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THE FACE OF A DUMMY-WATCH.

## An Exhaustive Study and a Liberal Prize.*

"One might as well try to tell time by a dummy watch as to employ such a method," I have heard an opponent party say, who certainly spoke without knowledge, and at least without un-

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## THE HANDS OF A DUMMY-WATCH.

Professor Totten Expinins Why They Always Point to a Certain Hour.
derstanding in his own premises: and thus, perhaps, condemned the work of another from equally wrong ones! The snap judgment of a critic, particularly if he points a discussion with an apparent truth, may, perhaps, serve to corvince an audience, and temporarily convict his opponent-but after all the very victors may be confirmed thereby In still more serious error; for the fallacy consists in not seeing that "all things are double, the one over against the other," and that one can see and find truth even from the opposite sideas Adam and Eve themselves discovered!
Now I used the above words, "apparent truth' in the colloquial sense: that of seeming; but astronomy uses them in the sense of actual, being. etc.; so, even this word is dual in its mean-ing-for apparent noon is real noon in contra distinction to mean noon, which is only apparently so by the watch!
To revert then to telling the time of day by a dummy watch I wili state that this very thing can be done, by one who knows how; and that I, for one, can do it easily. However, I shall leave the solution of the problem for the mere children to ponder over and discover.

The question is a perfeatly fair one, and I will let the children obtain help from thelr parents and school-teach-ers-if they can! But let me caution all concerned (as all things are dual) not to say or believe, or be made to believe, that the thing can not be done.
Let me relate an Incident which will serve both to illustrate the point, and to introduce my main topic.

I well remember when $I$ was a schoolboy (in the excellent Academy still at Cheshire, Conn.,) how we all laughed at a composition written by
one of the fellows whose topic was "A Storm at Sea." We used to have to read our diffusions aloud for criticism; and, as this particular thesis unfolded, the squall at last struck the ship while most of the sailors were below; and in due time there came the sentence "so the captain rushed hurriedly on deck and looked at his watch to find out which way the wind blew!" That was too much for any of us, and we all vented our criticism in derisive laughter at once.
"Well, those were good old days and I would that some of our boyhood standards clung to us in after years. For most boys are fair as a rule, and are willing to wipe their slates clean, and to begin their work all over again, when they find out, and are told by good authority, that the answer is wrong! One can prove a thing to a child that he will not listen to when he reaches the age and dignity of "A higher critic," (sic) upon any topic whatsoever except business! We read that lesson, the one of profit and loss upon the annual balance sheet, quickly enough.
Now the watch shows many useful things, besides the mere time of day; and some very remarkable matters well worthy of memorial. For instance: You can use your watch just as if it were a compass, by holding it flat in front of you and turning yourself so that the hour hand points toward the sun; the line dividing the indicated angle between that direction, and the XII mark is always due south. To* explain: Suppose it is 9 o'clock; hold the watch flat in front of you, and turn so that the IX is towards the sun; then a line between $X$ and XI runs due* south, because it is midway to XII (where the sun is at noon anyway).
For at apparent noon both of the hands point to XII: direct the watch* there then, and you face due south; and so on for the rest of the afternoon, according to the method. Hence you *"Due" used here colloquially.
can "tell which way the wind blows by a watch," in spite of the thoughtless adage to the contrary.

We might show up the looseness of many such unreasonable sayings; for even an old almanac is valuable, and I for one try to have my back file complete, and even you, my reader, may come to find a last year's almanac valuable to establish an alibi, or to settle a case at law, in spite of the adage to the contrary.

But we are going to confine ourselves at present to watches, and will try to find out why those big dummy ones, you often see hung out as signs in front of a watchmaker's, almost always have the same standard reading; that is, stand at about 18 minutes and a half past eight.
Two years ago the common topic of conversation was the true beginning of the 20th century, but that is all settled now, except with a few hardshells who were as previous with their dates as they are now dilatory in acknowledging their error; and so, to keep the ball of argument arolling, discussion and controversy have now arisen upon the question why dummy watches point to about 8:18 1-2.

You will notice, as you pasc along the street, that many of the jewelers have these dummy watches in front of their shops. In nearly every instance it will be found that the time they indicate is about 18 1-2 minutes past 8 ; or 41 1-2 minutes past 3 , which is the same thing reversed. Why this time rather than any other? This is the question now being discussed. What is wanted is a reason for this custom, its origin. For instance, here is a sample of the official standard dummy sign. (Frontis). One explanation is that this is the time at which Abraham Lincoln died. In order to mark their appreciation of the dead President it is said that "the jewelers of Amerlca made it a fixed rule to indicate that exact time on their dummy clocks;" but this is hardly admissible because the custom is much older than Lincoln's day, and even the lished.
A more reasonable explanation has been offered bs a leading firm of watchmakers in New York city, who trace the custom back to 1819 , when the founder of their own house first started it. "He decided," it is sald, "upon 18 1-2 minutes past 8 , after finding it was the only time when the two hands of the clock formed a perfect angle with the prpendicular."
At first sight, since the dial covers 60 minutes or 12 nours, acoording to the hand, it appears as if an even division by three, so as to make the hands point at 1111 and VIII respectively. would do. But the mechanicat construction of the watch. to compass the table of time, prevents this, is may be readily seen upon examination. For instance, when the hour hatnd is at IllI the minute hand is at XII, and when the minute hand comes to HII the hour hand has left VIII by some 12-3 minutes. The two hands will not stand at VIII and LIII at the same time. Try it and see.
"At 18 1-2 minutes past 8 o'clock, the minute and hour hand on opposite sides of the dial are exactly $181-2$ minutedegrees down from the top of the dial, or figure XlI," say this firm, "for it must be rem mbered that while the hour hand makes the whole circumference of the dial once in twelve hours, the minute hand goes around twolve times. Therefore the movement of the hour hand over a single minute-degree necessitates the movement of the minute hand 12 minutes." Of course the hands may be reversed, making the time about 41 1-2 minutes past 3 . Any person enn test these facts by his own watch, particularly if he trips it so as to facilitate the setting of the hands at will.

But, as a matter of fact, the foumber of this old-time firm was wrong-if his; succossors have preserved his intention accurately-for 8.18 - 2 is not inly. not exact, but it is by no means a solitary
time of "equal angles" for there are 13 such angles on the 12 -hour clock, and the hands "match" 14 times, in a complete circuit of the dial, as the following diagram will show:


THE TRUE ANGLES OF A DUMMY-WATCH.
These angles arise from the construction of the clock itself; the hour hand moves $1-12$ th as fast as the minute hand, the entire circuit is divided into 60 minutes for every hour. Query: How many times, and when each, will the hands make equal angles with the perpendicular line from XII to VI, and which of these angles is the most suitable for a watchmaker' standard?
To try for the first "equal angle," without any mathematics at all, and merely to get on to the mater, trip your watch; set, the hands at XII and turn them forward until they stand for the first time at a similar slope on each side. You will see at a glance that the place reads about $12.551-2$. Had you turned them back from XII they would have come to the same place but in reverse form, to wit: At about XI 42-3: and, while you cannot detect with the
eye exactly, and read aright, just where they stand, the mathematician can!
Do you ask how? Well, the equation is this: Let $\mathbf{Y}$ equal the required angle; the minute hand will go way around from accurate XII to it, and the hour hand will reach its equivalent thereat down the same way; for the motion of the latter will be $1-12$ th of the arc described by the former, whatever it is; call it $x$. Now the whole circle is 60 ; so " 60 minus $x$ " will equal $y$; and $y$ will be equal to $1-12$ th of $x$. Therefore we can establish an equality, and force its secret; thus, 60 minus $x$ equals 1-12 $\mathbf{x}$; hence, clearing of fractions, 720 minus $12 \times$ equals $\mathbf{x}$; therefore, 13 x equals 720, and x equals 1-13 of 720 , to wit: $55.51-3$ minute-parts of the circle. So the hour hand will stand at this angle, and the minute-hand will match it at 4.8-13 minutes past 12, and the clock, watch, or what-not will read 12:55 5-13 (fifty-five and five-thirteenth minutes past 12.)

Keep the watch going: When will it stand at the next equal angle, etc., etc.? The solutions , upon the same principles, continue to give the following time angles: $1.5010-13$. $2.462-13$, 3.41 7-13, 4.36 12-13, $5.324-13$, after which the hands reverse, and the hour angles continue: 6.27 9-13, 7.23 1-13, 8.18 6-13, 9.13 11-13, 10.9 3-13, 11.4 8-13, and so back to exact 12 o'clock.

These are the exact angles, and out of them the jewelers have elected to take as the "standard angle" that one which reads to most people as $8: 181-2$, but is exactly 8 h .18 m .27 9-13 s. The common rearling is close enough for all practical purposes (now that we have established the exact one in the sequence) so we will invite study upon the angle selected as the standard, that is upon the one elected as the best to stand for all.
The true answer then to the question at issue is, that the time-heading on the dummy watch affords a graphic solution to the principal case of that one of the many interesting clock-problems which demands "What is the
time when the hands make such angles with the line from VI to XII as shall most nearly divide the face of a clock into three equal sectors?" For, in fact, the hands, as we have shown, have 13 similar positions, and the fourth and ninth (to wit:3:41 7 -13 and 8.18 6-13 respectively, are the most significant ones and are those selected by watchmakers as the standard angle. The timecircle therefore, possesses this peculiar property; that, whenever either hand is at 18 6-13 minute-degrees below XII, the other must balance it upon the opposite side.
The selection of this pair of unique points out of the 13 to be found upon the dial, was a most natural one when discovered by the head of this clever firm: the hands are poised together at XII, and their most significant "regular angle". is exactly bi-sected at a spread of $3.417-13$ and 8.18 6-13, the sum of which hours it will be noticed is 12, or. fetches them both together, back to the 12 o'clock mark.

Furthermore the mind that elected this angle $8.186-13$, for the fixed position of the hands of a dummy watch, or a horologist's sign, was hapr,ier than even his descendants claim for him, and at any rate he wrought wiser (in a business sense) than his successors seem yet to perceive, for this aspect of the face of a dummy watch plainly indicates motion and accuracy, because the watch whose hands fail to indicate this "standard angle" is not adjusted, and will either gain or lose time! Try your own for instance, and see if the hands come absolutely together at XII, and separate down by an external angle of 37 minute points opposite an interior one of 23 minute points, i. e., whether they come over, and over again to these three standard points without fail? If so, the mechanism is even, the dial is adjusted thereto and your watch. can be regulated to keep time if it does not! This is an important thing for watchmakers to know, and for watchbuyers to understand. Do not buy a watch that cannot accomplish this feat.

Now if the position of the hands of a dummy watch had been taken at 12 o'clock it would indicate one that had stopped, or had not been wound up; while any irregular angle would have indicated irregularity from the very converse of the idea suggested by the original in standard time; moreover 8.18 6-13 is a better solution for a standard time angle than $3.41 \mathbf{7 - 1 3}$, because it indicates a stronger and more durable timeniece, and one that trisects time as closely as possible.
But this is quite enough upon the purely suggestive business. circular. and preliminary mathematical cheracter of the dummy watch: it is a litthe marvel in its way, and compasses a multitude of other interesting topics, all in spite of its insignificance: the child toys with it. and thus holds the image of the universe in its little grasp, while as to "time," why, the fool wastes it!

We have, however, a far more interesting matter to reveal, a secret in fact to divulge that, all unknown to the mere watchmaker the dummy watch conceals; yes, several of them, and one of them is a matter of the greatest moment, one worthy to be made permanent, which our final realization of the dummy watch does accomplish whether it was intended to or not; and we need not dream that it was, is, or ever before has been so correlated. In the first place, we may predicate that time as such is man's chief concern, as he is certainly mortal, and as certainly not inherently immortal; and his days are but a span long anyway. evin at their longest scale. Scientific time is best measured on the circle divided into its present duodecimal or 12 -fold subdivision; and it is because of the mechanism requisite to compass the table of time that the peculiar an $1 \cdot \mathrm{~s}$ referred to have obtained. Now this so very peculiar standard angle has been discovered at last by the watchmaker, and utilized in the most ingenious way, though merely to compass his special trade ends. But, by firtue of
this very application of an essential principle of the mechanical construction of the watch and dial, and the proof of their adjustment, the watchmaker has magnified the wisdom of his own maker. For it was thus that God himself divided up the heavens, which constitute the great dial of the universe, and furnished us with "standard time" itself. Moreover, we shall show that He has anticipated man's adoption of these regular angles of the dial, not only by laying out the ecliptic, but, more astounding by prefixing forever, by the standard angle, the true date of the Nativity thereon!

Thus, to exemplify the first point: Every time you look at a dummy watch hereafter test your own by the angle here referred to; or, whenever you notice that it is 8.18 6-13 or $3.417-13$, be it known that the arc above the hands shows the measure of that part of the ecliptic belt which is above the equator from early Spring until late Fall; and that the arc below represents the rest of the circle back to Spring! Now this is not an approximation, but is as accurate as the principles that lead us to the dummy watch; yet an approximate diagram must show our point.


From the XII-spot down each way to the hands themselves set at the "standard angle" there are 3 9-13 hour spaces; and under them are 4 8-13 hour spaces; because the sum of these unique arcs is 12 hours; in other words 3 9-13 plus 4 8-13 takes us to 8 4-13 o'clock, and 3, 9-13 hours more take us back to the starting point. As the 12 th of a circle is 30 degrees, which is the measure of a sign of the zodiac, the three arcs are respectively $110,10-13 ; 110 \mathbf{1 0 - 1 3}$; and

138 6-13 degrees, the sum of which is 360 degrees.




## half the ecliptic shown.

Now let any one examine a properly constructed celestial globe and he will perceive that the ecliptic belt begins to rise above the equator at $3393-13$ degrees of right ascension, and that it remains above it (passing the o-origin of right ascension) through its 200 10-13 degree, or stays above 221 7-13 degrees in all; half of which ( $11010-13$ ) degrees) brings us to the summit, 90 degrees of right ascension. So we have our two fixed arcs of $11010-13$ degrees each, just where we need them, and the rest of the circle, 138 6-13 degrees, is found in proper place, below. The fact is the entire width of the belt (2 times 20 and $10-13$ ) equal to 41 and 7-13 degrees, on the equator, half each way from the ode-gree-mark) is such that the arcs are doubled, as they should be, both for day and night, and for the north and south hemisphere. Thus this notable feature of the modern clock-dial is as ancient as the zodiac which tradition assigns to Enoch, Adam, and even unto a revelation from God himself. At any. rate here are the modern dummy-clock angiles found to have been built into the sky from the very dawn of time, as the foregoing diagrams exhibit closely enough, and no other divisions of time, than the one which does and must exis will fit that zodiac.

For instance, had time been run on the nines, instead of the tables that
astronomers have received and discovered to be best, its table would have been: Nine ones make a two; nine twos make a three; nine threes a four, etc., to nine nines make a ten. Now we take It for granted that no one knows, nor has any one before asked, what are the harmonious angles that the hands on such a dial must occupy, nor can any one say, in advance, what they must be. The:y must be hunted up, if such there are, and found out by calculation. But time is not decimal, and cannot be forced thereto; the best proof being the unfitness of the decimal division for such a purpose: and the practical demonstration thereof bemg. the abortive attempt made in France in 1793 to make it so by human law in defiance to God's constitution of the zodiac-and their same deflance will smash their metric system agalnst our own, all in due time.
It must also be remembered that there is but one hand to the zodiacal clock; but it is one that has a head at each end To explain, the sun is at the pivot, with a pointer to the rear: and the world is at the other end, with its own pointer; they face in opposite ways, that is, towards their respective places as seen from each other against the dial beyond, and read respectively as the hour hands to each set of 12 hours into which the day is divided, while at the same time they keep record of the year as if upon a single sign-divided dial. all of which is of special and complex interest in this problem.

Now the modern watchmaker could not have been guided to these arcs by any previous knowledge or appreclation of the equatorial chord subtending the upper part of the ecliptic belt: for nothing can guide him away from th-? merhanical necessities involved in the watch itself, nor obliterate the table of time. So, as he did not invent the circle, nor the table of time, and as the watch is only the best way of realiing their principles, his claim is limited to the mere discovery of what is

Inherent to the combination. Moreover, this knowledge is not intuitive; its very discovery is but a generation old and its deeper significance, its relation to the zodiac and other matters is no older than this very article.
And for similar reasons the real inventor of the zodiac could not have been a mere mortal, since its characteristic agreement with the modern watch dial could have had no possible significance until the latter was evolved. The zodiac prophesied the watch, for the very width of the belt has fitted the recently discovered conditions from the birth of time! The fact is man creates nothing, he merely discovers how to utilize those principles and things which the Almighty has provided in advance for his use. So the dummywatch, that insignificant Sign of a mere craft, in fact, a baby's plaything, is after all, and from now on, found to be one of the most potent signs of the times.

But how did we come to discover all this? Why, as scientific chronologists we had no sooner learned of this controversy about the dummy watch than we began to verify these angles: finding them correct as one of 13 , and the most natural one to have been taken as a standard, we at once concluded that both it and they must (since they are so unique) have been used in some special anticipatory way to mark the times of God Himself-for they were too important not to have been so employed in a superlative way upon the great dial itself! In fact, this conception was exactly what lead us to study the angle set upon the dummyclock as soon as we had verified it; its fitness constrained us to look up higher, and our first thought was of the zodiac; and there we found just what we expected, and yet have had no original part in preparing for its imparting to our race

But our next thought was by superlative degree still higher. to wit: What date upon the major dial is the most
important one in history? Here, too, we conceived the conviction, in advance, that it must have been the Messianic one, and went to work to see if this was so; with this result, for so it is: and with its demonstration, and a mere corollary, we shall draw the lesson of the dummywatch to a temporary close.

The situation is this: When time began the two hands must have been together at XII, or at its equivalent. What was this equivalent upon the Annus Magnus? Why, of course, the ecliptic with its 12 constellations and its 12 retrograding signs for hands came into mind. Moreover, it was to be expected that the annual forward motion would agree at the proper place with the secular drift backward. Here we had both the complex and the simplex involved against any possible agreemnt, among an infinity of othe.s, except the right one! The chances arrayed against such a harmony coming out exact can be enumerated only by the Great Creator Himself! Who then can gainsay the result, if they do come out true, to the very star that for ages all the Magi have been led to keep in mind? And so on our conception formulated.

We had shown before Nova Persei appeared that the constellation of Taurus marked the dawn of time; so, naturally we placcd its last point at the vertex, and lo, down to the right, with the secular motion of the earth and the natural way of the dial, we arrive at Spica Virginis, 84-13 constellations away; or 249 3-13 degrees on and along the circle; while, backward therefrom. and with the annular motion thereof, we arrived at the very same point.

As the sun was opposite the earth at the dawn of "Adamic time" it was in the last degree of Scorpio or of the "flying eagle;" so. 84-13 "slgns," or 8.18 6-13 hours on the clock, take us on to Pisces, where it was at the Nativity; for at that time, as we have recently shown, all the "signs" agreed


THE DATE OF THE NATIVITY AND THE DUMMY-WATCH.
with all tne "constellations" and constituted the "aspect" so long anticipated by the Magi, for the following diagram gives this face of the great dial at that moment:

Spica was the notch; the planets were mere accompanying Incidents; the "aspect" of agreement between slgns and constellations was the thing anticipated, the thing realized, and the thing

that now records the former fact. The present Right Ascension of Spica is 13 hours, 19 minutes, 58 7-10 seconds; or exactly 199.994 degrees; this is 160.006 degrees west of the prime equinoctial colure. While the primeval one is now 90 degree further to to the east; the $s 1 \mathrm{~m}$ of these two ares of R. A. is 250.066 degrees, while the standard angle of the dial is 249.23 degrees. This slight difference (. 775 degrees for 1903 years) is easily swatlowed up by the secular motion of Sica and the general sidereal drift at the rate of a little less than 1.46 seconds a year: or may, perhaps, be employed yet to rectify our knowledge of the universal rate of stellar motion over the entire sphere of the heavens.


THE WORLDS TIMEPIECE.*
But, if this standard angle of the modern clock so wonderfully fits the

[^1]inevitable facts recorded from of old on the anclent zodiac itself, why should it not. fit the earth, also, regarded as a clock. For what else is it? This thought naturally struck us upon completing the foregoing calculations and diagram, and we at once bethought ourselves of a little pocket device we carry for determining world time in general. We set it to the modern Greenwich noon mark with this result: It locates the approximate angle for both day and night (that is, upon the two XII-hour dials) at once: and the angles may be studied with intense interest around about the world.

But this at once suggested an even more important query, to wit.: Will the 8.18 and 6-13 hour angles serve at all to locate raradise itself? Vill it fit the record that: It was "eastward, in Eden?" and the tradition that "it was in Persia?" or will it, by precession, even, indicate where Eden itself may have been? or the meridian, by means of which our first ancestors came, as through a gate, out of it, and adown "the roof of the earth?" For Paradise may have been, as President Warren ably argues, at the north pole-that place so long sealed up against man's useless fruitless and perhaps fatal invasion

We shall leave this discussion to others; but in the meantime have constructed the modern terrestrial dial and find that it reverses to the "Garden of the Gods" in the Persian region, one of the most beautifully hedged-in places upon earth.
(See Supplementary Diagram herewith.)
Thus, if the twelve-hour mark was started from that meridian, which we will call "the Gate," and started at that time, the forward motion of the hands would come to where they are at present; that is, to the standard - Greenwich 12 o'clock. The matter works both ways, for the angles are positive, whether you take them forward or backward. So our proposition is established, to wit: that the $8: 18 \mathbf{6 - 1 3}$, or the
3.41 7-13 angles, of the dummywatch, the sum of which is 12 , are full of momentous significance to every man and woman, to all men and women, and to all beings that dwell under the whole expanse of heaven.
Finally, how about your own personal life-dial? I have my private idea as to where we all will find our 8.18 6-13 o'clock; and as to how the dial of our days will fit the zodiac; what are yours? There are just a full "baker's dozen" of dates to every one's life, be It long or short, and the great question is, how many of them have we passed; and where are we at? Twelve times 1 , $2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9$, and 10 , are, respectively $12,24,36,48,60,72108$ and 120 (Gen. vi. 3) How old art thou? and, What is the unit of thine own dial? In other words. What time is it by your own watch? and can you tell time by a dummy one? Not much! if you are a "higher critic," and have lost faith in the facts recorded as facts in the Bible. C. A. L. TOTTEN.
March 21, 1901.
Vernal Equinox.*

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## RARE WORKS.

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[^0]:    *New Haven Register, Sunday, March 3r, 1901.

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