

# Sally Biel Named Volunteer of the Year

by Kim Craven, Marketing and Events Coordinator (PA)

The National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. has named Lancaster County resident Sally Biel “Volunteer of the Year” for her generous contribution of time to the National Watch & Clock Museum and its Library & Research Center.

“For nearly two years Sally has been coming in once a week to work on cataloging vertical files. Most people may not know Sally, because she works quietly in my office every Wednesday, but her work is having an enormous impact on the availability of information to NAWCC members, a key part of the Library’s

mission. In the time she’s been working here, she has cataloged almost 700 files,” shares Library and Archives Supervisor Sara Butler-Tongate.

“Sally has taken it upon herself to learn a tremendous amount about horology, keeping careful notes about each type of clock and watch she encounters in her work. Thanks to the work that she is doing, members are able to easily find library resources and a project that has been ongoing for well over the five years I’ve been here is nearing completion,” adds Butler-Tongate.



Left to right: Noel Poirier, Museum Director, Sally Biel, and Sara Butler-Tongate, Library and Archives Supervisor.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Watch and Clock Museum and the Library and Research Center. Dozens of volunteers donated thousands of hours, contributing significantly to the achievement of the NAWCC’s mission—a huge savings for the Association. These dedicated individuals provide much of the manpower needed for daily operations, programs, special projects, and events. From event planning to education aides to exhibit construction, to archival research, volunteers get involved at various levels that fit the individuals’ time and commitment availability.

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## NAWCC Archives Add Space

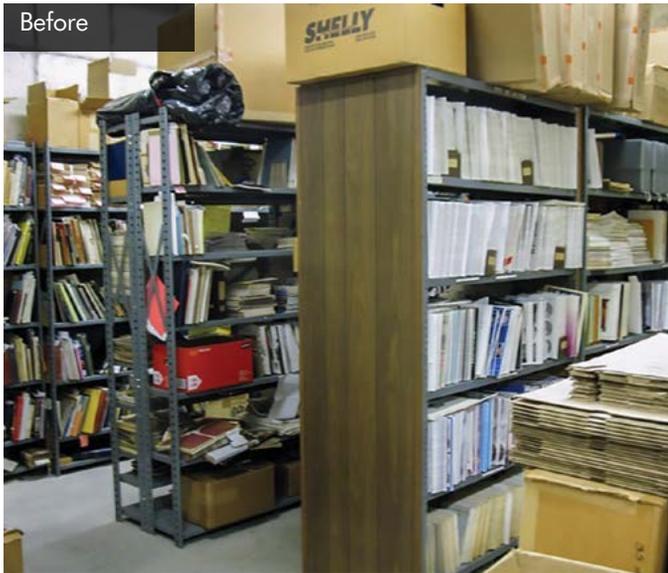
by Noel Poirier (PA)

The Museum and Library’s long-range planning includes the vital installation of modern, compact shelving systems for the Archives and Museum collections. Museum staff partnered with Storage Concepts of Ambler, PA, to design these improvements that will add two-thirds more storage space and upgrade the storage to museum- and archival-grade equipment.

Part of the plan called for adding four movable carriages and two fixed shelving units in the basement area to consolidate the overflow of Archival and Library materials. The Crystal Trust of Delaware recently granted funds that allowed us to install the structural components, the two fixed shelving units, and two of the moveable carriages.

The NAWCC Archives contain company information from several American watch and clock companies, collections of advertisements and postcards featuring timepieces, and the papers of prominent horologists. NAWCC Archivist Kate Van Riper is identifying archival material that will be more suitably stored on the new shelving.

The Museum staff is actively seeking funding to complete this project. If you would like to contribute, please contact NAWCC Development Coordinator Rebecca Hickey at [rhickey@nawcc.org](mailto:rhickey@nawcc.org) or call 717.684.8261 ext. 204.



## What's in a Number?

by Kim Jovinelli, Curator (PA)

Anyone who has ever been to a museum has probably seen a set of numbers (in rare occasions, letters) on or near an object on display. They seem random with no direct explanation of what they are, but they most certainly are important. These are accession, or catalog, numbers. By definition, they are simply the object ID given when something new is donated to the museum and helps museum collections staff find the location of or information on said object.

The question remains though. What do they mean? To the average Joe, the numbers seem random, but in fact, each number has a meaning. For the most part, it's a set of two or three numbers separated by a period. Though these are not universal, the order that accession numbers traditionally follow is:

- The first number is the year in which the object was received by the museum. It can be represented in the full four digits or only two.
- The second number is the number of that donation within that year.

- The third number (which may or may not be present) is the number of the object within that specific donation.

For example, the accession number 2014.19.8 was received in the year 2014, it was part of the 19th donation of that year, and it was the 8th object within that donation. For us, this is a Kienzle Germany battery-operated transistor.

Now that the object has a number, it must be marked in order to keep track of its location so that it can be looked up in our database system. It must be prefaced that one of the most important things when dealing with a collection is that whatever is done to the object **MUST** be reversible. We are tasked with preserving the integrity of the piece just as much as learning from it. There are some who may think that a Sharpie® and clear nail polish is what is used in labeling, when in fact museums take precautions when doing anything that could damage the object. Everything used on an object is of archival grade

and can easily be removed. The “clear nail polish” is actually Acryloid B-72, a completely reversible archival resin and barrier coat meant to keep ink from bleeding onto the object. The marker used is also of archival quality and must be purchased from specialty stores and is also completely reversible. Neither of these methods is used on porous surfaces. If an object is deemed too delicate, other techniques are used, such as using a paper tag or a marked container if possible.

Accession numbers are just as important to the well-being of an object as where it is stored or how it is displayed. These numbers are crucial in keeping track of an object and its well-being.

## New Books and Videos at the Library and Research Center

### New Books

*The Watch Book: Rolex* by Gisbert L. Brunner

*Watch & Clock Yearbook 1962* by Eric Bruton

*Samsung Gear S2 for Dummies* by Eric Butow

*Time and a Lifetime: A Novel about One of Switzerland's Most Innovative and Creative Watchmakers* by Vincent Calabrese

*Our Wonderful Universe: An Easy Introduction to the Study of the Heavens* by Clarence Augustus Chant

*Het tijdnetwerk : een boek van het Museum van het Nederlandse Uurwerk ter gelegenheid van de gelijknamige tentoonstelling* by Carel Hofland

*Comtoise: Ironman and Survivor of the Clock World* by David Holmes

*Help Me! Guide to the Apple Watch* by Charles Hughes

*Jump Hour: Ardor Watches* by Jens Kirchhoff

*Heinrich Moser: ein Lebensbild : mit Mosers Bildniss und einem Plane der Schaffhauser gewerblichen Bauten am Rheine* by Adam Pfaff

*L'Horlogerie et l'Europe* by Henri Rieben

*Apple Watch for Dummies* by Marc Saltzman

*Sony SWR50 Smartwatch 3: An Easy Beginner's Guide* by Philip Tranton

### New Videos

*19<sup>th</sup> Century American Clock Making: Craft to Mass Production* by Andy Dervan

*The Railroads and Time* by Dave Gorrell

*Perils of Horology Appraising: A Timely, Humorous Approach* by John Grow

*Treasures of the American Clock & Watch Museum* by Tom Manning

*Andrew Meneeley: Tower Clock Maker of West Troy, New York* by Russ Oechsle

We thank the following individuals for their donations to the Library and Research Center: Chapter 75, Robert Gary, Jerry Keefer, and Tim Orr.