

# The Frick Collection: Detail Report

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## Tête de Poupée Clock

Balthazar Martinot II (French, 1636–1714)

**Date** ca. 1680–90

**Medium** Pewter, turtle shell, brass, oak, and pine

**Dimensions** 21 3/8 x 11 1/8 x 6 7/8 in. (54.4 x 28.2 x 17.5 cm)

**Credit Line** Bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey, 1999

**Accession Number** 1999.5.147

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 23, Clocks and Watches Room

**Commentary** A gifted craftsman, André-Charles Boulle was also a creative designer who invented new types of clocks and furniture, including a mantel clock called tête de poupée (doll's head clock) because its profile resembles a figure's head and shoulders. Popular in the late seventeenth century, these clocks almost always combine a turtle-shell veneer with engraved brass and pewter in the shape of arabesques and foliage known as Boulle marquetry, for which the cabinetmaker to Louis XIV achieved international renown. When the back-ground is in brass or pewter, as here, the marquetry is said to be in contre-partie. When turtle shell serves as the background, the marquetry is in première-partie. Boulle often collaborated with the clockmaker Balthazar Martinot II, who signed this movement. Martinot supplied clocks to his aristocratic and wealthy French clientele, as well as to the King of Siam. Source: Vignon, Charlotte. *The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook*. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.