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Bulle Clock Serial Number 256525

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 256525





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Photos by kind permission of the owner.

The clock as delivered.

A short movement Clockette on a round wooden base. No dome supplied. The first thing to note is the very dry wooden base. There is no colour or polish left on it at all! It must have been stored in a damp environment for quite a while.. The dial is also marked and spotted. Unfortunately, other than sending to a dial restorer, there is not a lot that can be done. But it will seem a lot better once the rest of the clock is clean and the dial surround has been polished. The hands are rusted and pitted but will come up fine once painted..





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Two photos showing the base and underside after I dislodged the spider colony.



This is quite novel. The silver contact pin has been replaced with a small screw soldered into the brass holder. A new threaded piece of silver will be fitted.





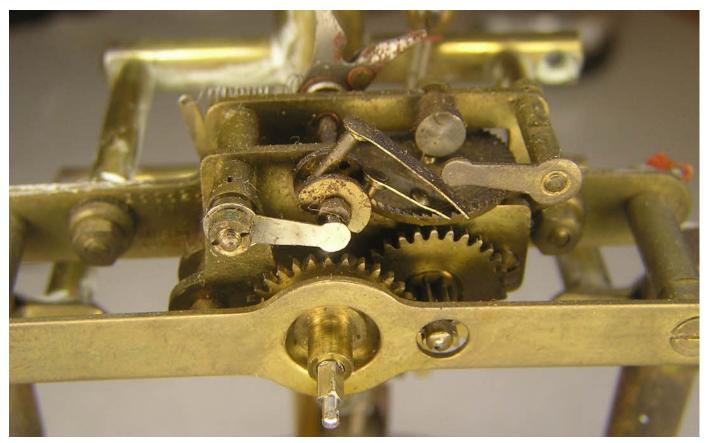
The rest of the clock looks as though someone rejoiced in the use of Brasso! It's everywhere.





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The movement does look to be in tact with no major parts missing.



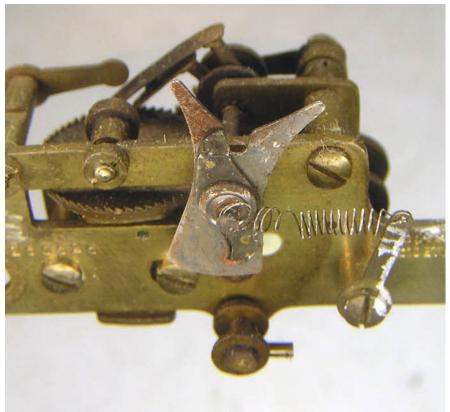


The steel screws securing the feet are badly corroded and will be replaced, if I can get them out! The magnet is also quite rusted but will be easily cleaned and restored with fire grate paint.



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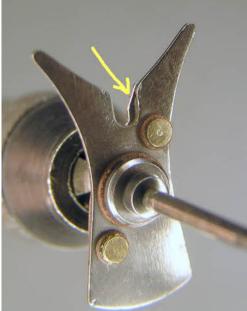
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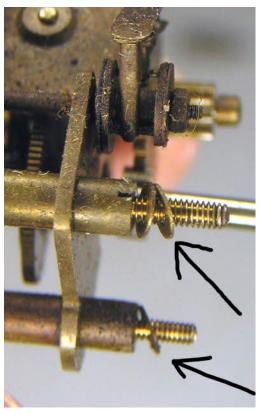
The fork has been worn by the steel screw and the whole fork will need to be replaced. These later forks are almost impossible to repair because of the insulated fibre washers separating the silver contact from the fork. It is a nightmare and far easier to revert to the original fork.





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The serial number of the clock is usually stamped to the right of the hole used to secure the movement to the frame. On earfly clocks it is usually only found on the front but later clocks were also stamped in the rear.

Note that on some clocks there are tiny washers that space out the front plate to allow some end shake on the centre arbour (minute arbour). Be careful and check for them and how many are on each stud. This particular clock had two on the upper stud and one on the lower as can be seen in the photo above.

This last photo shows the two feet after removed from the base. The wood is now ready to be cleaned, stained and French polished



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The base after staining, French polishing. The polish was left for four or five days before cutting back and waxing.



The pendulum casing after painting and reassembled on the frame.

The new contact pin has been made from 2mm silver, threaded 1.4mm and screwed into the brass housing. The housing was damaged by solder and the steel screw embedded in it. I had to clean the solder away and re-thread it for the pin, which needs to be really secure because of the constant beating it receives from the fork arbour.





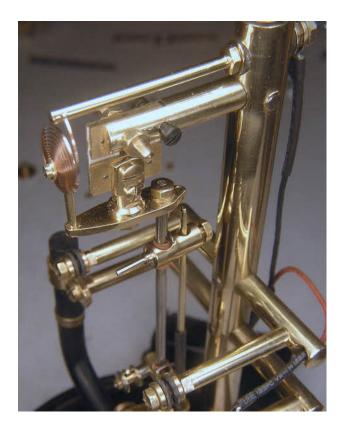


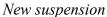
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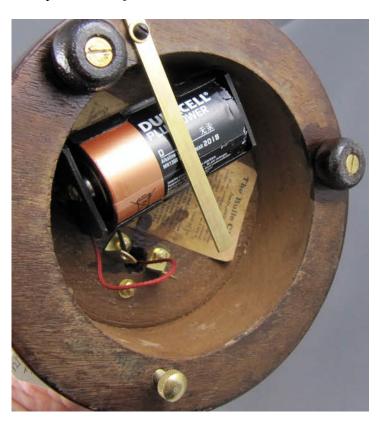
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The restored movement back in place in the frame.





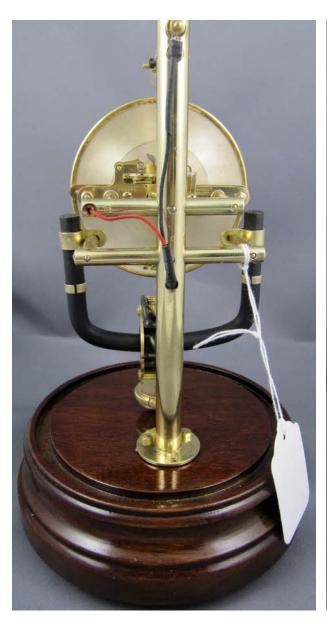


New screws for the feet

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The finished clock.

Note that the dial doesn't look half as bad, now that the rest of the clock is looking good and the surround has been polished.