

SPIN TO START

Journal of the Synchronous Society
Hammond Clock Collectors, International



Volume One - Number One

Sample Web Page Issue

October 1996



Gothic Mantel Model

Which One Is It?

While some Hammond clocks had model numbers assigned to them, these do not appear to have any consistency. Instead, each clock style was given a model name. The common Bakelite "gothic arch" style clock which looks a bit like a "cathedral" radio was actually named the RAVENSWOOD after Chicago's Ravenswood Avenue, site of the first Hammond Clock Co. factory. Hammond's earliest production also included a 5-1/4" wood case GOTHIC which had the same shape as the RAVENSWOOD but was larger, and COLONIAL model A which had a square wood case.

During a recent trip to Chicago while visiting the two factories where Hammond clocks were produced, your editor noticed that many of the models in his collection were street names taken from the area near the factories.

After the Hammond organ became successful, Hammond changed its corporate name from Hammond Clock Co. to Hammond Instrument Co. This took place in 1937. Most faces designate the manufacturer, and the name will give a clue to dating specific models. The nameplate

found on early Hammond organs will also be found on many of the late clocks.

These have the model name stamped into the plate.

Other locations for the model name are: stamped into the rear retaining ring used in wood case clocks, or into the single rear foot used in metal case clocks. Bakelite clocks not having a nameplate will usually not have a model name anywhere. For example, the step-sided art-deco Bakelite calendar clocks, shown in our masthead, were called the GREGORY and came in black with silver face as well as the far more common brown with gold face.

In addition to over 100 known named models, Hammond supplied clocks and movements to other makers such as Bond, Bulova, Herman-Miller, and Whitehall Specialties, which made onyx-cased clocks.

Whitehall-Hammond onyx and marble clocks did not normally have model names, although one model, the BELGIUM, has been found in two slightly different styles.

Future issues of *SPIN TO START* journal will list the known models.

SPIN TO START,

This is the first issue of a newsletter devoted to collecting electric clocks made by the Hammond Clock Co., and Hammond Instrument Co. of Chicago between 1929 and 1941. It is meant to be an exchange of information between Hammond Clock collectors and we welcome your input.

The name *SPIN TO START* reflects the characteristic of Hammond clocks, which need to be started by hand by spinning a small knob.

Subscription to *SPIN TO START* is \$10.00 for four issues. Don't miss out, subscribe today.

Early motor problems

The earliest Hammond clocks had sealed motors. This was a clever design which was dropped by Hammond in 1931. The intent was to have a motor which could easily be repaired by replacement, and which was "permanently lubricated" and sealed from dust and dirt. The oil in these early motors hardens and becomes wax-like. The motors become extremely hard to start, and eventually won't run at all.

Continued on page 3...