

The Daniel Delander Clock

Daniel Delander was one of the best clockmakers working in London from 1699 until 1733. It is probable that Lord Tyrconnel commissioned this clock, in 1720, as it has several special features. The case for the clock would have been made separately by a joiner.

It is one of only two clocks in the world like this; the other is a mantle clock which is in private hands, after being sold at Sotheby's about 15 years ago for £90,000. The present estimated value of this one is close to a million pounds.

The clock had not gone for fifty years, and it was sent for restoration to Eliot Nixon, who looks after all the National Trust's clocks. He had it for 12 months. The oak case was sent to John Hartley, the National Trust's furniture restorer to be restored and re-painted black. Both returned to the House in 2009.



The clock shows two different times - solar time and clock time - our clock is set 10 minutes behind the sundial at the bottom of the face. Greenwich Mean Time was not accepted everywhere until much later than 1700 and before that in England there was London Time, and a local time for each town set by measuring the position of the sun which did not necessarily match London Time. Grantham time was evidently 10 minutes behind London time.

The action of the dials is all automatic. The top right side dial shows the number of years to the next leap year. The left hand dial shows the days to be added to the current month when there is a leap year. The top shows a semi-perpetual calendar, and is an

experimental dial - only in this clock and the other mantle clock. At the end of each month, it flips back automatically to show the first day of the new month.

It also shows the signs of the zodiac below the date, but these do not match the dates of today's calendar.



In 1752 the calendar was changed in England from the old Julian calendar to the one in present use, the Gregorian calendar. This meant that the date moved on by 30 days, from February 8th to March 10th overnight. There were riots in London as people thought they had "lost" those days.

The top and bottom discs are in only this clock, but were not included in Lord Tyrconnel's original commission - he probably saw the discs in Delander's workshop, liked them and asked for them to be put into his clock. He was showing off again!

Unfortunately, 40 years later the perpetual calendar ceased to work. We have the bill for the removal of the mechanism in the 1740s. Many clockmakers have tried to make a new mechanism to get it going again, but no-one has succeeded in the task.

The clock [takes eight minutes to wind](#). Delander provided "windows" to get at the keyholes for the winding mechanism. Before winding, the pendulum has to be stopped to stop the time moving on. Delander provided a thin silk cord which, when pulled, takes the momentum off the pendulum. It then takes eight minutes to slowly wind the weight up to the top of the case, and then start the pendulum moving again.









Another Delander once owned by the Brownlows and possibly bought by Viscount Tyrconnel is this dumb [quarter repeating watch, no. 187](#), with later dial and later gold engine turned case. Movement c.1725, case hallmarked 1768. Now owned by [Moyse's Hall Museum](#).

Evans (c. 2014) comments that the watch was once the property of Lord Brownlow (John Cust, later 1st Earl Brownlow). It was cleaned and repaired for him in 1808 by the London firm of [Vulliamy](#).



Cleaned a Gold Repeater name Delander 187 repairing the 3d & cantrate pivots New holes & mended the scape 18s 6d

New Glass 1s
(Vulliamy Records.
PRO. C104/58. Box

II. Book 32. f.292. May 21st 1808).