

N° 27

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PIERRE DECHEVRAND
À Valenciennes

SMALL AND UNUSUAL CAPUCINE



Circa 1830

Very likely a masterpiece

Height, with handle upright: 26 cm (10.2 in)

Signed *Pierre Dechevrant à Valenciennes*





SMALL AND UNUSUAL CAPUCINE

Circa 1830, with time and strike, very likely a masterpiece.

Movement with dual purpose (time and strike) single barrel of long duration (20 days) and extremely unusual very small countwheel for the strike, signed *Pierre Dechevrant à Valenciennes*. Small enamel dial with Arabic numerals and blued steel hands.

Well-designed case with machined decorations all round, silvered bell on top.

Height, with handle upright: 26cm (10.2 in).

The Capucine clock is the early version of what is commonly known as a Carriage Clock. It was produced from the mid-18th C to the mid-19th C. It had a rectangular shape, small turned finials on the top corners, and fitted with a silvered bell topped with a carrying handle.

Its movement construction was quite unique, half-way between the typical French “Paris” movement of the time, and the Comtoise clock (for some of its features on the strike side: no warning, double strike on the hour, and pull-wind repeat.) The one feature they all have is an alarum. It often has a vertical swinging pendulum that you can either attach to the rear plate or easily remove for transport. These movements generally run for eight days.

The generic term of “Capucine” is derived from “capuche”, which means “hood”. Indeed with its bell on top one may think also of the Capucin brethren, where from it may also have derived its name. History has it that the Emperor Napoleon was providing his high-ranking officers with such a clock to make sure that they would always turn up on time.



