British Domestic Synchronous Clocks 1930-1980: The Rise and Fall of a Technology (History of Mechanism and Machine Science)

Leslie Philip Pook
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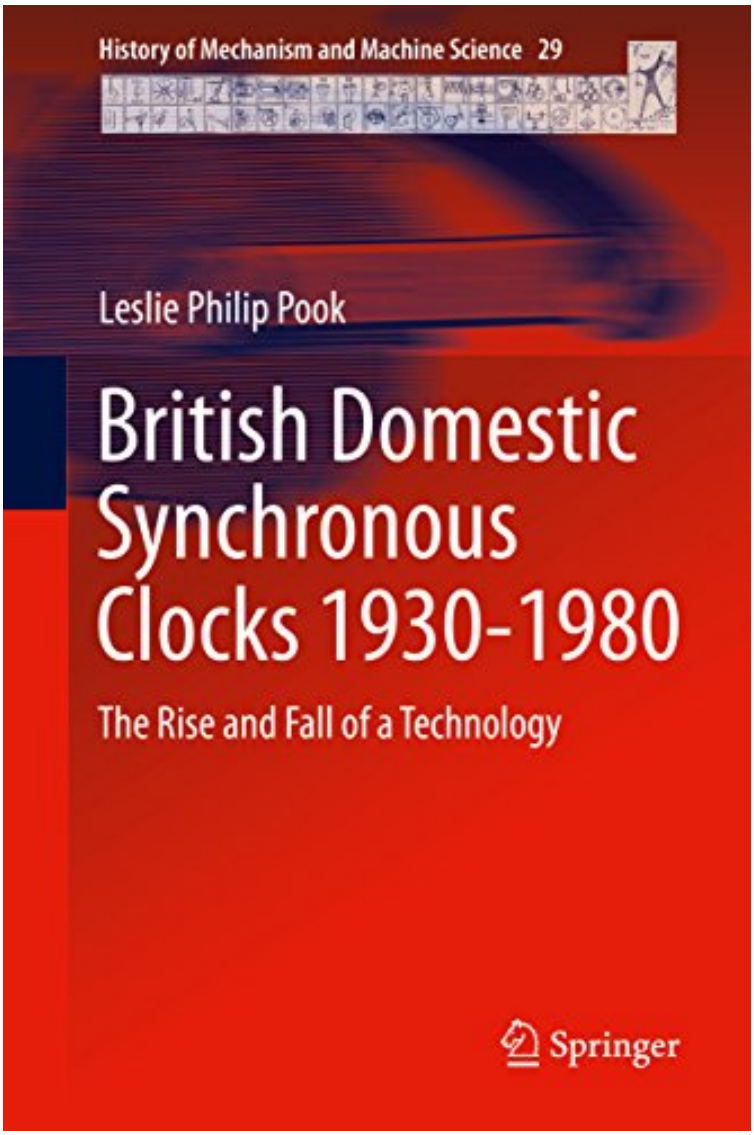

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Leslie Philip Pook : British Domestic Synchronous Clocks 1930-1980: The Rise and Fall of a Technology (History of Mechanism and Machine Science) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Domestic Synchronous Clocks 1930-1980: The Rise and Fall of a Technology (History of Mechanism and Machine Science):

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Synchronous Clocks of the 20th CenturyBy Fortunat Mueller-maerkiEverything you ever wanted to know about British Made Synchronous Clocks of the 20th CenturyBookreview 2015 by Fortunat Mueller-MaerkiBritish Domestic Synchronous Clocks 1930-1980 ndash; The Rise and Fall of a Technology. By Leslie Philip Pook. Published in English 2015 as Volume 29 in the Series sbquo;History of Mechanisms and Machine Sciencersquo; by Springer International Publishing. ISBN 978-3-319-14387-3 [hardcover] or ISBN 978-3-319-14388 [e-book], ISSN 1875-3442. 248 pages. Well over 500 illustrations, mostly in color. Includes Glossary and References. Available through at http://www..com/British-Domestic-Synchronous-Clocks-1930-1980/dp/3319143875 for $109.This book is a unique and very useful addition to the working library of any clock collector or clock restorer interested in - or working on - British made, electrically driven mechanical clocks made between 1930 and 1980. There simply is no other publication ndash;in or out of print- that covers the subject in the same depth and detail.The following sections make up the book:1. Introduction, terminology, etc. (14 pages)2. Trade Associations, Production volumes, Identification, Brands (4 pages)3. Manufacturers (Synoptic histories of 21 makers), (13 pages)4. How a Synchronous Clock Works (24 pages)5. Synchronous Clock Cases (14 pages)6. Servicing Synchronous Clocks (10 pages)7. Marketing Reliability (12 pages)8. Gallery of Synchronous Clocks (mantel clocks, bedside clocks, wall clocks, floorstanding clocks) 1-2 specific examples per page, short paragraph on each clock, each with front and back view (189 pages)9. Gallery of Synchronous Movements (37 movements from 15 makers illustrated and described, 1 to 7 images per movement) (60 pages).It is apparent that the author knows and understands the material thoroughly and the book contains hundreds of details useful to the repairer/restorer or the collector alike. Much of the information is in the hundreds of color photographs (usually front and back of case and movement) of over 100 different clocks. This is a lsquo;Reference Textrsquo; not a lsquo;read throughrsquo; book, and nothing remotely similar has ever been published before. Any serious electrical horologist ndash;professional or enthusiast alike- needs this book in his library.What is curious is the publishing venue; Springer is a globally leading publisher of academic textbooks, many of them targeted to small niche readerships. The hobbyist/craftsman/collector market admittedly has some similarities to academic textbooks, but these target audiences are even smaller. While the book offers comprehensive coverage of the technology of synchronous electric clocks (and the author has taught engineering students) there are vastly more images of cases and back labels (i.e. material aimed at the collector/restorer rather than at the repairer). This reviewer also wonders how horological readers will react to academic text book pricing.Congratulations to the author for the labor of love of assembling all this specialized material for a rather small niche audience. The horological world should be thankfull for the role authors like Leslie Philip Pook play in documenting and preserving obscure corners of the worldrsquo;s horological heritage.Fortunat Mueller-Maerki - Sussex NJ, USA18 March 2015

This book complements available one-make books on domestic synchronous clocks. It is also a history of science book that sets British domestic synchronous clocks, their manufacturers and technology in their social context.Part I covers the historical background, British domestic synchronous clock manufacturers and brands, how synchronous clocks work, domestic synchronous clock cases, practical advice on the servicing of domestic synchronous clocks and analysis of the marketing and reliability of British domestic synchronous clocks. This analysis provides an explanation of the rise and eventual fall of their technology. Part II contains galleries of a selection of British domestic synchronous clocks and of the movements with which they are fitted. There is a front and back view of each clock, together with a brief description. Views of each movement include views with the movement partly dismantled, together with a brief technical description of the movement.This profusely illustrated book is primarily for fellow enthusiasts and is based on an extensive archive of information on domestic synchronous clocks, their movements and their manufacturers. Current electrical regulations mean that professional clockmakers are reluctant to repair synchronous clocks. In fact, provided that they have not been mistreated, synchronous clocks are usually reliable, and quite easy to maintain.

ldquo;A very useful book that chronicles and illustrates this particular field of horology. hellip; the book mentions the motors that are used in domestic timers (indeed, a synchronous motor powers the turntable in every microwave oven!). hellip; the main value of the book is in the lsquo;galleriesrsquo; of photographs of the huge variety of clocks hellip; . The many illustrations will be helpful to enthusiasts who can still buy these clocks quite cheaply to build up collections.rdquo; (Doug Bateman, Antiquarian Horology, June, 2015)ldquo;This book is a unique and very useful addition to the working library of any clock collector or clock restorer interested in, or working on, British made, electrically driven mechanical clocks made between 1930 and 1980. There simply is no other publication, in or out of print, that covers the subject in the same depth and detail. hellip; Any serious electrical horologist, professional or enthusiast alike, needs this book in their library.rdquo; (Fortunat Mueller-Maerki, The Horological Journal, May, 2015)From the Back CoverThis book complements available one-make books on domestic synchronous clocks. It is also a history of science book that sets British domestic synchronous clocks, their manufacturers and technology innbsp;their social context.Part I covers the historical background, British domestic synchronous clock manufacturers and brands, how synchronous clocks work, domestic synchronous clock cases, practical advice on the servicing of

domestic synchronous clocks, and analysis of the marketing and reliability of British domestic synchronous clocks. This analysis provides an explanation of the rise and eventual fall of their technology. Part II contains galleries of a selection of British domestic synchronous clocks, and of the movements with which they are fitted. There is a front and back view of each clock, together with a brief description. Views of each movement include views with the movement partly dismantled, together with a brief technical description of the movement.This profusely illustrated book is primarily for fellow enthusiasts, and is based on an extensive archive of information on domestic synchronous clocks, their movements, and their manufacturers. Current electrical regulations mean that professional clockmakers are reluctant to repair synchronous clocks. In fact, provided that they have not been mistreated, synchronous clocks are usually reliable, and quite easy to maintain.About the AuthorLeslie Philip (Les) Pook was born in Middlesex, England in 1935. He obtained a BSc in metallurgy from the University of London in 1956. He started his career at Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd, Coventry in 1956. In 1963 he moved to the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow. In 1969, while at the National Engineering Laboratory, he obtained a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Strathclyde. Dr Pook moved to University College London in 1990. He retired formally in 1998 but remained professionally active in the fields of metal fatigue and fracture mechanics and was a visiting professor at University College London until 2009. He now has more tine to pursue long standing interests in recreational mathematics, including flexagons and in horology, especially synchronous electric clocks. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and a Fellow of the European Structural Integrity Society. Les married his wife Ann in 1960. They have a daughter, Stephanie and a son, Adrian.