The following is a summarization of discussions which occurred on the E-mailing list (listserver) Clocks. To join in this and other horological discussions please join the mailing list Clocks or Clocksmiths.

This list was compiled by Parnav Singh (singhp@sunrise.cs.jmu.edu) and downloaded from the E-mailing list Clocks. Please see the file csignup.mcc for details on how to join this mailing list.

Chronology of the Development of Watches

1470 First spring driven watch
1470 Fusee introduced in Italy
1500 Spring-driven, drum-shaped table clock
1505 Peter Henlein makes the first watch
1510 Stackfreed introduced to control tension in the mainspring
1520 Brass used in France to make watches
1525 Jacob Zech introduces his fusee
1550 Screws used in metal
1575 Balance wheel is introduced
1600 First watches are produced in London
1610 Enamel cases come into vogue
1630 Watch glasses are first used
1635 Paul Viet uses enamel dials
1650 Round watch cocks are used
1658 Robert Hooke invents the "straight" balance spring
1665 Watch fusees made of chain instead of gut
1674 Christian Huygens invents the spiral balance spring
1676 Motion works and minute hand introduced by Daniel Quare
1680 Second hand introduced
1694 Nicholas Facio first uses jewels in watches
1695  Cylinder escapement used by Thomas Tompion
1710  Dust caps invented
1715  Oil sinks invented by Henry Sully
1720  English Hallmarking used on silver cases
1722  Rack lever escapement invented by Abbe de Hautefeuille
1734  First bimetallic compensation invented by John Harrison
1750  Watch makers in America begin production
1750  White enamel dials are in general use
1770  Engine turning for decorating watch cases
1775  Thomas Harland of Norwich, Connecticut makes watches
1780  Pocket watches are made thinner than ever
1780  Automatic winding is invented by Abraham Louis Perrelet
1782 Isochronism introduced by John Arnold
1785  Draw applied to lever
1800  Single cases replace the pair cases
1801  Tourbillion watch made by Abraham Louis Breguet
1809  Luther Goddard makes watches
1820  Keyless winding introduced by Thomas Prest
1833  Antoine Le Coultre establishes his watch factory or workshop.
     It is here where all the company's cases and movements are still
     made by hand.
1835  First Pitkins watches produced
1842  Watches could be set by hand instead of key
1842  Jacob Custer watches made
1844  Antoine Le Coultre invents the millionometer enabling the world to
     make measurements exact to a thousandth of a millimeter.
1847  Le Coultre presents the world's first movement with a crown winding mechanism. This signals the demise of the key wound watch.

1850  Howard and Dennison produce the first Waltham watch

1852  First Boston watch produced

1853  First factory-made watches are sold

1857  Boston Watch Co. fails

1857  First American watch to use a quick-train

1859  Appleton Tracy and Waltham merge

1866  First American-made railroad watch produced for the Railroad company

1868  First American stem-wind watch

1876  Henry Abbott patents his stem winding attachment

1877  Auburndale Rotary sells for $10

1878  Double-roller used by the Adams and Perry Co.

1878  First dollar watches produced for $3.50

1880  Watches are produced in huge quantities compared to earlier hand-made ones

1883  Seth Thomas decides to produce pocket watches

1885  New York Standard produces its first pocket watch

1892  First watch to sell for $1.00 by Ingersoll

1893  First watch produced with the Hamilton label

1898  First 23J watch made by Hampden Watch Co.

1900  Wrist watches come into vogue

1903  Le Coultre achieves its dream of making the slimmest watch movement in the world. This mechanical miracle is only 1.38 mm thick, while even the much more complicated chronograph is only 2.88 mm thick.

1904  Ansonia begins to produce watches

1908  Wilsdorf coined the name Rolex.

1908  Premier Maximus introduced at $250.00

1910  A Rolex movement was sent to the School of Horology in Switzerland.
It was judged to be excellent and was awarded the world's first wrist watch chronometer rating.

1910 First electric watch for Burgess Battery Co. (labeled Corona Watch Co.)

1915 Seth Thomas ceases watch production

1926 The 1st waterproof Rolex rolled off the assembly line. The Rolex Oyster Case was born. To further insure the safety of this marvelous movement Wilsdorf created a screw down crown using a twin lock system.

1926 Le Coultre develops the Duoplan, a watch whose accuracy is way ahead of its time.

1927 All Rolex watches carried the name inside the case, on the movement and the dial.

1927 Buster Brown pocket watch

1928 The Rolex Prince, became a best seller with its dual dial and rectangular case.

1928 An engineer at Le Coultre by the name of J. L. Reutter devises the first Atmos clock. This table clock does away with the need for winding - it derives all its power from minute fluctuations in room temperature.

1929 Le Coultre enters the record books with the smallest watch movement of all time. It measures 14 x 4.8 x 3.4 mm and weighs less than a gram.

1929 New York Standard fails

1931 Rolex invented the "Rotor" - a semicircular plate of metal that with gravity, would move freely to wind the watch. Thus, the Rolex Perpetual (automatic) movement was born.

1931 Le Coultre unveils the Reverso. A classic from the beginning the Reverso has a rotating mechanism which allows the watch to be rotated 180 degrees protecting the crystal and dial from damage. It was one of the first watches to be equipped with built in shock resistance.

1933 Mickey Mouse pocket watch

1945 Rolex introduces the 1st watch to display a date on the dial.

1952 Rolex introduces its first diving watch. Later this watch is renamed the Submariner.
a day/date feature. The first model produced was presented to President Eisenhower.

1957 Hamilton makes the first electric wrist watch
1959 Bulova Accutron tuning fork wrist watch introduced
1969 Last pocket watch made by Hamilton

*** END ***

I want to thank Pranav Singh for unselfishly sharing all of his hard work.
A service from,  E-mail address: Mike@atmos-man.com
Mike Murray     Founder of Clocksmiths

A specialist in Atmos and 400-day clock repair.
Also, I overhaul most plug in electric clocks.
In continuous horological service since 04/01/1982.

Mike's Clock Clinic  Membership: NAWCC
1600 Maryland Avenue
Myrtle Point, OR  97458-1508

Phone: 541-559-1090 or 877-286-6762

My main Web site is located at "http://www.atmosman.com/"

Main FTP site is located at:
"http://home.earthlink.net/~atmosman/earthftp.html"

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