

Striking Fusee Ships Clock by Benzie, Cowes



This clock is a rare example of a twin fusee ship's clock dating from 1875-1900, of superb quality workmanship by a maker of high repute.

The ringed bronzed case is 4½ inches deep, and has a sprung door latch to release the cast brass bezel.

The eight day chain fusee movement boasts an oversized platform, the jewelled balance with cylinder escapement. The substantial 4mm plates are united by 5 pillars. It strikes the hours on a coiled gong.

The 7-inch dial is well engraved with Roman numerals and with a recessed Arabic subsidiary seconds dial. A regulation lever protrudes through the dial above the XII. The dial is signed BENZIE, COWES.

Three matching brass hands.

Diameter 21.5 cms

Depth 13cms

The movement is overhauled and the clock guaranteed for 3 years.

The firm of Benzie still exist in Cowes today. Information from their website tells us that it was established in 1862 by the late Mr. Simpson Benzie. Through his artistic application of nautical subjects to jewellery, the founder of the business gained a world-wide reputation. He was the first to design a clock to strike the ship's bells. Since he died in 1915, his son took an active interest in the concern since 1891, to follow on similar working lines. The Royal Warrants held by the establishment are: H. M. King George V., in 1910; H. M. the Queen, 1912; H. M. King Edward, 1901; H. M. Queen Alexandra, 1901; H. M. Queen Victoria, 1885; H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, 1884; H. M.

King of Greece, 1886.”

In over 130 years Benzie has proudly held no fewer than eight Royal Warrants. A Benzie clock hung on a bulkhead on the Royal Yacht, Britannia.