

Clocks and Barometers / Thu, 21st January 2021 / Lot 1075



LOT 1075

A late 19th century French brass gorge case carriage alarm clock with eight day movement striking quarters and repeating on two gongs and striking on a single bell, the two-colour enamel dial with black Roman hours above similar subsidiary alarm dial with Arabic numerals, all within an engine turned gilt surround, the gorge case with bevelled glass panels and swing handle, height 18cm, with winding key.

Estimate: £200 - £400

Condition Report

1075. The case is in generally good condition, but it is rather dirty and would benefit from a clean. All glass panels are in good order. Door opens and closes tightly and handle hinges as it should. Typical light surface scratches and wear.

The separate outer edge/border of the dial has a chip between 9 and 10 o'clock and a couple of cracks to the edge just below the chip. There is also a small hairline to the very outer edge of the dial itself in the same area. Otherwise the dial is clean with only a minor surface scratch near 8 o'clock. The alarm dial has a small chip to outer edge at 6 o'clock, otherwise in good order.

The movement appears to be in generally good order, but it is difficult to be certain exactly what striking mechanism it has. It is quite unusual. It is quarter striking but there is a lever on the right hand side of the backplate which has three positions, the first inscribed 'Silent', the second position appears to be inscribed 'Going of Bells' ? (but tricky to read), the lower third position inscribed 'Quarters'. This would suggest it might be Grande Sonnerie but it is not striking as such. It is quite possible that part of the striking mechanism is malfunctioning. At present there is a single normal 'ting-tang' strike on the gongs at quarter, half hour and three quarter and also striking hours on gongs, with the same strike for repeat mechanism. The alarm sounds on the bell. The bell has been cracked and repaired. The hammers are also unusual as they have wood and leather terminals so the strike is muffled/quiet.