

N° 32

JACQUES NÈVE  
*Horloger d'Art*

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

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**Denis-Nicolas LEBON à Paris**

**PORTABLE TABLE CLOCK**



**Louis XV period, circa 1760**

H. 24cm (9 ½"), W. 17cm (6½"), D. 11cm (4¼")

Signed above the dial : *Lebon à Paris*.

**REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY :** *Catalogue Collection Charles de Lorraine*, 1781 ; *La Mesure du Temps*, catalogue de l'exposition, Namur, 7 au 22 juillet 1962 ; Tardy *La Pendule Française, La Pendule dans le Monde*, 1987; Eddy Fraiture, *Belgische Uurwerken en hun Makers, Horloges et Horlogers Belges A-Z*, 2009.











**Denis-Nicolas LEBON à Paris**

**PORTABLE TABLE CLOCK**

Louis XV period, circa 1760

Signed above the dial : *Lebon à Paris*.

Movement with square plates and two winders. Verge escapement, very short silk-suspended pendulum. Half-hourly rack strike on a silvered bell placed on top of the case. A pull winder is placed on the left for the strike repeat action.

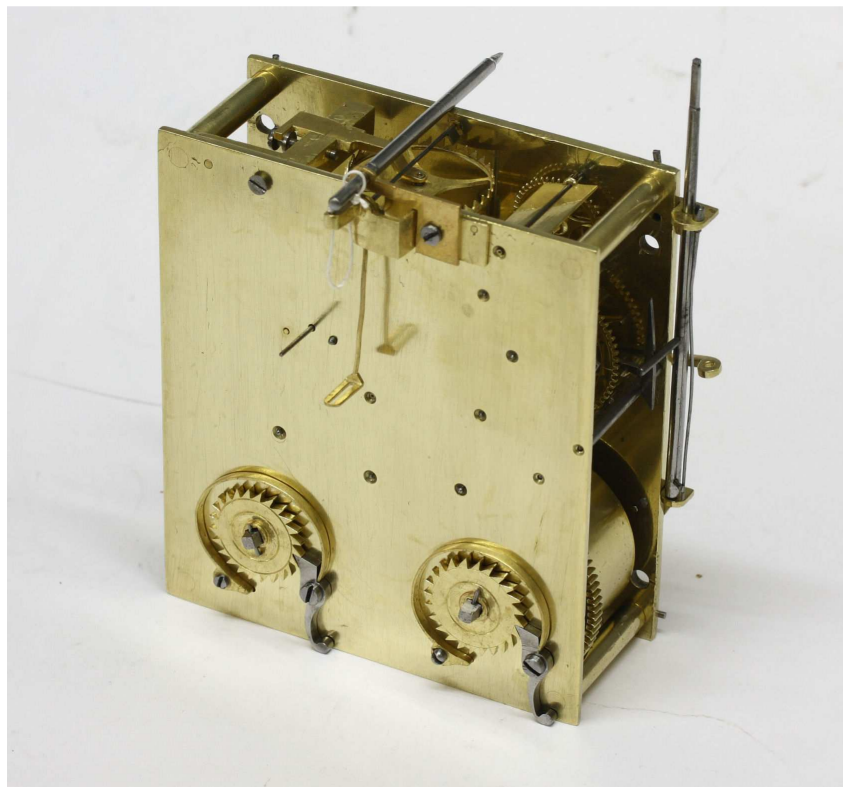
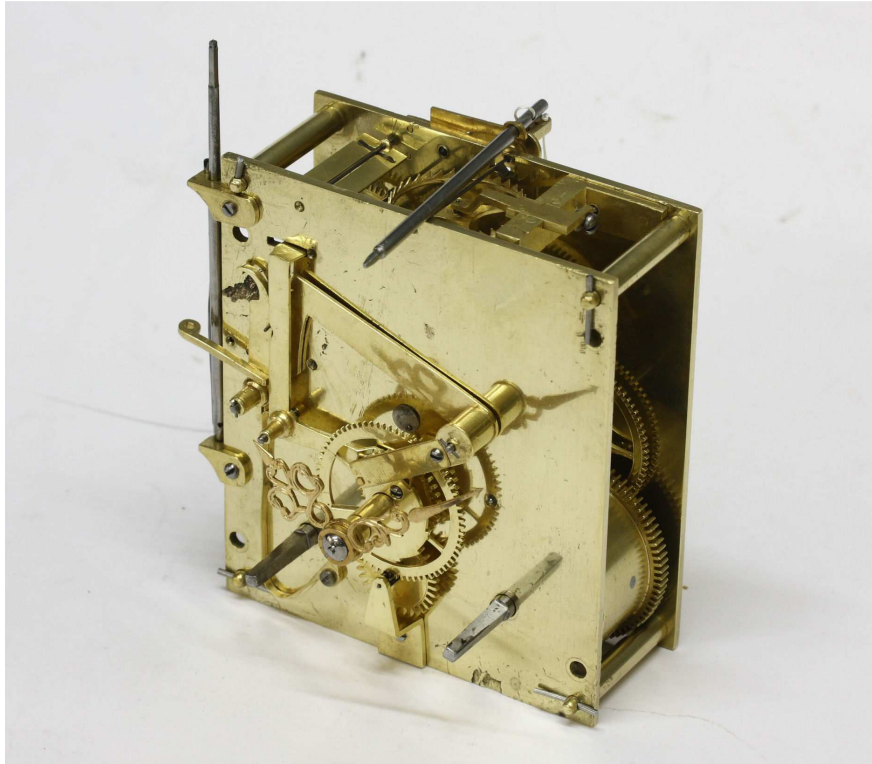
Enamel dial with Roman numerals for the hours and Arabic numerals for the five minutes. Finely cut and engraved gilt hands, the gilt brass dial surround with the typical signature of its maker "*Lebon à Paris*".

The brass case with four truned feet below and four toupees on top, the fifth toupee on top of the bell. The rear door allows easy access to the pendulum, the three doors with glass within a wave cut allow for a view of the movement.

All doors are spring-loaded, a very typical *Baulion* feature (see below).

Autonomy 2 weeks.

This clock was very likely produced in the workshop of Charles-Joseph-Ferdinand Baulion in Namur as a special order by the Paris clockmaker Denis-Nicolas Lebon. The case, the movement and the dial are all very characteristic of the clocks by Baulion (see illustrations further), with one notable difference: this clock signed Lebon has an autonomy of two weeks, while the Baulion portable table clocks usually run for 2 days only. This would confirm the possibility of a special order for a richer and more demanding Paris customer.



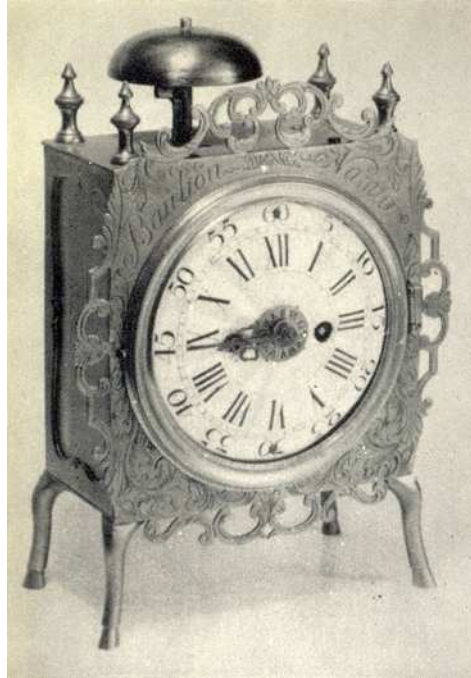
**CHARLES-JOSEPH-FERDINAND BAULION**, a clockmaker born in Charleroi was made burgess of Namur on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1761; active in 1760-1765, he was definitely Namur's most renowned clockmaker. His clocks can be found in the two main musea: the "Musée de Groesbeek-de-Croix", and the "Société Archéologique". Several very similar clocks to ours are described in the "*Catalogue Descriptif des Effets de Charles de Lorraine après sa mort en 1781* ». Charles of Lorraine (1712-1780) was the Governor-General of the Austrian Lower Countries and the Empress Maria-Theresa's brother-in-law. His interest in timekeeping was notorious, and his collection contained no less that 175 watches and clocks. He often mentioned his collection and took numerous notes about it in his personal handbooks or on loose pieces of cardboard. This is how we know today of three different "clocks with alarum signed *Bau-Lion à Namur*."

**Portable table clock by Baulion, at the moment in Jacques Nève's collection, N°35.**

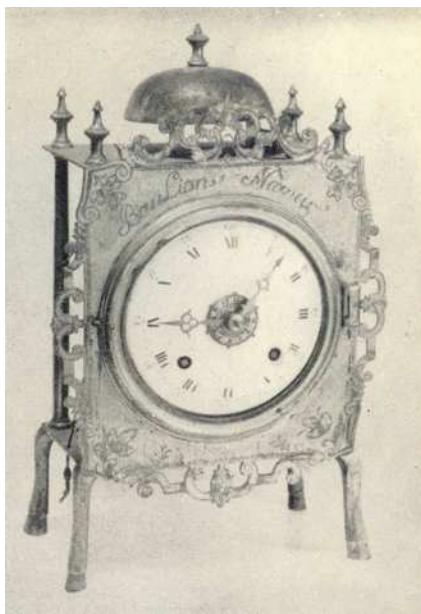




# **BAULION PORTABLE TABLE CLOCKS KEPT IN NAMUR' S MUSEA**



**Signed brass clock,  
Clock Museum, Namur**



**Signed brass clock,  
Circa 1750  
Archeological Society, Namur**



**Brass engraved table clock,  
Circa 1750  
Clock Museum, Namur**