



Association française des amateurs d'horlogerie ancienne

## Open Letter ...

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### **WARNING ABOUT THE HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF THE AUTOMATIC WATCH WITH ROTOR**

Once again, the publication of two books raises the acute question of the origin of the automatic watch with rotor system.

The books in question are : *“La conquête du temps”* (*the Mastery of time*) by Dominique Fléchon, éditions Flammarion 2010, and « *La montre à remontage automatique* » by Jean-Claude Sabrier, éditions Cercle d’Arts 2011.

Deliberately or not, the authors ignored the documents and new sketches which have modified the assertions made by Alfred Chapuis and Eugène Jaquet, in their book published in 1952.

Thus, they utterly disregarded the many articles published in the journal “Horlogerie ancienne” and in other works dealing with this subject, which have set out, for nearly 20 years, particularly well-argued positions on this precise point regarding the historical origin of the systems of automatic-winding on watches.

The attempts to get in touch with these authors and open a constructive debate came up against a refusal or a dismissal.

The AFAHA, concerned about the respect of their basic aims, i.e. : *“to gather lovers and collectors of antique and modern horology, further contacts between members, expand their scientific, historical and artistic knowledge in the field of time-measuring instruments and ensure the protection of the art and science of horology”*, do hope that the distribution of this warning will put on the alert historians, museums, universities, the specialized press, schools of horology, the French and foreign associations concerned... as well as future researchers, about this beautiful and important page in the history of horological techniques.

Independent reactions on these works, in French and English, are available with the following links :

[www.ancienne-horlogerie.com/4\\_article\\_watkins\\_francais.doc](http://www.ancienne-horlogerie.com/4_article_watkins_francais.doc)

[www.ancienne-horlogerie.com/5\\_article\\_penney\\_francais.doc](http://www.ancienne-horlogerie.com/5_article_penney_francais.doc)

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