

The image features a highly decorative border. At the top, two muscular figures support a horizontal beam. Between them is a central medallion with a face. Below this, a scrollwork design leads to a central figure of a cherub or child. The bottom section mirrors the top with another pair of supporting figures and a central medallion. The sides are decorated with a vertical column of various faces, including a crowned figure at the top and a lion's head at the bottom. The entire composition is framed by a double-line border with a repeating pattern.

THE MOSTYN TOMPION



THO. TOMPION LONDON: WILLIAM III'S CELEBRATED YEAR GOING SPRING CLOCK.

of small size, hour striking and with pull quarter-repeat, circa 1695-1700 28in. high

SIGNED : *Tho Tompion London Fecit* on front plate and *T. Tompion Londini fecit* on dial

CASE : Of magnificent appearance, ebony veneered and enriched with finely chased emblematic silver mounts of crown and crossed sceptres, military trophies, cherub heads and masks within scrollwork or suspending foliate pendants; with ormolu side handles to the broader plinth base with central glazed shaped aperture, overlaid with a screen in repousse silver of a wreath flanked by cherubs seated on strapwork, revealing the pendulum and the engraved front plate of the movement; the upper part with ormolu Tuscan angle columns and silver side and ormolu rear frets of foliate scrolls, the inverted-bell top mounted in silver with central crowned coat of arms of the King, flanked by four finials of a lion, unicorn, rose and thistle and surmounted by a figure of Britannia holding an ormolu spear. The whole lifting off the gilt metal base plate or foot carrying the movement and with central ormolu mask flanked by silver swags between ormolu feet formed as foliated volutes

DIAL: 5in. square with silvered chapter-ring, strike/silent above XII, mask-and-scroll spandrels and signature cartouche in the matted centre with sector shaped aperture for a silvered disc engraved with the days of the week and their corresponding planets, blued-steel hour and counterpoised minute hands

MOVEMENT: In two sections: the massive driving work terminating in the delicate verge escapement with twin barrels, reversed fusees and chains within shaped plates with 6 ringed pillars secured by blued steel screws through the front plate well engraved with the signature cartouche, an eagle and putti amidst foliate scrolls and berried twigs and set with the twin blued steel repeat levers and the micrometer work for the rise and fall regulation of the spring-suspended pendulum with silver mount to the steel rod; the dial mounted on the subsidiary upper assembly carrying the remainder of all three trains (but the going train with contrate wheel engaging the pinion of the escape wheel at the top of the base section) with the motion work and the repeat bar on the front plate, the hour bell planted on the back plate and the quarter bell above

TRAIN COUNTS:

GOING		STRIKING	
Pinion Leaves	Wheel Teeth	Pinion Leaves	Wheel Teeth
[16½ turn fusee]	120 Great Wheel	[16 turn fusee]	120 Great Wheel
10	96 1st Intermediate	10	96 1st Wheel
8	84 2nd Intermediate	8	90 Pinwheel (30 pins)
7	72 3rd Intermediate	6	84 Gathering Pallet
8	56 Contrate		Wheel
7	21 Crown	6	60 Warning Wheel
		6	— Fly
			QUARTER REPEATING
		8	52 1st Wheel
		6	45 2nd Wheel
		6	42 3rd Wheel
		6	— Fly

Additionally a 32 toothed solid wheel on the 3rd wheel arbor drives a 96 toothed centre wheel leading to the motion work

PROVENANCE:

Passed on the death of William III, 8 March 1702, as a perquisite to Henry Sydney, Earl of Romney, a Gentleman of the Bedchamber and Groom of the Stole, who dying unmarried in 1704, left it to his great nephew Philip Sydney, 5th Earl of Leicester, died 1705, calling the clock an heirloom in his will, and from whom it passed successively through his brothers John, 6th Earl, died unmarried 1737 Joselyn, 7th Earl, died childless 1743, and then to Mary Sydney (daughter of the youngest brother Thomas Sydney who had predeceased them), married, 18 July 1738, Sir Brownlow Sherard, Bt., but dying childless 1758, left it to her 'adopted' daughter Anne Howard (daughter of Thomas, 6th Lord Howard of Effingham, himself a Gentleman of the Bedchamber to George, Prince of Denmark, consort of Queen Anne), wife of Sir William Yonge, Bt., of Escot, Devon Thence by descent through their daughter Amelia Yonge, died 1831, second wife of Sir Edward Lloyd, 1st Bt., of Pengwern, Wales, and Sir Edward Pryce Lloyd, 2nd Bt., 1st Baron Mostyn, his great nephew, married Elizabeth, 3rd daughter of Sir Roger Mostyn, 5th Bt., and sister and co-heir of Sir Thomas Mostyn, 6th and last Bt. of Mostyn, to the 5th Lord Mostyn, the present owner Such is the basic line of descent from Henry, Earl of Romney, who reputedly received the complete contents of the King's bedchamber including 1,860 ounces of plate. In fact Lady Sherard was co-heir of the Penshurst estate jointly with her sister, Elizabeth, Mrs. William Perry, but hating her sister left her share to Lady Yonge with remainder to her son Sir George Yonge. In 1770 they sold their share to Mrs. Perry, from whom Penshurst has devolved to her descendant Lord de L'Isle. The clock is described in inventories at Penshurst, but presumably was excluded from the sale, for having been left jointly to Lady Yonge's three daughters, it was by 1793 in Lady Lloyd's possession at Seymour St., London and wound by her on 16 June for the first time having been repaired by Dutton. A note in her hand states that the clock originally cost £1,500 and that 'the person to repair it if wanted is Dutton Fleet St successor to Tompion'. In an increasingly shaky hand she noted up to 1825 its yearly winding, recording 'repair' by Dutton in 1809 and Mr. Pitt of Duke Street in 1818. In August 1825 the clock was moved by Sir Edward Pryce Lloyd to where it was cleaned by 'a person out of Roskill's clock & watch makers shop at Liverpool' in November 1832, August 1855, May 1860, March 1869 and October 1873 when 'Bolt of the mainspring repaired, being nearly worn out'. 'Vulliami' had also cleaned the clock in 1842. Having survived a serious fire at Pengwern on 19 February 1864, the clock was next moved to Mostyn in 1874, where in January 1878 the other 'bolt' was repaired. Following exhibition in London the clock was cleaned by Benson of Bond Street in 1903. It was not wound at all from 1908-1931, following which it was in 1934 cleaned by D. J. Parkes and returned to Mostyn by J. W. Parkes. Subsequent cleanings have been by Frodshams circa 1949 and in 1954, Donovan of Anglesey in 1968/71, and 1979 by Pegler, when the movement was found to be virtually original barring one replaced latch, and one mainspring had at some time broken and been riveted together. These rivets could therefore be the 'bolts' mentioned above. [Based on details in the clock's 'winding-book', sold now with the clock]

EXHIBITED:

St. James Court, *Old Silver Work*, 1902, case V

Royal Exchange, *Thomas Tompion*, 22-28 November 1933, no. 17

Ormeley Lodge, *Masterpieces of British Art and Craftsmanship*, 1954, no. 46, illus. In catalogue

















