

Good day,

Please bear with me as I explain the circumstances around a marine chronometer that I am considering putting up for auction next year. Obviously I need to decide on which auction house to place this item with and thus several other auctioneers, like you, will receive the information that follows. What I am looking for in reply to this mail, is any show of interest on your part to present the items at a suitable auction, a rough guide to your valuation of the lot and of course, information on fees that I might expect, using your services.

A couple of years ago I decided to look out for a new personal wristwatch. Being a mariner and interested in nautical instruments, I had knowledge of an old UK company – Sewills of Liverpool. In fact I have a 7 day Sewills clock in my office (with watch bell chimes) dating from just before the company folded. I was delighted to then come across a certified chronometer (wristwatch) as in the following.....even though 2nd hand:

SEWILLS "CARMANIA" AUTOMATIC CHRONOMETER

There can be no better way to reintroduce the name of Sewills than to offer genuine new old stock Sewills watches. These are, however, new old stock with a difference.

When Sewills of Liverpool ceased trading in 2001, the German company who manufactured the watches for Sewills still had undelivered stock of movements and components. These parts remained stored until I discovered them in 2010 and decided to have them assembled. The manufacturer still had 85 of the movements submitted to COSC in 2001, complete with certificates. These movements have been fully serviced and assembled in the original cases before being regulated. So, although made from new old stock components, these watches were freshly manufactured in February 2010.

The Sewills Carmania is in the traditional ship's chronometer style and is a fully certified chronometer itself, supplied complete with COSC certification. Available in black or white dial, on strap or steel bracelet. Supply is initially limited to 10 pieces of each variant, another 25 can be made when it is determined which are the most popular models.

Only 85 pieces are available in total and when these are sold, there will be no more.

MODEL	SEWILLS CARMANIA
CASE	
Material	316L stainless steel, polished
Diameter	38.8mm, 40.2mm across including crown
Lug to lug height	42.75mm
Thickness	9.5mm to the top of the flat crystal
Lug spacing	20mm
Anti-magnetic	4800 A/m
Water resistance	50 metres
Weight	55 grammes with strap, 115 grammes with bracelet
Features	Sapphire view back, decorated movement
DIAL	
Colour	Black or white
Luminous	Hour markers on black dial, none on white dial
Day/Date	None
HANDS	
Style	Silver hands on black dial, blued steel on white dial
Luminous	Small circle of luminous on hour & minute hand
CRYSTAL	
Flat sapphire front & back	
MOVEMENT	
COSC certified ETA2895 30 jewel automatic	
BATTERY	
N/A	
STRAP	
Genuine shark strap or steel bracelet	



What was interesting was the information supplied with the 2010 watches – referring back to the original Sewills ad in 1999 and shedding light on the No. 4233 seen on the wristwatches which I copy here:






Estd 1800ad
Sewills
 MAKER TO THE ADMIRALTY

present the

Carmania Chronometer Collection

Made to honour the 85th Anniversary
 of the *Carmania's* gallant action,
 September 14th 1914
 and Sewills contribution
 to her safe navigation




Carmania sinking the Cap Trafalgar

The Cunard Line *Carmania's* Historic fight made her "conspicuous amongst her gallant comrades".
REAR ADMIRAL R.E. DENNIS




"The incident of the *Carmania* and the Cap Trafalgar, when our brothers in the Mercantile Marine, the other great branch of the sea service, showed what British Seamen could do, that was splendid, an old fashioned set-to".
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET EARL BEATTY
 PICTURED ABOVE WITH KING GEORGE V



Carmania's bridge and chartroom after the fire caused by the engagement.



Sewills Chronometer No 4233 recovered from *Carmania's* burned-out bridge and chartroom after the battle.



"I shall always feel proud of the fact that it was my great good fortune to command a ship in action in which the glorious traditions of the British Navy were upheld by every soul on board *Carmania*".
CAPTAIN N. GRAVE, RN




The Nelson Presentation Plate

"A unique compliment paid to *Carmania* that the plate to be presented by selection of the Admiralty belonged to Lord Nelson, and was with him at Trafalgar, one of a few pieces of plate which, with the exception of one held by His Majesty, King George V are only held by the Royal Navy".
SIR THOMAS BOWEN, CUNARD DEPUTY CHAIRMAN



"To have the name of one's ship connected, however remotely, with the great and glorious name of Admiral Lord Nelson was sufficient honour for any ship or for any man".
CAPTAIN BARK, CUNARD



"There never was a single-ship action which reflected greater credit both to the Royal Navy and the Mercantile Marine, and more especially the Royal Navy Reserve, and the Cunard company which lent their ship *Carmania* for active service".
ADMIRAL ER. FRENZANTEA, GCR, CMG

Order Ref: 9351
 Price: £900
 inc FREE delivery
 & 17.5% UK VAT
OR
 Interest Free Credit
 20% deposit £180
 + 10 months
 at £72pm

Order Ref: 9352
 Price: £925
 inc FREE delivery
 & 17.5% UK VAT
OR
 Interest Free Credit
 20% deposit £185
 + 10 months
 at £74pm

Order Ref: 9353
 Price: £1000
 inc FREE delivery
 & 17.5% UK VAT
OR
 Interest Free Credit
 20% deposit £200
 + 10 months
 at £80pm

Order Ref: 9354
 Price: £1025
 inc FREE delivery
 & 17.5% UK VAT
OR
 Interest Free Credit
 20% deposit £205
 + 10 months
 at £82pm

The number 4233 refers to the number on the chronometer carried by the Carmania in 1914. (See bottom left picture on top poster). The story of the Cunard vessel Carmania is well documented – in fact there is a book (*The Ship That Hunted Itself*) written about the very action celebrated in the above poster. The poster shows a photograph of the actual chronometer after the 1914 action against a German vessel, *Cap Trafalgar*.

The fine piece that I wish to put in auction is not only one of the above watches.....but the actual chronometer itself.



The original box was obviously damaged but it would appear that the chronometer itself remained good. I have not the resources to hand to delve further into this but the above chronometer (Sewills No. 4233) also bears a label linking it to the *Scythia*....another Cunard vessel which I believe was still running into the 1950s. The number on this chronometer would suggest manufacture in 1877 and so it had a varied and interesting service. The chronometer runs well still – last time I checked, to about 6secs a day. (Perhaps a professional cleaning and service might improve this).

I supply one more photo below – showing the watch and chronometer. These, together with a copy of the book telling the story of the battle would make an interesting auction lot. The watch has been worn only several times by the first owner - and never actually worn by me – so is in ‘as new’ condition almost, with not only a quite expensive leather strap, but the original steel bracelet also. The time for auction (late 2013) is appropriate – 2014 being the 100 year anniversary of the battle.



I look forward to hearing from you in due course and if required I can send more photographs.

(The items are currently in Spain).

Best regards,

Capt. Brendan Kinch

BKinch