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Bulle Clock Serial Number 205535

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 205535



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This short clockette has a beautiful Chinese design base which has survived intact with no major damage. It will clean up very well.

The clock itself is of the standard design and all looks to be complete again with no major damage or missing parts. It should be a pleasure to restore.

The dial is pretty good although it has a few small scratches.



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These two photos show the wonderful base and it's figures. The only issue seems to be ingrained dirt hiding parts of the design around the side of the base. This should all clean up quite well.

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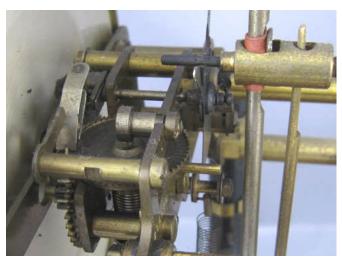


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Above we see the rear of the clock with an extra hole in the base behind the column. It was probably added at some time to facilitate new wires from the battery. This was quite common as it is sometimes difficult to push the wires through the hole and down the column. Those without the knowledge or tools would sometimes opt for a new hole. It is quite small and out of the way so we shall leave it rather than do any more damage.



Above is a detail of the movement which although dirty is is good condition.

Below we see the bottom of the base which again looks OK and will not be touched other than cleaned..

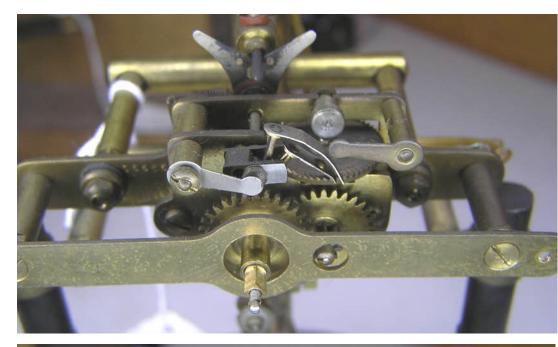


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The movement before disassembly. No missing or damaged parts yet.

Below left we see the top of the frame and suspension unit. The only new item here will be the suspension.

Below can be seen the method used to attach the frame to the base. Three long bolts pass through a brass collar and then through the base. The collar is permanently fitted to the column but free to travel up and down or turn 360 degrees.



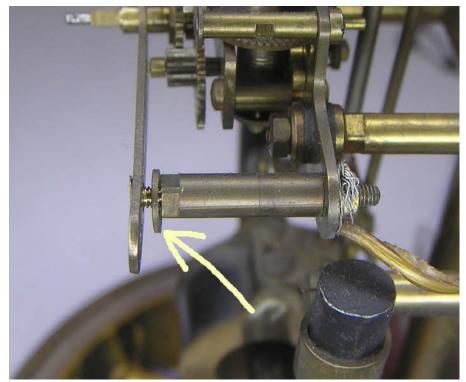


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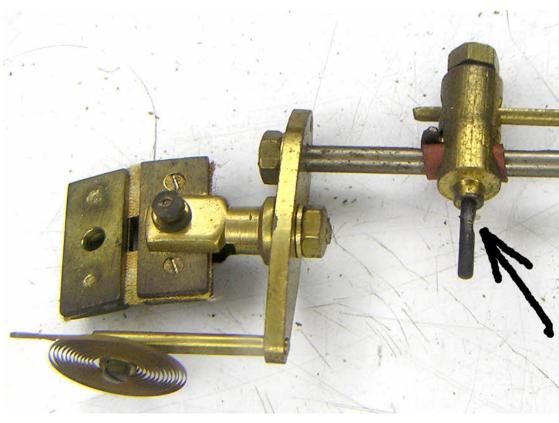


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I include this photo to show the spacer between the dial support pillar and the dial cross rib. Ithe clock needs these spacers because the screws have counter sunk heads that are a little too deep for the cross rib such that the rib cannot be screwed down tight and will wobble. Once the spacers are in place then the screws will pull up tight.



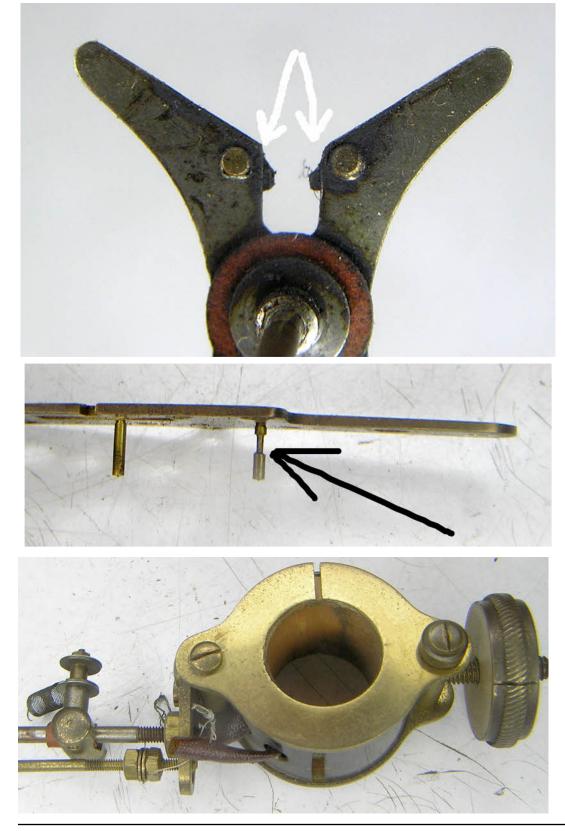
This photo shows the top of the pendulum and suspension together with the contact pin assembly. You can just see that th epin has some where with a pronounced gully where it makes contact with the fork. This amount of wear is usually associated with excessive wear of the silver and fibre contacts, when the steel of the fork actually cuts into the soft silver pin. The grove will be removed and the pin turned upside down to present a new working face.

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Here we have the fork arbour showing the wear suggested by the pin. Both the silver and fibre contacts have worn away completely at the heel of the fork. These will both be replaced.

This cut away on the right hand banking pin is unusual but not uncommon. It has been turned down to allow just a little more swing to the right of the fork.

This last photo shows the coil and its casing at the bottom of the pendulum. The wiring looks a bit ragged but intact. We will cheque the condition of the coil when we take the casing caps off. (Since finishing the clock, it proved to be somewhat temperamental and I had to revisit the coil and change the top lead out wire which seemed to give and intermittent contact).

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The pawl assembly. This type of rectangular bobbin is again unusual but not rare. The bobbin is normally round with matching steel washers. In this case the washers are rectangular the same as the bobbin. I find these a little more difficult to re-assemble and position correctly than the round ones. The washers keep falling into a vertical position when trying to tighten them.

This photo shows the lower Isochron attachment assembly with its steel washers. Note the wear pip on the inside of the first washer. This is caused by the continual rocking of the "T" pin. It is of no consequence as it is just a case of turning the washer a few degrees to present a new face.

The rear of the movement before disassembly.

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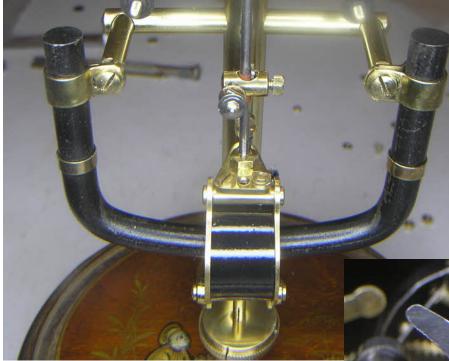


The base after a light clean and wax polish.



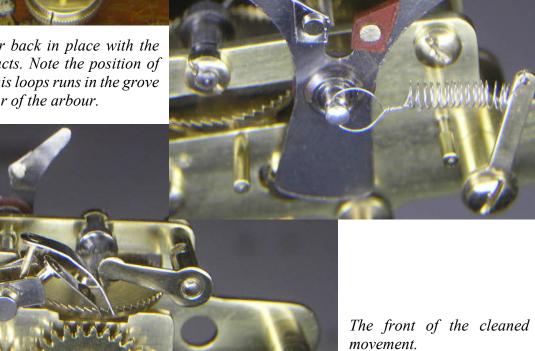
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At right is the fork arbour back in place with the new silver and fibre contacts. Note the position of the Silver Contact Wire. This loops runs in the grove of the silver stub at the rear of the arbour.

The pendulum, magnet and frame back in position of the base.



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The clock in restored condition.

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The finished clock.