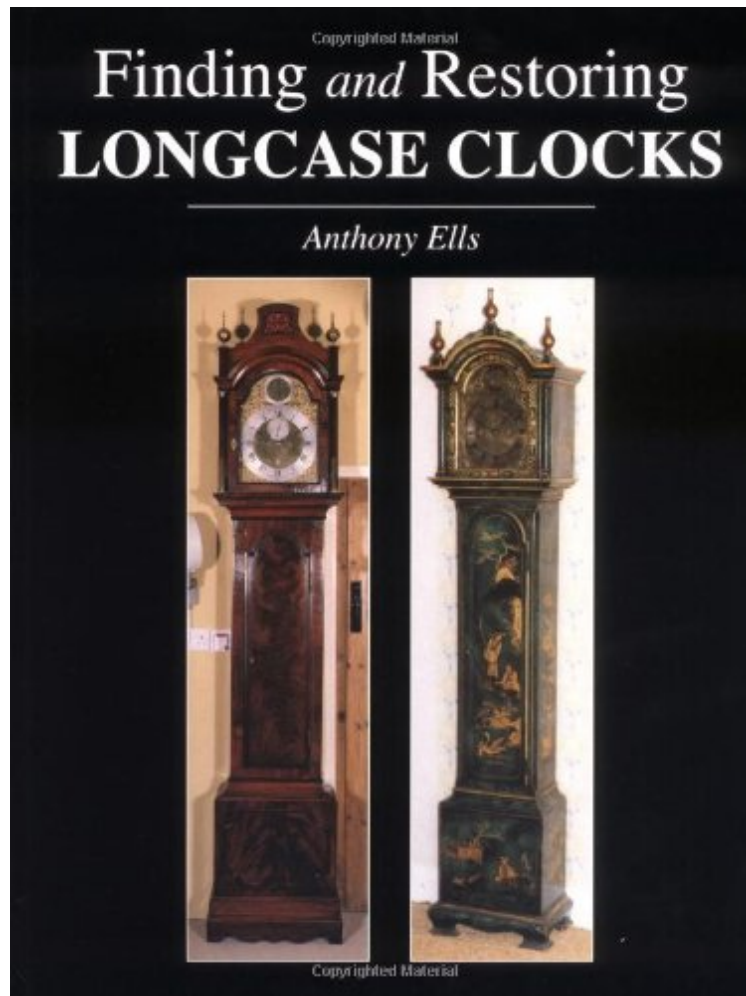


Finding and Restoring Longcase Clocks

Anthony Ells

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Anthony Ells : Finding and Restoring Longcase Clocks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Finding and Restoring Longcase Clocks:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy A ReaderIf you are making a grandfather (long case) clock you should get this book. However it should be the last book you purchase of the five clock construction books you really need. The first is "Build Your Own Grandfather Clock and Save" by John A. Nelson (1988). The second is "Designing and Building a Grandfather Clock" by Gary Williams (1980). The third is "Making and Repairing Wooden Clock Cases" by V. J. Taylor and H. A. Babb (1994). The fourth is "Making Wooden Clock Cases" by Tim and Peter Ashby (1992). The final purchase is this book "Finding and Restoring Longcase Clocks" by Anthony Ellis. Why are so many books necessary? The reason (of course) is that each book highlights a different aspect of the clock case construction process. This final book is excellent for understanding how the clock mechanism functions

(see Chapters 4 and 5) and the restoration of the clock case hood (Chapter 7). Chapter 7 does NOT (and is not meant to) explain how to construct the hood, only how to disassemble and restore it. So here are the truths about long case clocks: 1) Clocks were constructed to be precision instruments to tell time - NOT to be pieces of furniture. 2) Clock makers made the clock works (the gears and inner workings). The clock face, hands and wooden case were constructed by other manufacturers not associated with the clock maker. Think this way: The clock makers were the Microsoft of their day, the clock case makers were the Dell or HP manufacturers of their day. 3) Fancy wooden clock cases were made for wealthy people in New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston to match the customer's existing furniture. The reason so many nice wooden clocks have survived to this day is because they were passed down from family to family (and then purchased by museums in the early 20th century). 4) Ugly wooden clock cases were made in the rural areas of the country to house the clock works not to be pretty pieces of furniture. 5) A wooden long case clock is constructed in reverse: you purchase the clock works, clock face, clock hands, clock weights and chains first. You make a stand to hold the clock works and you get everything working making sure the clock runs for at least 8 days without stopping. Then and only then do you take measurements and start constructing the wooden clock case. You construct the hood first, then the waist, then the base (look up Dempsey Woodworking on the web since it gives very detailed steps on clock case construction). 6) After the case is finished, you attach the clock works and face onto the waist (which is attached to the base) and then SLIDE the hood into place around the clock face. This is much more complicated than it seems, so read up on this procedure before you start the case construction. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book if you're in England By Andy Linhoss If I had realized this book was published in UK, I probably wouldn't have bought it. Since my interests lie mostly in American clocks, there is little useful info for me. If your thing is British clocks, you might like it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert E. Bolli Excellent service. Excellent Book

Finding and Restoring Longcase Clocks is essential reading for anyone interested in buying and restoring a long case clock. Experienced readers will be able to undertake most of the restoration work themselves, but for the novice the basic principles are explained and advice on seeking professional help is given. His comprehensive guide to finding and buying longcase clocks tells you everything you will need to know about what to look for, what to avoid, and their prices and restoration costs, before going on to cover the practical aspects of restoration. Contents include: a detailed section on the workings of the clock; covering the time and strike trains; introduction to the restoration project; step-by-step instruction to assessing and restoring the clock case, dial, hands and clock movement, and finally advice on setting up the clock and keeping in good working order.