

Fig. 3. Order received by Usher & Cole from Barraud & Lunds dated 17 August 1882 for three watches.

purchasing firm, and by gilding the plate or bar to match the rest of the movement". This understanding is however somewhat confused by the next sentence:—"The movements in the rough, or grey (what we should now term *ebauche*) were obtained from J. Preston or the Lancashire Watch Company" which seems to suggest 'grey' was sometimes used as an alternative to 'rough'. Certainly I have found no evidence of Preston or LWC supplying Usher & Cole with movements finished and ready for signing as described in the previous sentence. Usher & Cole of course had many other suppliers. Only very occasionally did they purchase movements which had already been completed, or nearly completed, and which were ready for signing.

Terence Camerer Cuss

Strömghren & Olsen deck watch

The creator of the large astronomical clock in Copenhagen Town Hall, Jens Olsen (1872–

1945), also designed a deck watch. The watch was based on a patent which Olsen had together with the professor of astronomy at the University of Copenhagen, Elis Strömghren (1870–1947). The watch (see illustrations on following page) can be described as follows:

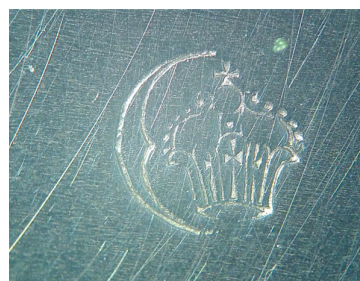
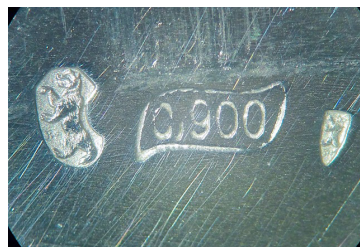
- Case: silver, polished.
- Dial: enamel, subsidiary dial with radial Arabic 24 hours at "3", subsidiary dial with radial Roman hours at "9", outer radial Arabic minutes, subsidiary dial for auxiliary seconds, continuous 24 h sidereal time as well as a chosen time zone or Greenwich time, two spade hands, single Breguet hand and a single hand with Sun pointer.
- Movm.: precision bridge movement, frosted, gilt, wolfteeth winding wheels, screw compensation balance, index spring fine adjusting device.

Signed on the dial:

PATENT
Strömghren og Olsen
Cornelius Knudsen
København



Strömgren & Olsen deck watch No. 528. Below, marks on the watchcase, clockwise: the Penda stamp showing the Swiss hallmark with a bear (1880-1933), with below it a 'B' for the canton of Bern; unidentified; the stamp for Swiss 900 silver; a German silver mark (the Moon and Crown) used for items exported to Germany; unidentified.



The watch was patented in Germany in 1914 (No.283094), in Switzerland in 1915 (No. 73312), in USA in 1916 (No. 1187110) and in Denmark in 1918 (No. 22822).

The Strömgren & Olsen watch is believed to have been produced in the years 1918-19.

The following watch numbers are known to us: 517, 524, 528, 537, 538, 539, 541, 543, 544, 551, 553, 558, 559, 568, 666, 668, 670, 671 and 682.

The name on the dial: Cornelius Knudsen is the retailer's name in Copenhagen. It was an instrument-making company, and

Jens Olsen was working as workshop manager for this company when the watch was made.

As this watch is something of a mystery to the members of the Danish Horological Society (it is shown on our homepage: <http://www.danskhorologiskselskab.dk/>), we would be happy if any of the readers of AH could help us with the following information:

1. Who produced the watch? Many things indicate a Swiss origin, and two different work types are known (Patek Philippe, LeCoultre, or something else?)
2. How many watches were produced? (The watch shown in the user's manual has No. 501. Together with the known watch no.'s, could this indicate a total number of 200 watches?)
3. Some watches are provided with a freemason sign on the dial and others are not. In the symbol the figures CK are shown (probably for Cornelius Knudsen?). Does anyone know the rules for application of freemason signs on a watch dial?

We would be happy if any of the readers could help us with above listed questions. Please send a mail to Kurt Jensen: kurtbirgit@gmail.com

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