



# Independent Ateliers I Have Known

Or a fool and his money...



# Clocks Came First

- I collect watches: modern ones.
- Modern 1990s to present
- Vintage 1970s (+/-) and older
- Early 1930s
- Pocket Watches 1920s and older



# My Origination Story

- Purchased my first expensive/luxury watch in 2006. (Coveted since my childhood when denied a PW)
- In 2014 I attended 5 weeks of clock and PW school in Lancaster—I had exceeded my wife's limit of 8 timepieces...
- This was a mistake; welcome to the world of Independents!





# Roland G Murphy 2014

- <http://www.rgmwatches.com/watches>







# RGM—Mount Joy, PA

- US Manufacture, ~80%
- Worked for Hamilton
- Upstairs & downstairs
- Small, CNC in the basement, Rose Engines & desks on the first floor
- Old & new: re-case PW, elements of old PW in wristwatch dials
- Tourbillon, but mostly Time Only 801 series





# McGonigle—2015

- <http://www.mcgonigle.ch/>





# McGonigle—Athlone, Ireland

- Third generation Irish horological family, clock makers; two brothers one in Ireland, one in Geneva
- WOSTEP, Christophe Claret, Frank Muller, Breguet
- Three UN Genghis Khan Tourbillon Repeaters!
- In other words, these guys got chops!



# Dublin!







# Tuscar 1 of 10





# Ceol Repeater







# Keaton Myrick—2015

- <http://www.keatonmyrick.com/>





# KM—Sisters, OR

- 100% US Manufacture—one man show, except for the springs (balance & main) and strap
- Time only, Tourbillon
- The man loves his tools!
- Shared space with Ed Beacham when I visited



# New Workspace







# Continued...



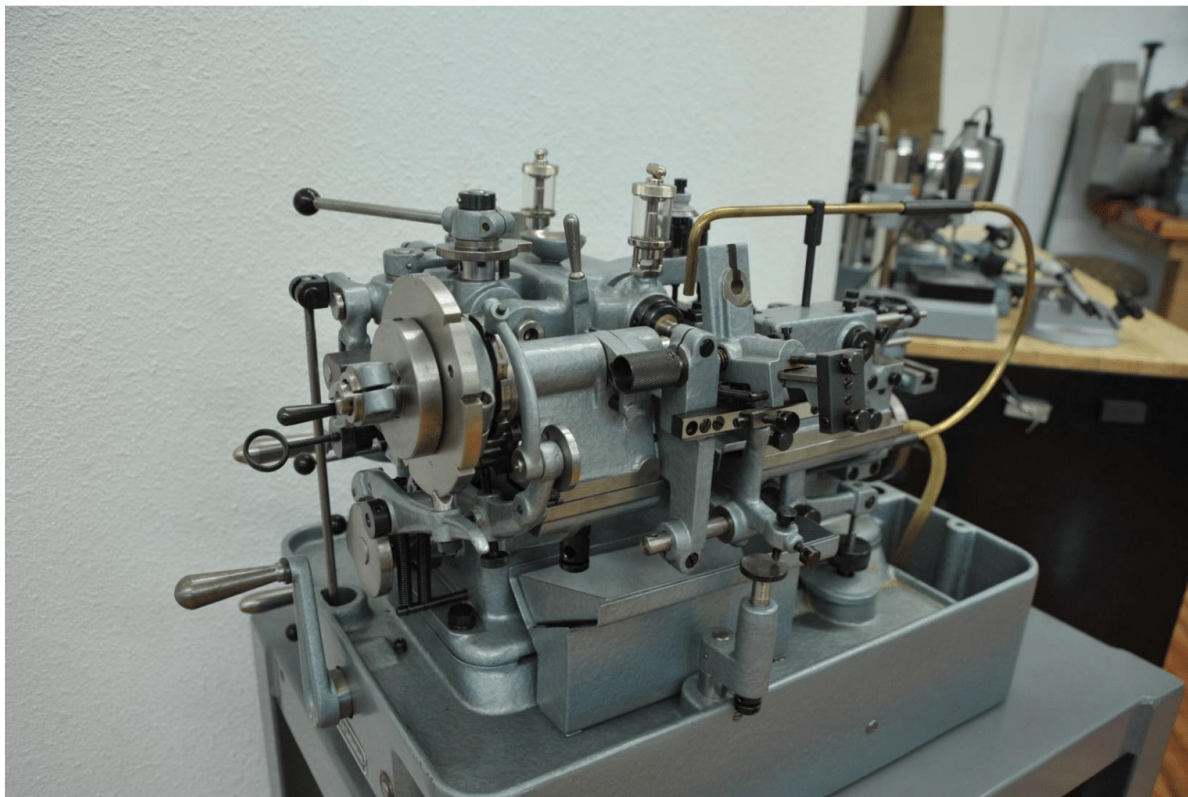


ditto...





# Pinon Cutter







# One of Thirty





# Lang & Heyne—2017

- <https://www.lang-und-heyne.de/en/>







# Dresden, Germany

- German; hand crafted
- Higher end, “bespoke”
- Successful
- One workshop, multiple crafts, independent contractors sharing space
- Enamel and finishing
- A. Lange & Sohne, Glashutte Original, Nomos, etc.



# Pristine Workshop





# Engraving & Hands





# Heinrich—Remontoire





# Independents

- Horological craftsmen vs. Big Guys
- Personal & Personalization
- Resale value risk (unless you're a Dufour, Smith or Daniels—who knows, I might get lucky)
- Dedicated tools & duplicates: multiple lathes, etc. Setup for one operation
- Small production; Beautiful locations



## Independents-2

- Currently, a bit of a fad, everybody and their sister trying to stand out in a crowd
- For example Czapek partner to Patek Philippe, long since forgotten, name resurrected for new business (and yes, I've bought one, okay two...)
- Something unique



# Name Dropping

- Gerald Genta (Royal Oak, Nautilus)
- Christophe Claret (Ulysse Nardin, Rolf Schnyder)
- Laurent Ferrier (Patek Philippe)
- Max Busser (JLC, Harry Winston)
- Romain Gauthier
- FP Journe
- Vianney Halter



# WOSTEP 7

- Maarten Pieters - Director of WOSTEP
- Tim Gronefeld - Gronefeld
- Bart Gronefeld - Gronefeld
- Roland Murphy - RGM
- Kari Voutilainen - Voutilainen
- Stephen McGonigle - McGonigle
- Stephen Forsey - Greubel Forsey
- Jean-Patrice Hofner- President WOSTEP





# WOSTEP 7

