

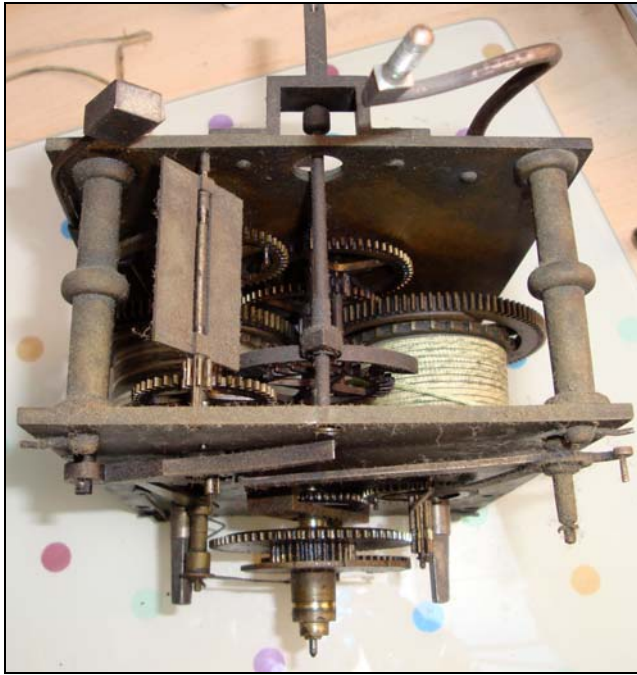
Archibald Coates of Wigan, made circa 1775

Archibald Coates was a prolific and well known maker of quality clocks; he was working in Wigan from about 1759 until his death in 1797. His eldest son, also Archibald, worked as a clockmaker from about 1795 until about 1820 when he became a publican. Archibald's other sons Robert & James also worked in clock and watch making in the town. Robert died in 1800 and James worked until about 1811. This clock is well cherished by the owner but has not had any service work for many years and is really looking very tired and soaked in metal polish. The clock then suffered a fall from the case while being moved to lay some new carpet; this caused damage to the dial plate and fixing posts. Most clock makers fit retaining bolts to hold the movement and dial firmly to the seat board; this one did not, which means the movement can easily topple off the case when the weight of the pendulum and driving weights are removed.

This is a lesson for any owner when moving a longcase clock, it is often much safer to get your local qualified horologist to move it for you and then set the clock up again after any house work has been completed. He can also cast an eye over the clock to check the lubrication at the same time, something that needs doing regularly in a modern centrally heated home.



Above, this is the bend in the dial plate caused by the fall, damage such as this can be tricky to repair, this dial plate is made from cast brass rather than the modern rolled brass we would use today, cast brass of this age is very prone to stress fracture and any repair needs a light touch. The dial pillars which hold the movement in place are riveted into the plate and often, as in this case, into areas of dial engraving. The re-riveting of any posts that come lose is difficult and the engraving will need to be repaired as well. The moon phase disc has suffered from oil damage around the centre fixing hole; restoration of this takes time and is difficult to clean. The edge will need re-silvering to complete the job.



Here we see the severe pallet face wear, these pits need attention. I prefer micro welding with carbon steel filler and then refinishing.



Above...The movement is in a very dirty condition and wear abounds.

The artist from Wigan that originally painted this moon is unknown, but he was used by other well known clock makers such as Peter Fearnley.

I do love the big brown female eyes... No one Does them better.

