

St Mary's Church clock by T. Cooke & Sons is headed for its third home

The wealth in the area in former times is evident in the statistic that this church in Tenby is the largest medieval parish church in Wales, with its tower, the oldest part of the structure, dating back 700 years. In common with other wealthy areas, there has been a succession of clocks of which the Cooke was third. The Cooke catalogue stated:

1861 An eight-day Clock, striking the hours on a bell of 5 cwt.; with three copper dials, 7 feet diameter; for the *Church of Tenby, South Wales*.

An entry in the records at the church stated:

1888 A fourth dial was added when another clock replaced the one by Cooke.

This installation, including three new bells, cost £385 **and was bought to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee**. It was a three train, full quarter chiming clock by Gillett and Johnston. Church records indicate that a sum of £20 was offered for the Cooke clock in part-exchange and a further £20 for two old bells, but no trace of any later location for these items has so far been found.

We described this clock as 'lost' pending further information coming to light.

The three Cooke dials remain on the church tower and the teak hands supplied with the Cooke clock are still telling the time.

The Gillett & Johnston clock is not recorded in Chris **Pickford's Turret Clocks: Lists of Clocks from Makers' catalogues and publicity materials.**



High Street and St Mary's Church, Tenby

Two of the black dials are just visible above the lancets on the tower.

Photographic postcard dating to the early twentieth century, published in the Zenith Series by G.W.S.

This clock came to light recently in an auction at Gardiner Houlgate in October 2020, see below

Bochym Manor, Cornwall

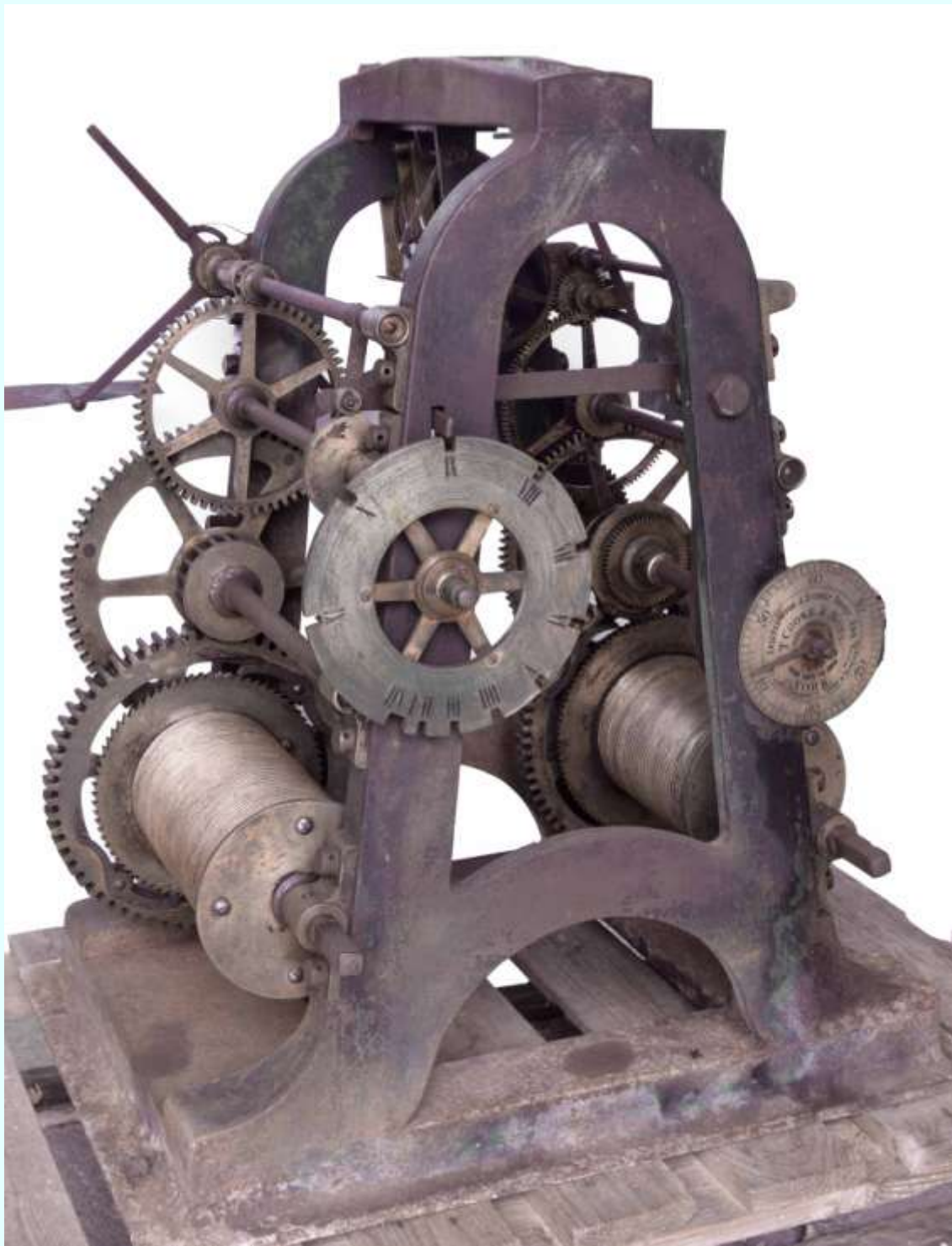
Some time after its removal from Tenby, the clock was bought from Gillett's by J Sydney Davey, Esq of Bychym, Cornwall, where the clock has spent the intervening years.



Clock Tower, Bochym Manor, The Lizard, Cornwall

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Left: The Cook two train movement as auctioned in October 2020.

Right: The movement seen from behind. One of the fan blades was missing.

Below: The original Cooke setting dial was replaced at an unknown date, probably on first installation at Bochym. It explains that James Truscott of Tenby & Gloucester installed the clock. The date 1860 was added in error.



All clock photos, from Gardiner Houlgate.



Above: The movement has Cooke's single five legged gravity escapement with remontoire. It was one of the first clocks with this escapement and may have been one of the four exhibited by Cooke in the International Exhibition of 1862, prior to its installation.

Left: View from the back. The epicyclic gearing seen on this end of the barrels provided maintaining power and made winding easier.