

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Clock with Astronomical and Calendrical Dials

Veyt Schaufel (German, act. 1554)

Date 1554

Medium Gilt brass

Dimensions 12 3/8 x 7 3/8 x 5 3/16 in. (31.4 x 18.8 x 13.2 cm)

Credit Line Bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey, 1999

Accession Number 1999.5.130

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 23, Clocks and Watches Room

Commentary The clock completed at the conclusion of an apprentice clockmaker's long training was called a "masterpiece." It was only after the guild's acceptance of this expensive and challenging work that a craftsman could be qualified as a master and thus establish his own shop and sign his work. This clock, the earliest known signed and dated masterpiece, includes several astronomical and calendrical dials to provide time according to various systems. It is surmounted by a figure, possibly Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, technical skill, and invention, identified with the Greek goddess Athena. In her right hand, she holds a church bell, and at her side stands a rooster. Before mechanical clocks were invented, the bell's toll and the rooster's morning crow traditionally kept time. Source: Vignon, Charlotte. *The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook*. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.