

Antiquarian Horological Society

Finding Aid - CASTLE, JOHN (CAS)

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CASTLE, JOHN

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Summary information

Repository:	Antiquarian Horological Society
Title:	CASTLE, JOHN
Reference code:	CAS
Date:	1949–1961 (creation)
Physical description:	49 files in 2 boxes (0.33 linear metres)

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

John W. Castle (d.1962) was a member of the AHS and a contributor to **Antiquarian Horology** in its early years. In the 1950s, he undertook research for a book about famous clocks of Europe. He lived in Pinhoe near Exeter, Devon, and in Hambridge, Langport, Somerset, England.

Scope and content

This collection comprises mostly John W. Castle's correspondence with local authorities of European towns and cities enquiring about famous local clocks, conducted in course of his research for a book about famous clocks of Europe. The files contain information obtained as a result, including photographs and publications. The book has never been published.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Deposited at AHS as part of the large collection of material received from the estate of Arthur Mitchell.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series, reflecting the original arrangement of the files at the time of deposit.

CAS/01: Notes and publications

CAS/02: Subject files (arranged alphabetically)

Restrictions on access

These records are mostly available for public access by prior appointment. Records containing personal information are subject to access restrictions under the UK Data Protection Act, 2018.

Accruals

John W. Castle's archive has been fully catalogued and no further deposits are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Series descriptions

Series CAS/01: NOTES AND PUBLICATIONS

Date: 1946–1951 (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a notebook and a bound typescript of John W. Castle's planned publications.

Physical description: 2 files

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
CAS/01/001	File - "The Story of Timekeeping": notes	1946–1949	1 volume
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Notebook, 47 pages, containing John W. Castle's handwritten notes, mostly on individual clocks, and some drawings. A signed note on inside cover reads "The notes in this book represent hours of research in museums and libraries all over England and half Europe".		
CAS/01/002	File - "Remarkable Clocks" by John W. Castle	1951	1 volume
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Bound typescript, 11 chapters. Contents: 1) A little history; 2) Some lost treasures; 3) The Strasburg Clocks; 4) The Great Clock of Prague; 5) The Astronomical Clock of Lyons; 6) The Jacquemart Clock at Dijon; 7) The Zimmer Clock of Lierre; 8) The Clock Tower of Berne; 9) The Clock of Lund; 10) The Lubeck Clock; 11) Some minor marvels.		

Series CAS/02: SUBJECT FILES

Date: 1946–1961 (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains alphabetically arranged subject files of correspondence, photographs, drawings, press cuttings and publications relating mainly to remarkable European clocks.

Physical description: 47 files

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
CAS/02/001	File - Aigueperse: correspondence with the mayor of Aigueperse, France, concerning the town hall clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, two photographs and a brochure titled *Petite Historie d'Aigueperse*.	1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/002	File - Articles: talks and articles by John W. Castle <i>Scope and content:</i> Typewritten and published. Includes "It's about time" (talk with slide list), "An 18th century whimsy", "Some old clocks of West Country", "The Tower of Babel" (*Antiquarian Horology* December 1953), related correspondence, and an article "How the Chinese invented the mechanical clock" by Joseph Needham (*The New Scientist* December 1958).	1953–1958	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/003	File - Astrolabes: postcard from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, showing a French astrolabe of the seventeenth century	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/004	File - Automata: "The Story of Coppelius" and photographs of objects featuring automata <i>Scope and content:</i> Typescript and six photographs, including "La joueuse de tympanon" and "Oiseaux chanteurs" from Musée du Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers in Paris, St Mark's Clock Bell in Venice, and various figurines from the British Museum.	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/005	File - Beauvais: correspondence with the Mayor of Beauvais, France, regarding the astronomical cathedral clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, a typewritten extract from *La Cathedrale de Beauvais* by V. Leblond, and a photographic postcard.	1951–1952	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/006	File - Benfield: correspondence with the Mayor of Benfeld, France, regarding the town hall clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letter and a photographic postcard.	1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/007	File - Berne: correspondence with the Municipal Publicity Office of Berne, Switzerland, regarding the Historical Clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, a typewritten article, an illustration of the clock, and three photographs.	1950	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/008	File - British Museum: correspondence with J.S. Barnard, deputy librarian, regarding the Habrecht Clock <i>Scope and content:</i>	1950	1 folder of loose papers

	Includes letter, photographic service receipts, and one photograph.		
CAS/02/009	File - Calendar notes: notes of various calendar systems	1956–1961	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Typewritten and handwritten. Includes notes on the Mayan calendar with related correspondence with the Legation of Guatemala; notes on the calculation of the birth of Jesus, notes on the months, the calendars of Kalasasaya, Egypt, the Muslim and Jewish calendars, and perpetual calendar; a draft copy of Chapter 1 of "Once Upon a Time", and The Sunday Express article on "When 11 days vanished from the calendar" (31 December 1961).		
CAS/02/010	File - Clepsydra: correspondence with Harvard University and the Greek government regarding the water clock at the Tower of the Winds in Athens	1954–1960	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, six photographs and a drawing.		
CAS/02/011	File - Clocks curiosity: images of various curiosity clocks	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes nine photographs, two postcards, one printed drawing and two negatives of clocks from Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle; Musée du Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers in Paris; a sixteenth-century automatic clock in the shape of a ship from a private collection, and some of unidentified origin.		
CAS/02/012	File - Clocks astronomical / Dondi Clock: correspondence, articles and photographs of the astronomical Dondi Clock	1961	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes three photographs of the Dondi Clock and article from *Horological Journal* (June 1961), and a brochure titles *Globes and Spheres* by H. von Bertele.		
CAS/02/013	File - Clocks automata: photographs, articles and correspondence regarding clocks featuring mechanical figures	1950–1961	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes clocks from Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, Horniman Museum, Bethnal Green Museum, James Cox Musical Clock, the Bridges Clock, Helleicher's Singing Clock, the Thomas Dallam Organ, etc. 12 photographs.		
CAS/02/014	File - Clocks miscellaneous: photographs, press cuttings, journal articles and correspondence regarding miscellaneous clocks	1949–1961	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes over 25 photographs and photographic postcards and six articles on chiming clocks, Thomas Tompion clocks, curious clocks, "Pendulum to Atom" exhibition, and a number of other individual clocks.		
CAS/02/015	File - Cosmology: extracts from *Worlds in Collision* by Immanuel Velikowsky (1950)	n.d. [post-1950]	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Typescript. Also includes four drawings.		

CAS/02/016	File - Compiègne: correspondence with the secretary of the mayor of Compiègne, France, regarding the town hall clock	1959	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, a photographic postcard, and typewritten articles on "Compiègne (Oise): Hotel de Ville" and "La Bancloque de Compiègne".		
CAS/02/017	File - Copenhagen: brochure and postcards of Jens Olsen's world-clock	n.d. [c.1957]	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes an order form brochure for the book on Jens Olsen's astronomical world-clock by Otto Mortensen (1957), two photographic postcards and envelope.		
CAS/02/018	File - Dijon: correspondence with Archives de Dijon, France, regarding the Jacquemart clock	1950–1955	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, photographs, copy drawing of La Place Royals de Dijon, *Guide to Dijon* booklet, *Promenade a travers Dijon* booklet, and a typescript of an article "The Jacquemart Clock of Dijon". Also includes handwritten letter from the AHS regarding inclusion of the article in the journal.		
CAS/02/019	File - Dresden: correspondence with The Dresden Historical Museum regarding "The Tower of Babel" clock by Hand Schlottheim	1949	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters in German, with English translations.		
CAS/02/020	File - Exeter: correspondence, photographs, newspaper cuttings regarding Lovelace's Exeter clock, St Mary's church clock, University Clock and Cathedral Clock	1949–1952	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, three press cuttings, and 17 photographs and photographic postcards.		
CAS/02/021	File - Heidingsfeld: correspondence with Mr Muehling of the city of Würzburg, Germany, regarding the "Giemau" clock	1959	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes one letter and envelope. NB. the clock had been destroyed in 1945 in an air raid on Wuerzburg and Heidingsfeld.		
CAS/02/022	File - Heilbronn: correspondence with Heilbronn city archives, Germany, regarding the town hall clock	1953–1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, three photographs and photographic postcards, a typewritten article "Über die Kunstuhr am Heilbronner Rathaus" and a press cutting from *Amtsblatt*, a local newspaper, about the restoration of the town hall.		
CAS/02/023	File - Letters: correspondence with C.A. Murray, Astronomer Royal, regarding the Photographic Zenith Tube	1958	1 folder of loose papers

	<i>Scope and content:</i> One typewritten letter. Also includes a seemingly unrelated handwritten and undated (incomplete?) letter to "Mr Genge [?]".		
CAS/02/024	File - Lierre: correspondence with the mayor of Lierre, Belgium, regarding the Zimmer clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Two typewritten letters only. The description and postcard of the clock referred to in the letter are not included in the file.	1950	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/025	File - Lubeck: photographs and article about the astronomical clock in St Mary's Cathedral in Lubeck, Germany <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes four photographs and a 1930 *Uhrmakerkunst* article reprint on "Die neue Regulierung der Uhr der St. Marienkirche in Lübeck".	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/026	File - Lund: photographs and article about the astronomical clock in Lund Cathedral, Sweden <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes four photographs and a typescript article "The Clock of Lund", translated from German.	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/027	File - Lyons: correspondence with Abbot A. Michalon regarding the astronomical clock of Lyon Cathedral, France <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, five photographs and photographic postcards, two typescript copies of John W. Castle's article "The astronomical clock of Lyon", a copy of an article from *La Nature* (1895) on "L'Horloge Astronomique de Lyon", copy drawings and typescript article (in French) on the astrolabe of Lyon. Also includes handwritten letter from the AHS regarding the publication of the article.	1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/028	File - Malta: photographs and correspondence with the Valetta Museum and Maltese government regarding antique clocks kept mainly at Valetta Palace and St Antonio Palace <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, eight photographs and envelope.	1952	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/029	File - Manuscripts: John W. Castle's typewritten drafts and handwritten notes for "Remarkable Clocks" <i>Scope and content:</i> Also includes press cuttings from *Newnes Practical Mechanica* on orrery, planetarium and timing and delay mechanisms.	1955	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/030	File - Mechanisms: drawings of various clock mechanisms <i>Scope and content:</i> Four drawings, including the "stackfreed" and "mainspring barrel and fusee".	n.d. [1950s]	1 folder of loose papers

CAS/02/031	File - Molsheim: correspondence with the mayor of Molsheim, France, regarding the Anciennes Boucheries "Metzig" clock	1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, five photographs, a tourist map of Alsace featuring a photograph of the clock, and typewritten articles on "Kunstuhr in Molsheim" and "Les horloges astronomiques et Monumentales: Molsheim".		
CAS/02/032	File - Moulins: correspondence with the mayor of Moulins, France, regarding the medieval clock tower	1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, one photographic postcard and envelope. Also includes letter from Loughborough library, confirming that the Loughborough Carillion Tower is a replica of the Moulin tower.		
CAS/02/033	File - Munich: correspondence with the mayor of Munich, Germany, regarding the town hall automaton clock	1956	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters and a brochure titled *Das Münchner Rathaus und sein Glockenspiel*.		
CAS/02/034	File - Ochsenfurt: correspondence with the mayor of Ochsenfurt, Germany, regarding the town hall astronomical and automaton clock	1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes two typewritten letters and envelope.		
CAS/02/035	File - Paris: correspondence with Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, Ministry of Education, Palais de nouveauté, and Bijoutiers Horlogers, Paris, France, regarding various clocks	1949–1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes mostly typewritten letters, an excerpt from Chapter 3 of Castle's "Remarkable Clocks", a photograph of Oronce Fine's astronomical clock, and a photograph and copy drawing of De Vick's clock from the Palais de Justice. Also includes typewritten letter from the British Horological Institute .		
CAS/02/036	File - Plauen: correspondence with the mayor of Plauen, Germany, regarding the town hall automaton clock	1957	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, two printed photographs, and a newspaper cutting from *Beschaulich Daheim* (1933) with an article "Die Kunstuhe an Rathaous zu Plauen".		
CAS/02/037	File - Prague: correspondence with the Department for Foreign Relations, Prague, Czechoslovakia, regarding the town hall Horologe clock	1946	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letter, an extract from the Official Guide Book about the "Astronomical Clock at Prague Town Hall", and a magazine cutting with the photograph of the clock.		

CAS/02/038	File - Rolling Ball Clocks: correspondence with H. von Bertele, photographs and drawings relating to rolling ball clocks <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, extracts from journal articles, and nine photographs and drawings. Also includes letter from Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence, Italy.	1956–1960	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/039	File - Science Museum: correspondence, mainly regarding the borrowing of lantern slides and publications <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letters, order slips, regulations, and a list of photographs and lantern slides of objects in the Museum's time measurement collection. Also includes an invitation to a private view of Huygens' pendulum clock, and a photographic postcard of the Dover Castle clock.	1957–1961	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/040	File - Soleure: correspondence with the mayor of Solothurn (Soleure), Switzerland, regarding the city's clock tower <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes a single typewritten letter.	1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/041	File - Strasbourg: correspondence with the bishopric of Strasbourg regarding the astronomical cathedral clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes a typewritten letter and an article on "The Strasbourg Clocks", and ten photographs and photographic postcards.	1950	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/042	File - Sundials: articles, correspondence and photographs regarding sundials <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes an extract from Vitruvius on sundials and waterclocks, a journal page showing "A Strange House in Fex", articles from *Newles Practical Mechanics*, pages from *The Antique Dealer and Collectors' Guide*; letters from the Moroccan Embassy in London, The Science Museum, and Prof. Paul D. Espinasse of Hull University, handwritten notes and sketches, and 20 photographs and photographic postcards.	1955–1960	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/043	File - Ulm: correspondence with the mayor of Ulm, Germany, regarding the astronomical town hall clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes a typewritten letter and article "Die Ulmer Rathausuhr: Ein handwelkliches Meisterstück deutscher Renaissancekunst von Albrecht Rieber", and a photograph. Also includes a letter from the mayor of Olomuc, Czechoslovakia, regarding a booklet on the Olomuc town hall clock (the booklet is not included).	1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/044	File - V&A Museum: correspondence regarding the photographing of the Carpenter Clock <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes letters, order forms, rules for ordering and sale of photographs, and two photographs.	1950–1957	1 folder of loose papers
CAS/02/045	File - Watches: articles and photographs <i>Scope and content:</i>	1961	1 folder of loose papers

	Includes "The Accutron: the world's first electronic watch" (*Horological Journal* 1961), typescript of "The watch of to-morrow", list of the Horstmann collection of antique watches, and two photographs.	
CAS/02/046	File - Wells: articles and photographs of the astronomical Cathedral clock	n.d. [1950s] 1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten and printed versions of an article on "The Wells Clock" and six photographic postcards.	
CAS/02/047	File - Zoug: correspondence with the town librarian of Zug, Switzerland, regarding the clock tower	n.d. [1950s] 1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten letter, a newspaper cutting with an article on the restoration of the tower, its English translations (handwritten and typed), and a photograph.	