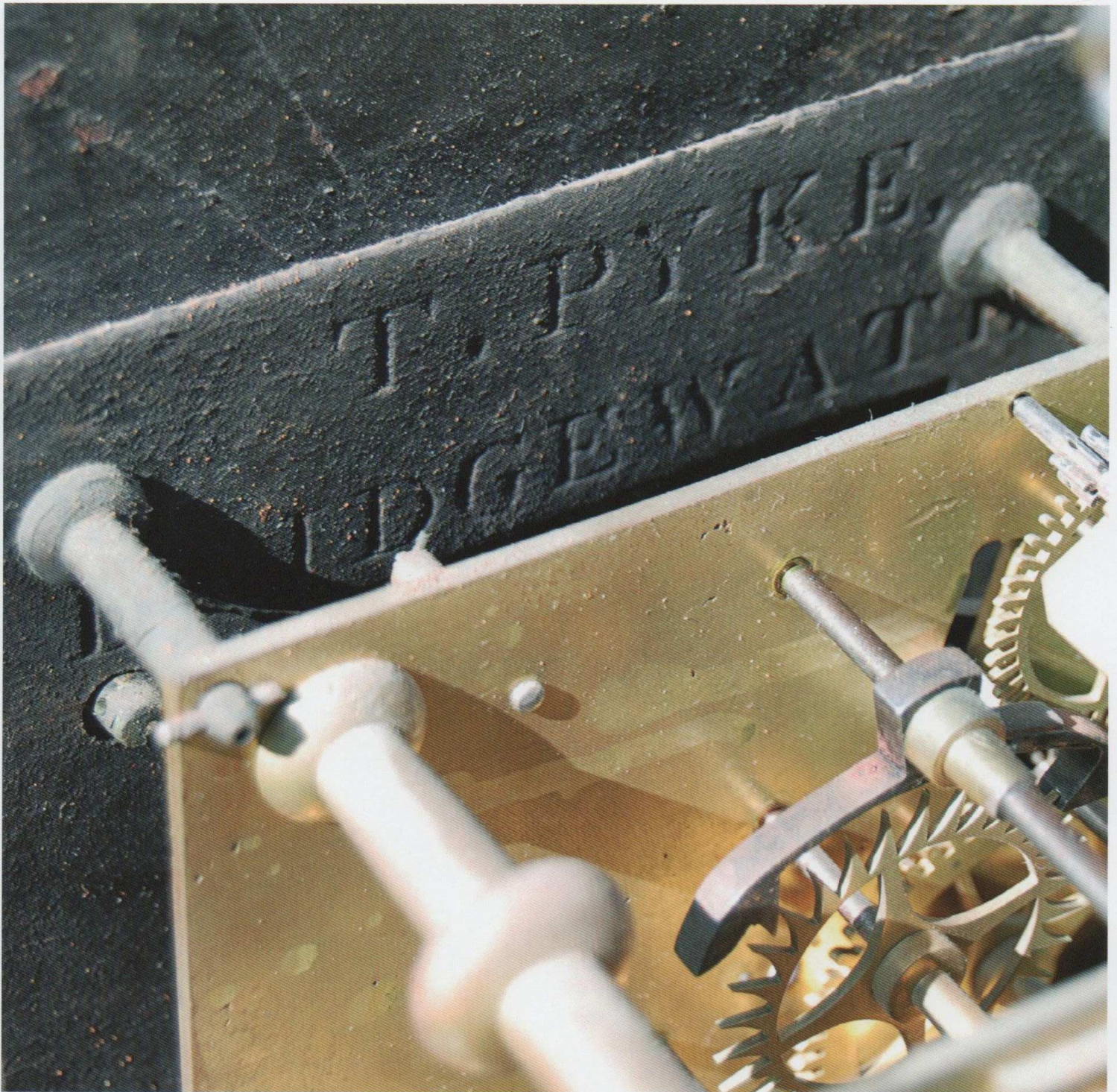


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necessary to obtain results that could help identify possible surface interferences. Individual elemental readings for a suite of elements enabled us to be cautious of the bulk metal readings.

Response to query #2:

While it is true that the way we have displayed the results could be seen to suggest a quantitative program of analysis, our aims were primarily a qualitative assessment. We appreciate the reader's comments on our presentation of data and accept that we have not followed standard analytical protocol in this case. We were by no means attempting to mislead or hint at a quantitative, highly accurate study; rather in presenting the data in their rawest form we hoped to give an honest representation of the results as given by the instrument. We believe that the data is still of use qualitatively and can perhaps act as a point of comparison for future work. The use of pXRF in this context is still relatively new and as it becomes more routine we anticipate that much more useful information such as this, both qualitative and semi quantitative, can be produced and put to good use.

Response to query #3:

I am unaware of the survival of any contemporary pewter domestic items manufactured by the Pyke foundry. However, artefacts produced at the foundry in brass and bronze, which are stamped, engraved or cast with the names Street & Pyke or T. Pyke, are to be found in local churches, museums and in private ownership.

The Spanish term for foliot: *volante*

In the last issues of *Antiquarian Horology* an interesting discussion on the term foliot has been taking place and I would like to participate in it tabling (in the British sense) the term *volante*, the Spanish word for foliot or balance wheel. I study this subject further in my PhD thesis, so I can't give many details now, but I can explain one of the conclusions I reached.

As far as I know, the earliest document

from the Spanish kingdoms which cites a balance wheel is the Perpignan account book from 1356. Here is the fragment: *la roda pocha que no vaga appellada la mahestra* — the small wheel that doesn't stop called the main [wheel].¹

No technical word is used but a generic term, so the term foliot was unknown. This is coherent because the mechanical clock was then a new instrument unknown for most people. Later, from the 15th century onwards, we find often the term *volante* meaning foliot or balance wheel. Here is an example from 1448: *vn cordon ... para en que esta colgado el bolante del relox* — a cord from which the *bolante* of the clock hangs.²

This term is the active participle of the verb *volar*, 'to fly', so *volante* means 'something that flies'. *Volante* has various different meanings in Spanish, one of them is often found in Castilian treatises on falconry from the 14th and 15th centuries, for example in Pero López de Ayala: *pero sy el falcón es ya bolante* — when the falcon is already flying.³

I agree with Bren Calver when he states that the foliot resembles a flying bird and this is the literal meaning of *volante*. I think it is beyond question that the old term *volante* was used in Spanish to refer the new verge and foliot escapement because its resemblance with a flying bird.

According to William Linnard and E. G. Stanley a foliot is a decoy or a dummy bird but I think that this does not prevent it from being etymologically linked with 'folium'.

Víctor Pérez Álvarez
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1. Archivo de la Corona de Aragón, Real Patrimonio, Maestre Racional, Volúmenes, Serie General, 2435, fol. 17v°. I do not agree with the translation given by C. F. C. Beeson: 'the small wheel called the mistress to prevent it moving', in his book *Perpignan 1356. The making of a Clock and Bell for the King's Castle* (London: The Antiquarian Horological Society, 1982), p. 169.

2. Archivo Catedralicio de Toledo, O.F, 770, fol. 46v°.

3. Pero López de Ayala, John G. Cummins (ed.), *Libro de la caça de las aves. El MS. 16.392 (British Library, Londres)*, London: Tamesis Books Limited, 1986, p. 92.