

N° 32

JACQUES NÈVE
Horloger d'Art

+ 32 (0)477 27 19 08 - jneve@horloger.net - www.horloger.net

18th-CENTURY CAPUCINE



Height with handle up: 11" (28cm); Width: 4½" (12cm); Depth: 3" (8cm)

Circa 1785

Enamel dial with Arab numerals.









18th-CENTURY CAPUCINE

Circa 1785

Enamel dial with black Arab numerals for the hours and red for the quarter hours. Finely cut, engraved and gilt hands above a brass ring for adjusting the alarm.

Double strike on the hour and two minutes later, one strike on the half hour, rack strike mechanism with delay on a silvered bell above, the strike works between dial and movement, alarm mechanism.

The alarm is armed by a pull-wind on the left, small lever on the right for strike repeat on demand.

8-day mechanism with winding on two barrels, anchor recoil escapement on a short anchor, silk-suspended pendulum.

Height with handle up: 11" (28cm); Width: 4½" (12cm); Depth: 3" (8cm)



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 alarm. 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. Oral tradition has it that Emperor Napoleon was providing his high-ranking officers with such a clock to make sure that they would always turn up on time.



