

ENCLOSURE

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July 30th '04

Dear Sir Madam,

Please find enclosed some details of a SPRING BALANCE you have on display.

Whilst on our visit we also saw you had a family history section and discovered one of our friends had a relative from Donnoch

He was :- JOHN M^cKAY GUNN

BORN 10th JUNE 1829.

If you could provide a few details we would be delighted.

Many thanks for your help

Very sincerely

Frank and Jean Collison

spring balance found innumerable industrial uses and consequently converted or specially built examples are to be found which have no immediately discoverable purpose. These make for a very interesting, but often frustrating field of collecting.

The helical or corkscrew spring used in all these balances was not the only development of Hooke's Law. About 1800, one of the most interesting other experiments was with tempered flat steel strips placed in elliptical form, later put into commercial use, with an indicator driven by rack and pinion, by Siebe and Marriott.

Another experiment at the end of the eighteenth century was with the C or sector spring. The most commonly found form of this, however, is the Mancur balance, which was very popular with farmers

throughout North America and Europe from about the middle of the nineteenth century. Consisting of a C-shaped flat steel spring, it has an indicator attached to the spring, which under load extends, moving the pointer over a sickle-shaped graduated scale of brass or copper. Hooks at the top and bottom placed to give two different leverages enable the Mancur to be reversed, to provide two separate ranges of weight indication. In country districts it is not uncommon to hear both the Mancur and Salter balances referred to as 'steelyards' or 'stilliards'.

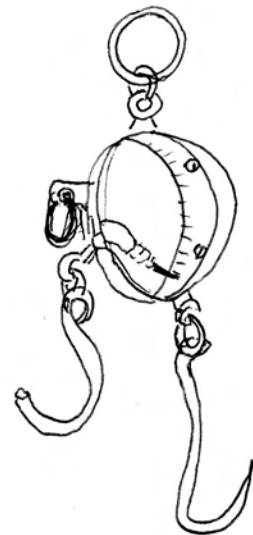
The Mancur went out of use after about 1890, being unacceptable for trade use, and is never found bearing an inspector's stamp. Most small spring balances are also not stamped.

FURTHER READING

- Avery, W. and T. Ltd. *A Short History of Weighing*. Revised 1960.
Bache, M. *Salter, The Story of a Family Firm, 1760-1960*. George Salter and Co Ltd, West Bromwich.
Brauer, E. *The Construction of the Balance*. Incorporated Society of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, 1909.
Crawforth, M. A. *Weighing Coins: English Folding Gold Balances of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*. Cape Horn Trading Ltd, 12 New Row, Covent Garden, London, 1979.
Encyclopaedia Britannica. Chambers.
Equilibrium. Published quarterly by the International Society of Antique Scale Collectors, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, USA.
Kisch, B. *Scales and Weights*. Yale University Press, 1965. Contains an extensive bibliography.
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O'Keefe, J. *The Law of Weights and Measures*. Butterworth and Co. (Updated.)
Owen, G. A. *A Treatise on Weighing Machines*. Griffin, 1922.
Peal, C. A. *British Pewter and Britannia Metal for Pleasure and Profit*. Gifford, 1971.
Pinto, E. H. *Treen and Other Wooden Bygones*. Bell and Sons, 1969.
Rush, P. and O'Keefe, J. *Weights and Measures*. Methuen, 1962.

PLACES TO VISIT

- Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Telephone: Oxford (0865) 57522.
Avery Historical Museum, Soho Foundry, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands (by appointment with the Curator). Telephone: 021-558 1112.
Bishop Hooper's Lodging, 99-103 Westgate Street, Gloucester. Telephone: Gloucester (0452) 26467.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Telephone: 01-636 1555.
Birmingham City Museum, Congreve Street, Birmingham. Telephone: 021-235 2834. The Pinto Collection.
Guildhall Museum, London.
Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, St Ann Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7. Telephone: 01-589 3456.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London SW7. Telephone: 01-589 6371.



DEAR SIR | MADAM

SPOTTED THIS IN YOUR MUSEUM
WHILST VISITING DORNOCH. MENTIONED TO THE
STAFF I WOULD SEND DETAILS OF THE
UNLABELLED ITEM.

WE ENJOYED OUR VISIT - VERY FRIENDLY
AND INFORMATIVE.

[Handwritten signature]