Elliott Clock Instructions 1989

Elliott of London . . . a name synonymous with precise timekeeping for nearly 100 years, of elegant design, fine craftsmanship, products of accumulated knowledge in the manufacture of fine timepieces, traditionally handed down from generation to generation of the Elliott family, who even today still control this internationally famous business.

Period reproduction clocks from the beginning have been a prominent feature of the Elliott range of productions, deriving their inspirations from the old masterpieces, as with all antique reproductions expert craftsmanship is essential, in this . . . Elliotts of London are second to none.

JAMES JONES ELLIOTT
FOUNDER
1886

The History Behind your Elliott Clock

When on 24th June, 1865, James Jones Elliott, whose address was given as 156 Cheapside in the City of London, was apprenticed to Bateman of 82 St. John Street, Smithfield, London, to learn clockmaking, few realised that he was to found in 1882 a firm that would achieve a world-wide reputation as a manufacturer of fine quality clocks. Specialising at first in the making of pinions and balance shafts, he later made and patented a weight-driven movement chiming on tubes, which he put into Grandfather Clocks. With this movement he built up a considerable trade with the United States.

Frank Westcombe Elliott, son of the founder, was first intended for the retail trade. In 1892, when he was 17 years of age his father bought him a partnership with a jeweller named Walden in Brompton Road, London. When James Elliott died on 16th April, 1904, Frank took charge of his father's clockmaking business.

In 1909 amalgamation of J. J. Elliott with Grimshaw Baxter took place and the factory moved to Gray's Inn Lane, London in 1911. Later a further move to larger premises in St. Anns Road, Tottenham, London was made in 1917, but this association was short-lived and in 1921 Frank Elliott dissolved the partnership and joined the well-known firm of bell founders and clockmakers, Gillett & Johnston Ltd., in Croydon. Two years later he took over their small clock factory and in 1923 formed the present firm of F. W. Elliott Ltd., being joined by his sons, Leonard and Horace Elliott both of whom had previously served their apprenticeship in the trade. A third son, Ronald, joined the firm in 1929.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, production was switched to making clocks for the armed forces and also test gear and apparatus for use with the Rolls-Royce engines in R.A.F. planes. In 1943 the factory was hit by incendiary bombs and on two occasions the roof suffered from high explosive bombs, but fortunately production was not seriously affected.

Frank Elliott died at the age of 69 in December 1944. Horace Elliott took over the running of the factory as managing director and Ronald ran Sales from the showroom in Hatton Garden. In 1952 Horace Elliott was elected Chairman of the B.H.I. and also in the same year Tony, one of Horace's sons joined the company having been trained in cabinet making. In 1964 he was appointed manager of the Cabinet shop and made a Director in 1967.

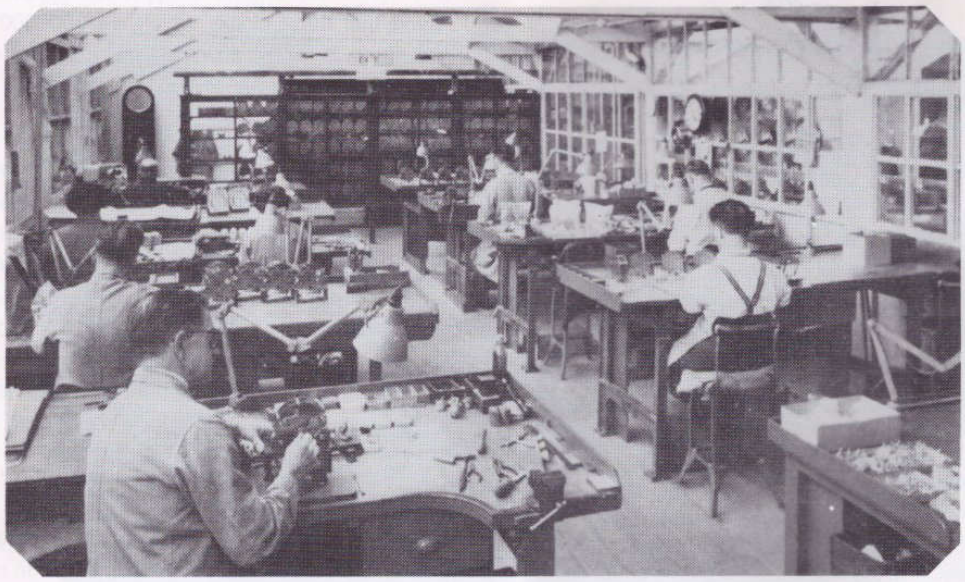
Suddenly in November 1966 Ronald died at the early age of 54, his son Peter having joined the company in January of the same year, having completed his engineering training at Vickers Instruments Ltd. Peter Elliott was made a Director in 1969 and is now in charge of the production of clock movements.

After the death of Ronald Elliott, Richard, elder son of Horace who had been a Director and Technical adviser since 1961, joined the company full time in 1967, and was appointed Managing Director in 1968, Horace Elliott remaining as Chairman.

Today, old and modern methods of manufacture have been combined to produce fine quality clocks, and whilst Elliotts is an old established company where craftsmanship counts, it must not be thought that they are not alive to contemporary designs, new methods or techniques.

The design of Elliott clocks, which is the result of many years' expert knowledge, is outstanding and pleasing to the eye.

In 1965 Horace Elliott, the present Chairman of the Company, was honoured by becoming Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers, one of London's ancient City Companies founded in 1631, and so joined a long line of old English Clockmakers who had previously held this office. It is perhaps fitting that such honour should be received exactly 100 years after his grandfather James Elliott, founder of the Company, started his apprenticeship.



Elliott Clocks are not mass produced; they are made by craftsmen, each clock is individually made and assembled with every care and attention. Every Elliott Clock carries the maker's unqualified guarantee against defective workmanship or materials.

The Timber used in your Elliott Clock

Experience has proved that the best timber for the manufacture of clock cases is selected Honduras Mahogany and although there are other types of timber available, quite a number of these are treacherous in nature and there is more possibility of the finished article shrinking or splitting.

We therefore prefer to use solid Honduras Mahogany, which is carefully selected and kiln dried to a moisture content of less than 10 per cent. Most of our plainer walnut cases are made of this mahogany, which lends itself to a good walnut finish.

An examination of some of the old English Masters will show that a good sound base wood was used upon which was applied finely selected veneer. This was done to obtain the beautiful figured effect which is always so attractive in the majority of these fine old cases. Unfortunately, it will invariably be found that these clocks which are 200–300 years old show signs of splitting and cracking of the veneers, the more highly figured, the greater is this imperfection.

Today we are using finely figured veneer in a similar way and although we have reduced this fault considerably by the use of modern methods of drying and stronger adhesives, another problem presents itself. With the present day spread of central heating, the atmosphere in the average home is steadily becoming drier. In winter the relative humidity in a centrally heated house becomes low, with the result that timber dries still further. If it is held by strong adhesives, stresses are set up which tend to cause cracking.

Whilst we do not recommend placing a clock on a mantel shelf under which a fire burns, we do not say that if you live in a centrally heated house you should not have a good clock.

We hope, however, the day is not far distant when every home will be air-conditioned and so keep the humidity as constant as possible.

Elliott Clock cases are made from seasoned timber, which is put through a special drying process to combat varying climatic conditions. Veneers, when used, are selected for their fine figuring and every care is used in the final polishing.

How to look after your Elliott Clock

Most people will agree that a clock is a delicate instrument, few realise what a wonderful mechanism a good clock contains. It is highly complicated and deserves some care and attention from its owner. The following notes are given to enable you to obtain the best results from the Elliott Clock in your possession.

Clocks are probably the most badly treated instruments in daily use – generally they are placed on a mantel shelf under which a fire burns on an average six months in the year – this is not a good position since the heat from the fire will cause the oil to dry out slowly, whilst dust also from the fire will gradually penetrate into the movement, no matter how carefully or dustproof it is made.

How often do we have our clocks cleaned and oiled? The average person probably never considers whether to do so. A clock will often run without proper lubrication for some time, but eventually wheels and pivots become badly worn in consequence. When one realises that the average pendulum clock makes over 46,000,000 and lever clocks 150,000,000 vibrations of the pallet each year, it is not surprising that a clock should be regularly oiled and cleaned.

Good timekeeping depends on a consistently good action of balance or pendulum and it is therefore essential, if you are to maintain the performance the clock is designed to give, to have your clock oiled and cleaned every five years – a new clock should have the first overhaul after about two years.

The case and plated metal parts should not be forgotten, occasional application of a good wax polish will keep the case in good condition, while a regular polish of the metal parts with a soft duster will keep them bright and prevent deterioration.

Attention to the details which you have just read will ensure that the clock you have purchased will give accurate timekeeping and long and faithful service.

When it requires overhauling, take it to an experienced watch or clockmaker. If you are in any difficulty, we shall be pleased to advise you.

The movement is the result of many years research and experience, only the finest quality materials are used throughout. Each part is carefully finished and the movement precision tested for timing and mechanical performance.

Spare Parts

It is our policy to be able to supply new parts for any of our clocks should it become necessary.

Over the many years we have been making clocks, there have been a number of alterations, some of a minor nature, which are the result of improvements in manufacture. We therefore recommend that any damaged part needing replacement is sent back to us, even if it is a new glass, as these may be slightly altered. If the particular part required is no longer in production, we shall have another which can be fitted with little alteration.

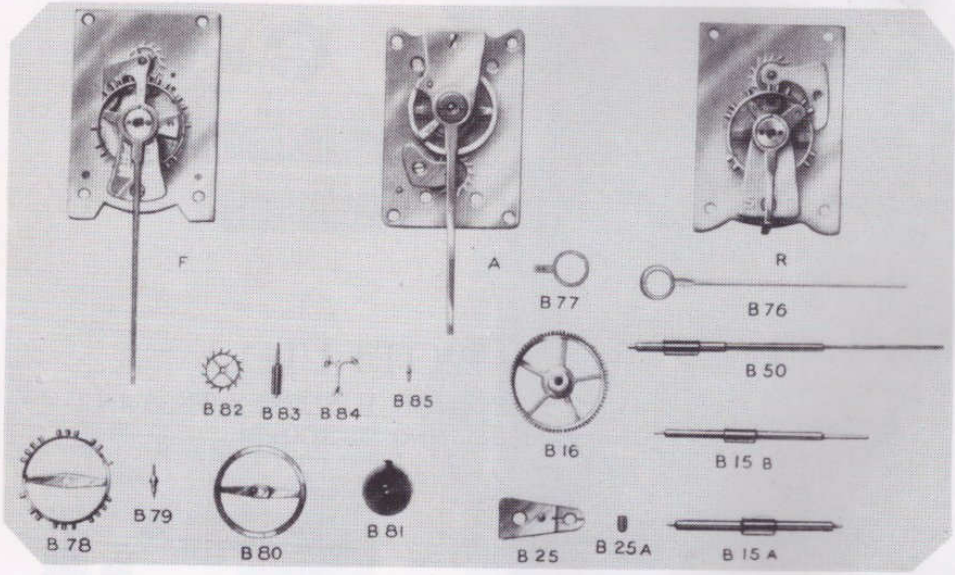
Remember, some of our earliest clocks may go back as far as 80 years. Even then, we can replace the part, but it may have to be made by hand.

When returning a clock to us, make sure that it is securely packed. If a cardboard box is used, see that it is of strong quality and that there is ample room around the clock when it is placed in the box so that it can be well protected by packing materials. Pad the corners of the box thoroughly as these parts usually receive the roughest treatment in transit.

The movement of Elliott chiming clocks and striking clocks is securely fixed to the dial and needs no further support, but the following instructions must be carried out in respect of chiming clocks:

Place a small strip of wood between the chiming rods and the base of block so that it keeps the rods from vibrating. Loop the end of an elastic band over the far end of the strip of wood and then push up to the inside front of the case. Pass the elastic band over the top of the hammers and loop the remaining end to the other end of the strip of wood. Place each hammer head between the chiming rods and the pressure of the elastic band will keep them in position.

NOTE:
In all cases of damage or suspected damage in transit, the carriers should be informed immediately and the damage inspected by them.



Behind every Elliott Clock is the finest service of its kind; spare parts will always be available, no matter what age the clock, to ensure that it continues to show the dependability its makers know and have produced it to give.

F. W. ELLIOTT LTD.

BURGESS ROAD, HASTINGS, E. SUSSEX TN35 4NR

TELEPHONE: HASTINGS (0424) 423537

Should you have any queries regarding the clock you are welcome to contact the manufacturers at:

F. W. Elliott Ltd,
Burgess Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex TN35 4NR

Tel: (0424) 423537

F. W. ELLIOTT LTD.

Bell Strike
Operating Instructions

Please read the following instructions before handling the clock. On receiving the clock please unpack carefully, making sure you look for the key.

1. Turn the clock to face you, open the front door and remove the packing, restraining the hands as indicated. Carefully turn the minute hand to five past the hour. Close the front door.
   We advise you to keep all the packing in a safe dry place as it will be helpful if the clock has to be moved or dispatched to us for its first service.
2. Turn the clock so that the back is facing you and open the back door. Gently remove the packing from the hammer and bell at the base of the movement, and allow to strike. Should the bell have a dull ring, it is possible that the hammer stem could have been distorted by the packing during transit. There should be a small gap between the hammer and the bell when

the hammer is at rest. If the hammer head is resting on the bell adjustment should be made by bending the hammer stem very gently away from the bell. When the bell gives a good ring, close the door.

3. Turn the clock to face you, open the front door and carefully insert the key in one of the winding holes, and wind the clock in a clockwise direction. Wind gently but firmly until a stop is felt. Do not attempt to wind past this stop.
   Insert the key in the other winding hole and wind as above.
   The key should now be stored in a safe place.
4. The clock will now be ticking and should be set at the correct time by turning the minute hand clockwise, holding the root not the tip of the hand. Turn until the clock is indicating the correct time, pausing at every hour, and half hour, to allow the clock to strike. It may be necessary to turn the minute hand several revolutions to bring the hour hand up to the correct hour. Do not attempt to turn the hour hand.
5. When the clock is set to the correct time, close the front door and it can now be placed in the desired position.
   Note: On this clock the minute hand may be gently turned backwards or forwards when adjusting the time. This is a special feature which you will not find on many other makes of clocks. After setting the time do not count the strikes on the first hour as the mechanism may be adjusting itself.
6. The clock is set for time-keeping in our works, but may need a slight adjustment in its new environment. After one week observe any error in the time-keeping, and if necessary adjust as follows:
   Open the back door of the clock and towards the top of the movement is a small silver coloured lever. S and F are stamped on the clock plates each side of this lever.
   If the clock is going fast, move the lever a very small amount to the left.(S)
   If the clock is going slow, move the lever a very small amount to the right.(F)
   If adjustment is made, allow the clock to run for one week. Check time-keeping and if necessary, regulate again.

CARE OF YOUR CLOCK

Wind your clock every week.

Like a motor car, a clock needs regular servicing. Your clock should be serviced every 5 years or sooner if it has been subjected to high temperature, dusty or salty atmosphere. Servicing can be carried out by any qualified clockmaker or it may be returned to us direct. If you post your clock for service, please use the original packing as this will guard against damage. Enclose an advice note with the clock, stating clearly your name and address and the reason for return. Please also post a copy of the advice note under separate cover, so that we expect the delivery of your clock.

Dust the case of your clock every week (when winding) and every 6-12 months wipe it over with a damp chamois leather. Do not polish the case or brass work with polish that contains abrasives as this will remove the protection.

We trust this clock will give you every satisfaction and if the above instructions are followed it will give you a lifetime of good service.

CERTIFICATE OF GUARANTEE

Stock No PR151 Date April 1989

The movement of this clock is covered unconditionally for a period of two years from the above date. Should the movement fail to give good service from any cause whatsoever during this period it will be put in order free of charge.

GARRARD & CO. LTD.
THE CROWN JEWELLERS
112 REGENT STREET · LONDON W1A 2JJ
TELEPHONE: 01-734 7020

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