

Bulle Clock Serial Number 65897

*Restoration of Bulle Clock
Serial Number 65897.*

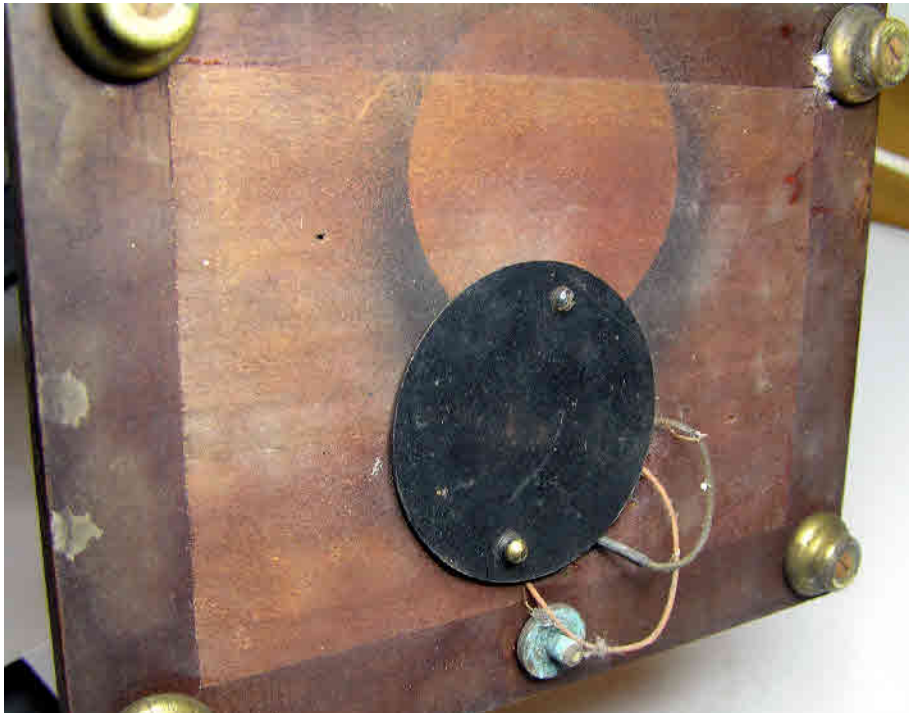
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Early Battery Clock Parts & Restoration

Bulle Clock Serial Number 65897



The underside of the base showing the original colour. The brass levelling foot is corroded which may be indicative of an old battery leaking acid. But the column that holds the battery shows no sign of burns. There is also a paint "overspray" mark on the base which has obviously come from the battery cover being sprayed. In situ. I would normally suggest that the cover may therefore be a replacement or has some work done on it in the past, but because of the condition of the rest of the clock being in such original condition, I wonder if this was a sloppy job done in production?



The lower photo shows the condition of the wood after being kept so long in a damp atmosphere. The polish will need to be stripped down and the wood rubbed down gently with "0000" grade wire wool to smooth out the raised grain. I'll leave all the other marks and dinks so that the character and patina of the wood will still. Show through..

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The dial is free of any serious marks and will only need the brass polished and the face washed. The hands are original and blued and slightly rusty but will benefit greatly with a wax polish.



The other two photos show the pendulum bob, magnet and base. The magnet was reading 140mm on the homemade magnetometer and will need to be re-magnetised.

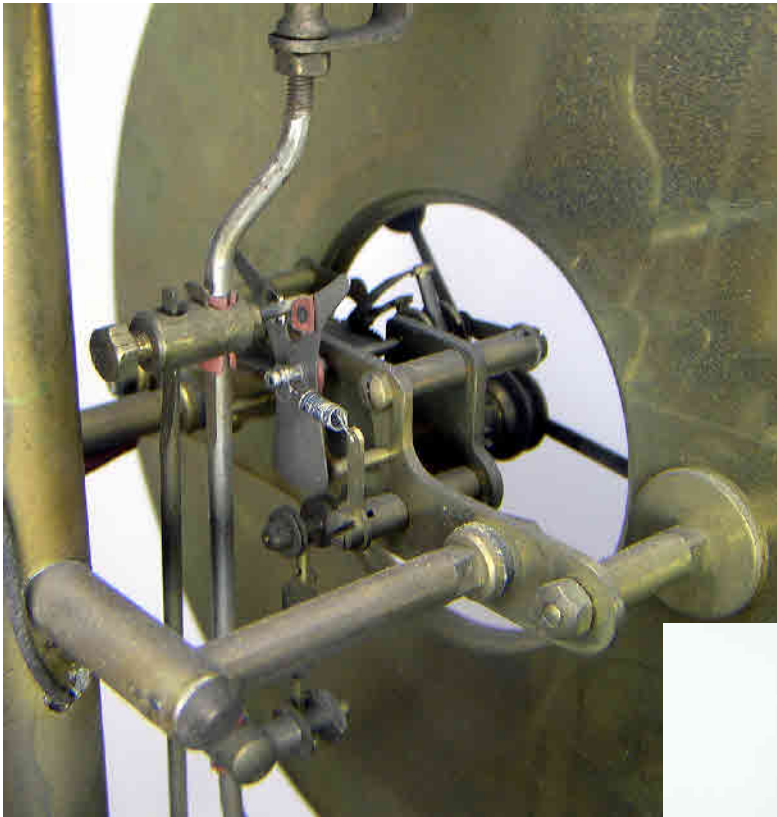
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All the parts of the movement are slightly rusty but in remarkably good order. Even the silk suspension looks to be original with the silk in fine condition. This is one of the few times when I can re-use it.

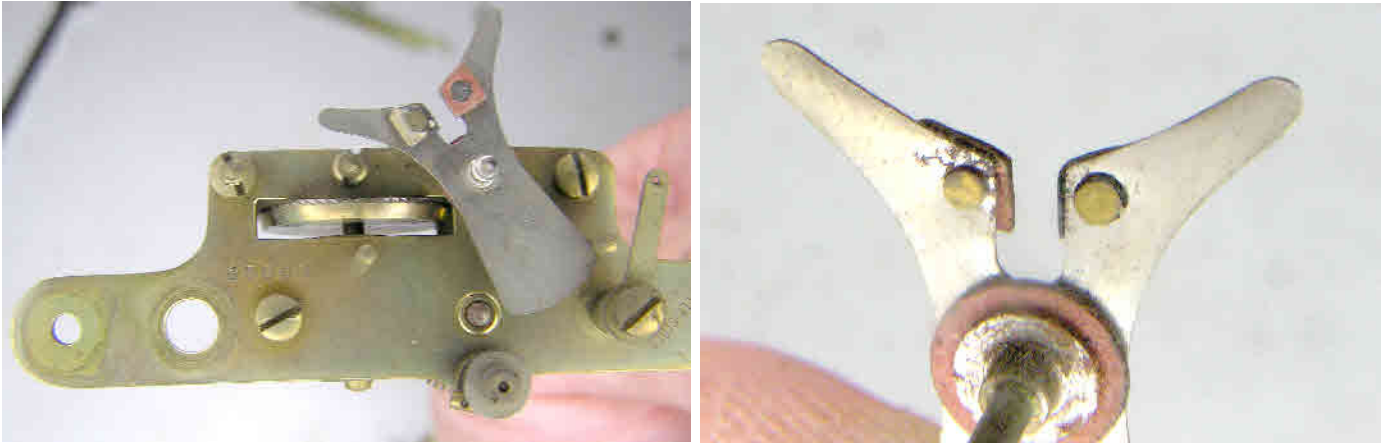
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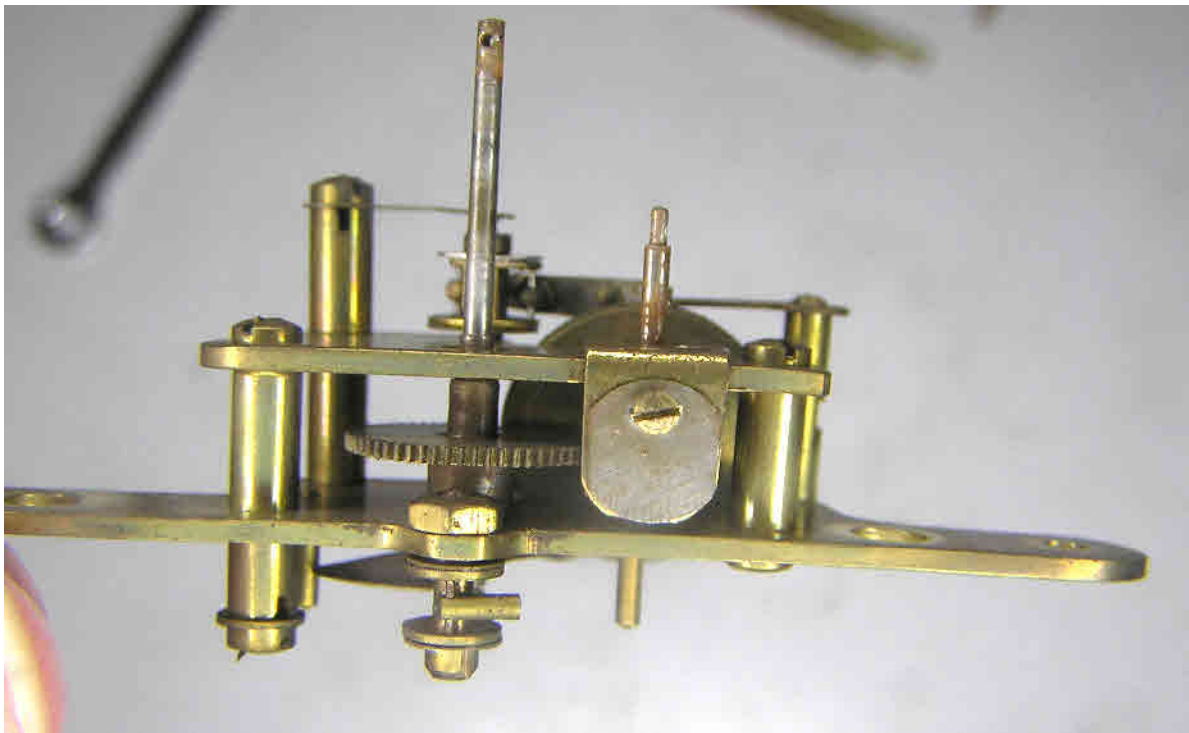
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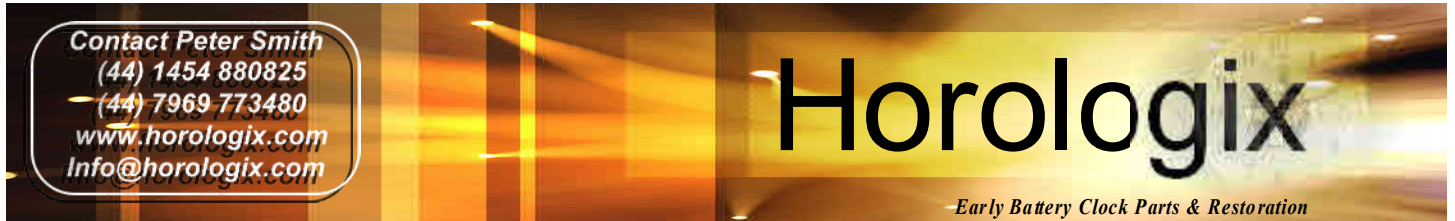


The fork and contacts are in fine condition and show no great signs of wear, even on the fibre side. So with a good clean up the fork will be re-used as is.



The main movement is shown here and bar the rust is again in good condition.

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The photo above shows the count wheel and worm. Again they show no signs of wear and other than the rust are in great shape. The rust will be removed easily enough but the arbour and worm will need to be polished with a pivot file to remove and slight pitting that may be evident.

The coil is all original and shows a healthy resistance of 1170 Ohms. There will be no need to strip it down any further than is shown here. The covering is in good condition as well as the lead wires. The copper wires will just be cleaned up with "0000" gauge wire wool before re-assembly.



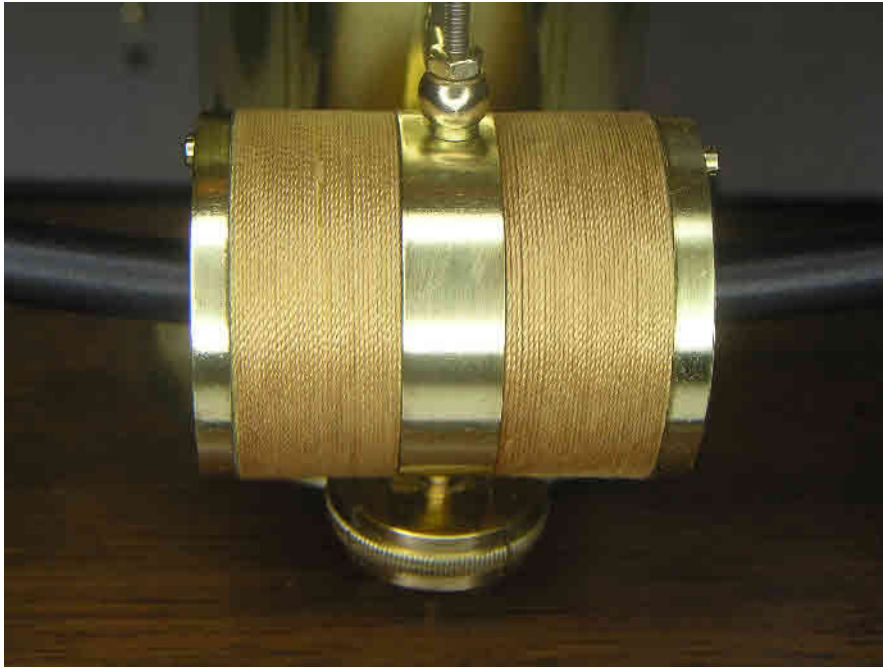
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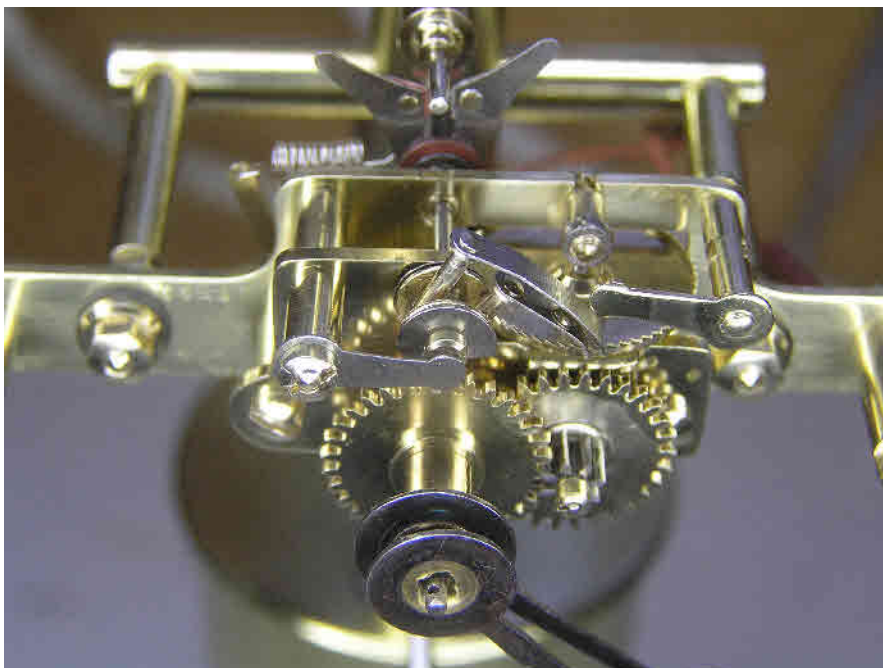
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The pendulum coil casing after cleaning. The cord has been retained by covering with masking tape while attention was paid to the brass work. The coil itself was sound and only needed the leads cleaned. The magnet now reads 180 on the magnetometer after re-magnetising. It was then Grate blacked.



The lower photo shows the movement after cleaning and setting up. The fork contacts worked beautifully after cleaning and did not need replacing.

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The wood base after cleaning and polishing. The old black baize has been re-fitted after brushing with a stiff brush. All of the blemishes and stains in the wood have been retained under the eight coats of French Polish. This was then cut back with a good Beeswax polish applied using "0000" grade wire wool. The whole was then buffed to leave a subdued sheen.



The face was masked off with brass shim while the brass surround was cleaned and polished. The face itself was then washed in warm soapy water. The hands have been polished with beeswax and have come up really well.

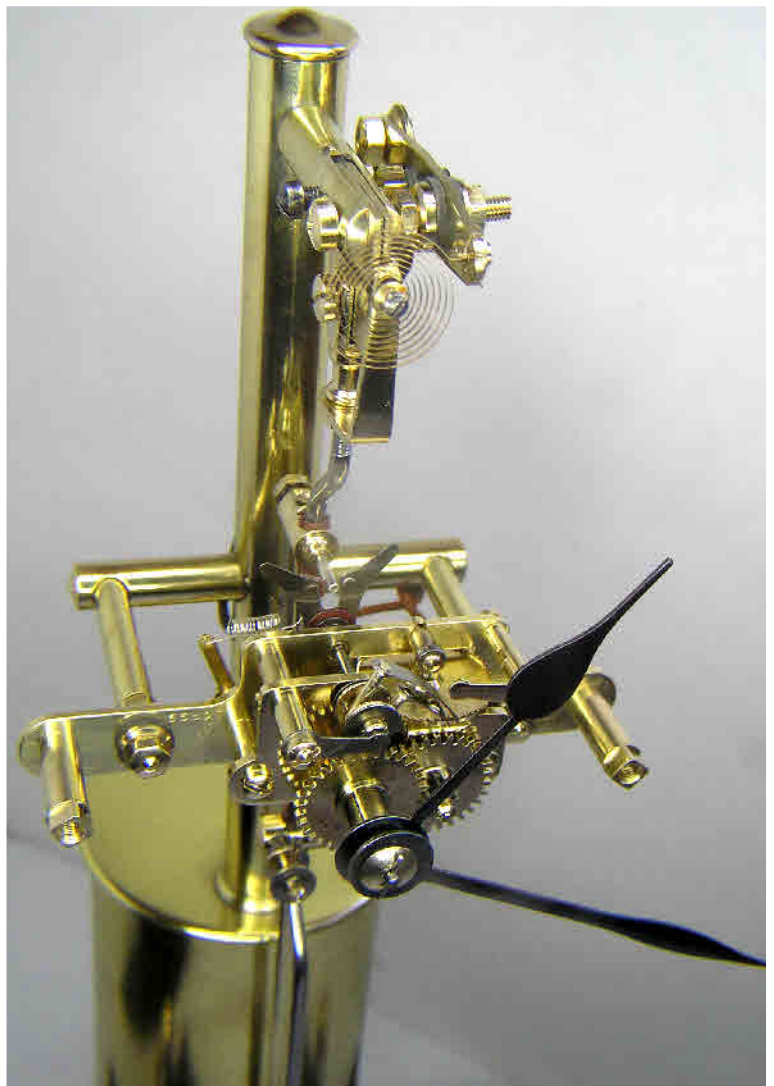
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The column showed no major damage from battery acid although there are some very minor blemishes in the colour of the brass. Nothing though that detracts from the finish. The second photo shows the movement, pendulum and suspension assembly in place. The silk suspension was re-used being in excellent condition. Unusually the red and black braided wire was also in surprisingly good condition and so was also re-used. In 80% of cases the wiring is very badly corroded and broken in multiple places.

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The separate wood top is shown in the photo above. It was also cleaned, polished and cut back leaving all of the original marks and dinks .

The Finished Clock

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