

# Antiquarian Horological Society

## Finding Aid - NORTHCOTE, LEWIS (NOR)

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Generated by Antiquarian Horological Society on February 27, 2025

Language of description: English

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# NORTHCOTE, LEWIS

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Antiquarian Horological Society
<b>Title:</b>	NORTHCOTE, LEWIS
<b>Reference code:</b>	NOR
<b>Date:</b>	1949–1976 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	15 files in 2 boxes (0.33 linear metres)

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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Lewis Stafford Northcote (d.1977) was an early member of the Antiquarian Horological Society, who made considerable contribution to antiquarian horology. Together with the late Dr Beeson, he helped advance the study of turret clocks by discovering, recording and classifying clocks of importance, not least the significant clock at Idbury, with its two-plane escapement. He was also a superb draughtsman and many horological works published in the 1960s and 1970s bear evidence of his craftsmanship.

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## Scope and content

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This collection contains horological correspondence, research notes, photographs and printed material created and compiled by Lewis S. Northcote.

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## Notes

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### 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 files as compiled by L. S. Northcote. The original folders and envelopes containing the papers were in very poor condition, so only their fragments containing addresses, stamps and other information have been retained.

The collection comprises three series

NOR/01: Correspondence files

NOR/02: Notes and articles

NOR/03: Printed material

## 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

Lewis S. Northcote's archive has been fully catalogued and no further deposits are expected.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

## Series descriptions

### Series NOR/01: CORRESPONDENCE FILES

Date: 1949–1976 (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains Lewis S. Northcote's correspondence on horological matters.

Physical description: 7 files

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
NOR/01/001	<b>File - Correspondence and notes relating to Thomas M. Hartley (1878-1966), turret clock maker</b>  <i>Scope and content:</i> Includes typewritten obituary by L. Northcote, with list of work done by Hartley; handwritten notes and drafts for the obituary and the list; T.M. Hartley's outgoing letter book (1949–53); brochure and leaflet on John Smith & Sons (Midland Clock Works Derby Ltd); and related correspondence.	1949–1974	1 folder of loose papers
NOR/01/002	<b>File - Correspondence and notes regarding Northcote's map for J.K. Bellchambers' book *Clockmakers of Somerset*</b>  <i>Scope and content:</i> Also includes notes. Map not included.	1964–1965	1 folder of loose papers
NOR/01/003	<b>File - Correspondence between Northcote and C. Beeson regarding turret clocks</b>  <i>Scope and content:</i> Mostly handwritten. Includes notes, sketches and calculations.	1968–1969	1 folder of loose papers
NOR/01/004	<b>File - Correspondence, mainly with the AHS Electrical Horology Group</b>  <i>Scope and content:</i>	1969–1970	1 folder of loose papers

	Includes newspaper cuttings about clock and watch sales.		
NOR/01/005	<b>File - Correspondence with AHS Electrical Horology Group and related papers</b>	1970	1 folder of loose papers
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Includes copy correspondence and typescript copies of Electrical Horology Group minutes of 9th October 1970; "List of Works on Electrical Horology" compiled by Charles K. Aked; a list of articles on electrical horology compiled by Anthony Prasil; and a list of members interested in electrical horology, with addresses.</p> <p><i>Restrictions on access:</i></p> <p>Closed until 2055 due to data protection</p>		
NOR/01/006	<b>File - Correspondence, drawings and sketches relating to Tompion clocks at Greenwich</b>	1960s–1970s	1 folder of loose papers
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Includes annotated typescript of "The Tompion Clocks at Greenwich and the Dead-beat Escapement" by Derek Howse, an article published in <i>*Antiquarian Horology*</i> (December 1970); pages from the <i>*Horological Journal*</i> (October 1962) on Tompion pallets; and Northcote's correspondence with Howse, with notes and sketches.</p>		
NOR/01/007	<b>File - Correspondence with Charles Allix and C. Beeson regarding a turret clock in Sussex</b>	1975 -1976	1 folder of loose papers and photographs
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Also includes two b/w photographs.</p>		

## Series NOR/02: NOTES AND ARTICLES

Date: 1961–1976 (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains notes, typescripts and publications compiled by Lewis S. Northcote, authored both by himself and others.

Physical description: 6 files

Publication status:

Published

### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
NOR/02/001	<b>File - Articles, notes and press cuttings mainly referring to auction sales of clocks and watches</b>	1961–1965	1 folder of loose papers and photographs
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p> <p>Also includes eight photographs, typescripts of "Further notes on some Westmoreland Clock and Watch Makers" (1962) and "Former Clock- and Watch-makers of North Lonsdale" by J.L. Hobbs; handwritten notes on clocks, handwritten draft of L. Northcote's review of <i>*Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400–1850*</i> by C.F.C. Beeson (1962) with a cover letter, and a copy of <i>*Cake and Cockhorse: the magazine of the Banbury Historical Society*</i> vol. 1 no. 2 (1961/62).</p>		
NOR/02/002	<b>File - Miscellaneous notes and talks</b>	1962–1971	1 folder of loose papers
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p>		

	Includes signed typescript of L. Northcote's review of *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400-1850* by C.F.C. Beeson (1962); typescript of "Electronics in Timekeeping", a lecture given to the Electrical Horology Group by J.D. Weaver at the Science Museum (6 Dec 1975); typescript of an article on "The Watchmaker's Guild of Copenhagen" (n.d.), and handwritten notes and comments on the Flamsteed / Towneley correspondence and Towneley's pallets as revised by Tompion.		
NOR/02/003	<b>File - Berkshire Clockmakers: notes and related correspondence</b>	1967–1968	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Includes handwritten genealogical notes, mainly on Seymour and Lambourn families.		
NOR/02/004	<b>File - "Basic Draft List of Berkshire Clock and Watch Makers to c.1842" by J. L. Hobbs</b>	1969	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Handwritten copy. Also includes a provisional list of Reading clockmakers.		
NOR/02/005	<b>File - Frederick Dent's "1859 masterpiece": notes</b>	n.d. [20th century]	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Photocopies of annotated typewritten notes on aspects of the clock: chiming, striking to the nearest second, winding by electric motor, summertime. Includes diagram.		
NOR/02/006	<b>File - "Notes on some Westmorland Clockmakers" by T. Cann Hughes</b>	1976	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Printed copy of an article "communicated at Lancaster, 14th September 1933",		

### Series NOR/03: PRINTED MATERIAL

Date: 1962–1968 (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains prints of Northcote's map of Oxfordshire and an auction catalogue.

Physical description: 2 files

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
NOR/03/001	<b>File - "Oxonium Comitatus vulgo Oxfordshire": map by Northcote</b>	1962	1 folder of loose papers
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Three prints, with a compliment slip from Thanet Printing Works.		
NOR/03/002	<b>File - Sotheby's auction catalogue *English and Continental Furniture, Clocks, Tapestries and Rugs and Carpets* (7 June 1968)</b>	1968	1 brochure in a folder