, 2001 (18° 14' 55"N, 54° 0' 12"E)
Publication	Meteoritical Bulletin No 89, 2005
Authentication	UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles



THANK YOU !