

Hands of Time

Roger Smith: Hand-Made Haute Horology



George Daniels is a perfectionist and prior to Roger's coming, he always worked on his own. He was a brilliant and patient teacher and Roger thoroughly enjoyed his time with him." - Caroline Smith

"Independent watchmaking offers clients a personal product that is impossible to achieve using methods of mass production. When you spend as much time as we do on all these small pieces of metal, they take on a life of their own.

- Roger Smith

Roger Smith had the rare privilege of working with famous horologist George Daniels immediately after finishing his watchmaking training. Today he lives and works on the lovely and remote Isle of Man.

Roger Smith

Born in Manchester in Northern England in 1970, Roger Smith grew up with little interest in academic pursuits, but he always had an eminently practical turn of mind. When he turned 16, his father suggested that he enroll in a course at the Manchester School of Horology. From the first day, Roger was hooked. He had never enjoyed education so much! He ended up at the top of his class, winning the British Horological Institute's Bronze medal for the student with the highest marks of the final year. During his time at horological school, Dr. George Daniels - a man who is widely regarded as the greatest living horologist - was a visiting speaker.

From that moment, Roger knew that he wanted to make watches. He became completely obsessed with this goal. Using George Daniels' book "Watchmaking" as a guide, he set about making his first pocket watch in his bedroom at home. Two years later, at the age of 20, Roger took the watch to Dr. Daniels for his opinion. He was told to go back and start all over again because the watch looked handmade. "It should look", said Daniels, "as if it was created from thin air."

Undeterred by this response, Roger returned to his bedroom and spent the next five years making and remaking his second pocket watch until he felt he had perfected all the skills and was completely satisfied with his creation. He again consulted Dr. Daniels. This time, after close examination, the watch passed the test.

Shortly afterwards, Roger was invited by Daniels to work with him on the now legendary "Daniels Millennium" series in his workshop on the Isle of Man. This was the finest finishing school Roger could have wished for. He worked with George Daniels for three years, until the series was completed.

Subsequently, Roger set up his own workshop in the Isle of Man and produced his "Series 1", a series of nine rectangular cased watches fitted with a retrograde calendar complication.

He began dreaming of creating his own completely handmade production wristwatch. And so the "Series 2" was born. After a long and complex development period, the first watches were launched in February 2006.

"Well made" is an understatement for the Series 2. Almost every one of the watch's 225 parts is created in the R.W. Smith workshop, including cases, dials, hands and most importantly, the most technically advanced escapement in 250 years - the Daniels co-axial. Roger Smith's Series 2 is a testament to his unrivalled skill as a master craftsman in his field. Not just a means of telling the time, it is an object of beauty and art that, if properly maintained, will last forever.

Roger lives with his wife Caroline and their dog by the sea in a tranquil rural area in the North of the beautiful Isle of Man.

His hobbies include hockey, (which he plays badly!); gardening, and walking. He is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers.

"Open dial" Series 2 wristwatch in a 40 mm 18 karat white gold case with silver hand-engraved chapters and blued steel hands.



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The Daniels Co-Axial 35th Anniversary Wristwatch

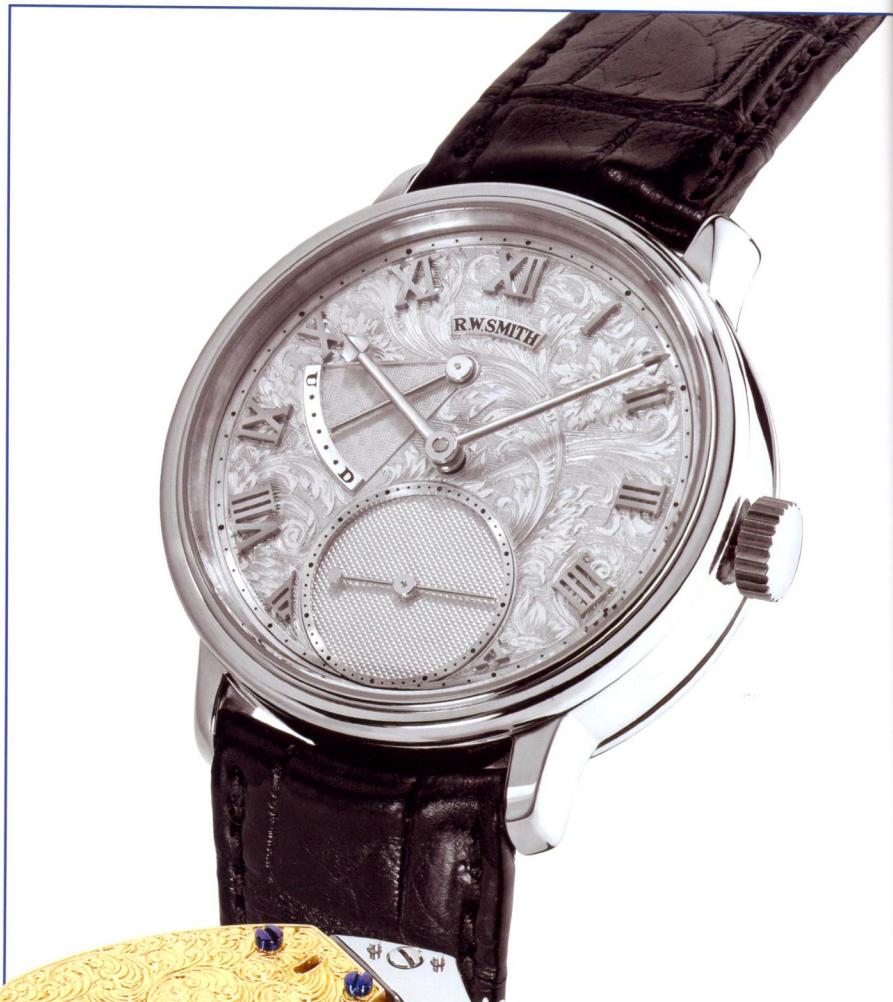
Roger Smith and George Daniels are currently collaborating on a watch to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Daniels co-axial escapement, for which George Daniels was awarded the Queen's honour of a CBE (Commander of the British Empire).

The prototype was unveiled at the QP 2010 Salon in London in November 2010. The movement is expected to be finished in early 2011, and delivery of the first watches is planned for the second half of 2011.

"The work so far has gone splendidly, and the project is in very good hands with Roger. It is nice for me not to have to explain everything, since Roger knows and understands my work and methods so well. He's a first class watchmaker. I am also very happy with the prototype, as it has turned out just as I had hoped; it is a Daniels through and through. I can't wait to see the final results when it is finished."

— George Daniels

A platinum-cased Series 2 wristwatch with silver hand-engraved floral dial, and applied 18 karat white gold Roman numerals and hands.



A one minute "flying" tourbillon containing the Daniels co-axial escapement and a Grand Date complication. 18 karat red gold 42 mm case with silver hand engine-turned and hand-engraved dial with 18 karat red gold hands.



To order a

R.W. Smith watch

Only a handful of watches are completed each year

The waiting list for a Series 2 watch is approximately 2 years

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