

T i m e T r a v e l



Annual Report 2001

Clocks don't just give us the time. They measure our lives.

Probably why over the centuries, man has been obsessed with clocks. From sundials and hourglasses to quartz watches and atomic clocks, man has tried to pin time down to its millisecond.

When you travel around the world, you find that time-keeping machines have taken many shapes: clock towers in English town squares. Sundials in Italian cathedrals. Cuckoo clocks in German homes. Swiss watches around every wrist. They tell a different time in every part of the world. But they still make sure everyone travels through life at the same pace.

At Thomas Cook, we're proud to have stood the test of time.

We were established far back in 1841. And today, we're the world leaders in travel. It's only fair then, we pay tribute to the machines around the world that have helped keep track of it all.

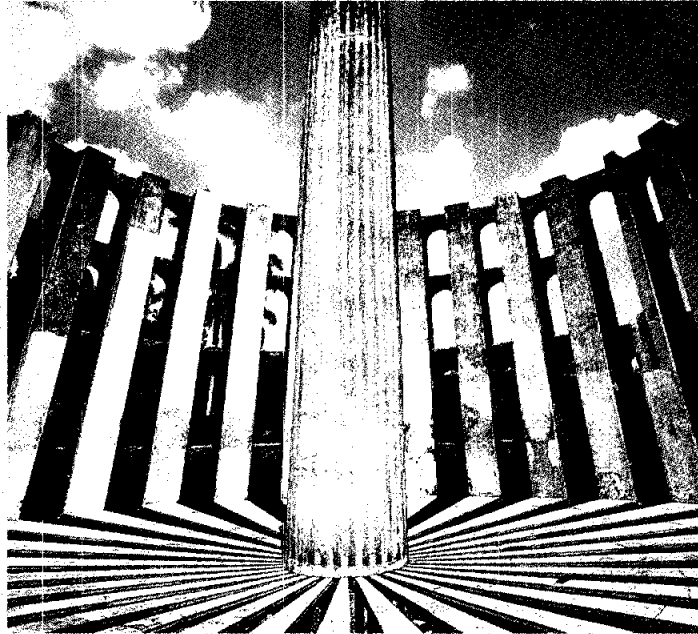


Stonehenge – Wiltshire, England

In Wiltshire, England, lies what is arguably one of the world's oldest time-keeping monuments: Stonehenge.

The origins of this 4000-year old structure have always been the focus of much speculation. Some have believed it to be the site of an ancient religious ritual while others are certain that it was used as an astronomical device.

However, recent scientific research reveals Stonehenge to have been an observatory or clock, used to observe summer and winter solstices, eclipses and other astronomical phenomena. But Stonehenge has so far eluded any conclusive explanation. Will we ever unravel this mystery? Only time will tell.



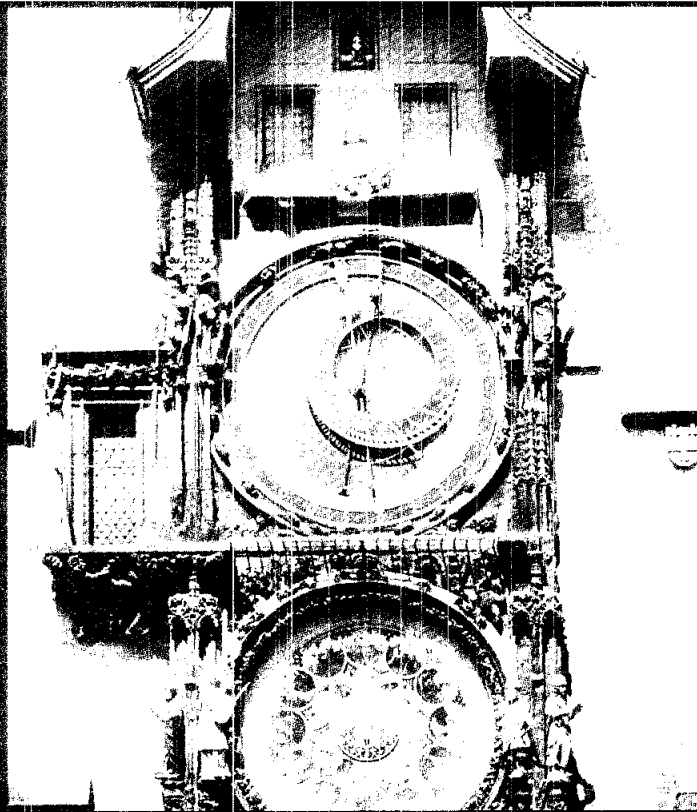
Jantar Mantar, New Delhi

Jantar Mantar lies within the commercial heartland of New Delhi – Connaught Place. It was built in 1724 by the king of Jaipur, Sawai Jai Singh, a keen mathematician and astronomer.

Jantar Mantar was devised with the intention of revising the calendar and correcting the astronomical tables being used by the priests at the time.

The largest structure within Jantar Mantar is the Samrat Yantra, a huge sundial that tells time. The other structures track the movements of heavenly bodies.

Trust a king to give his people the greatest gift of all: time.



Astronomical Clock, Prague

The Astronomical Clock in Prague has kept time for 6 centuries.

This clock was built mainly to show the movement of heavenly bodies. However, it depicts the medieval view of the solar system where the earth is at the centre of the universe.

Every hour, Death appears at the top of the clock, rings the bells, and allows the hourglass of Life to run empty.

The 12 Apostles of Christ walk past the windows. And a rooster crows just before the clock strikes the hour.

All of which makes visiting this clock really worth your time.



Floral Clock, Geneva

Geneva is renowned for its watch industries and floral parks. So it isn't surprising that this city has a Floral Clock. Located at the edge of the English Garden, this Floral Clock was created in 1955, and is one of the main tourist attractions of Geneva.

The Floral Clock has one of the world's longest arms to count the seconds. And, it takes over 6,500 different plants to create the floral arrangements within this clock.

In Geneva, when it comes to telling time, you can say it with flowers.



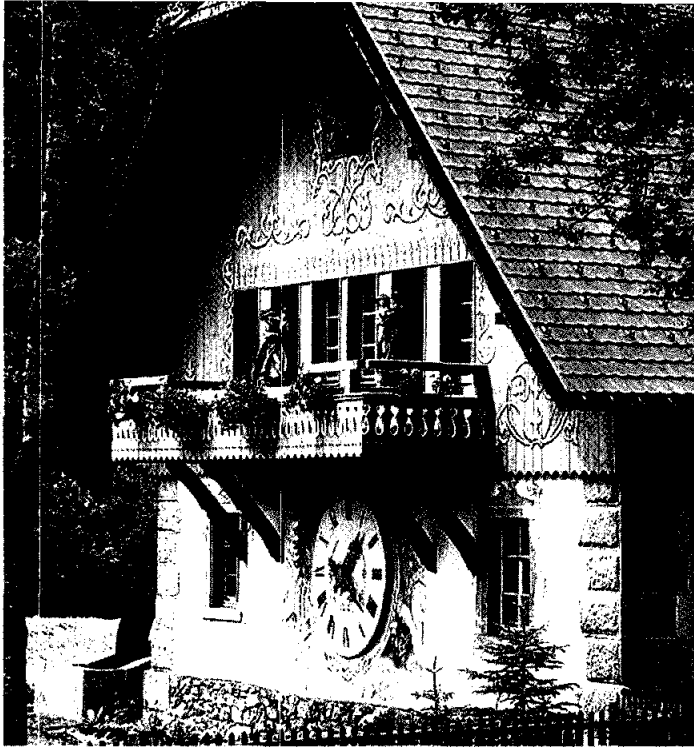
Grand Central Terminal, New York

Only a clock could symbolize the fastest, busiest city on earth.

Since 1913, the Grand Central Terminal, with all its railway lines, has been the gateway to New York City. In the centre of the building's façade, serenaded by the statues of Mercury and Minerva, is a magnificent clock expressing an age-old belief: transport as a function of time.

To this day, thousands of New Yorkers cast a swift glance at this clock before rushing to keep their appointments.

After all, time waits for no one.



The Cuckoo Clock, Black Forest

The Black Forest in Germany is home to the world-famous Cuckoo clock. In today's age of electronic and quartz clocks, this hand-made clock has a charm all its own.

The next time you are in Germany, go along the scenic German Clock Route. Along the way, you can visit clock museums and clock factories for an insight into the famous Cuckoo clocks.

As far back as 1840, Black Forest clock traders were doing business in 4 continents. Today, these clocks are found in homes all over the world.

How time flies.



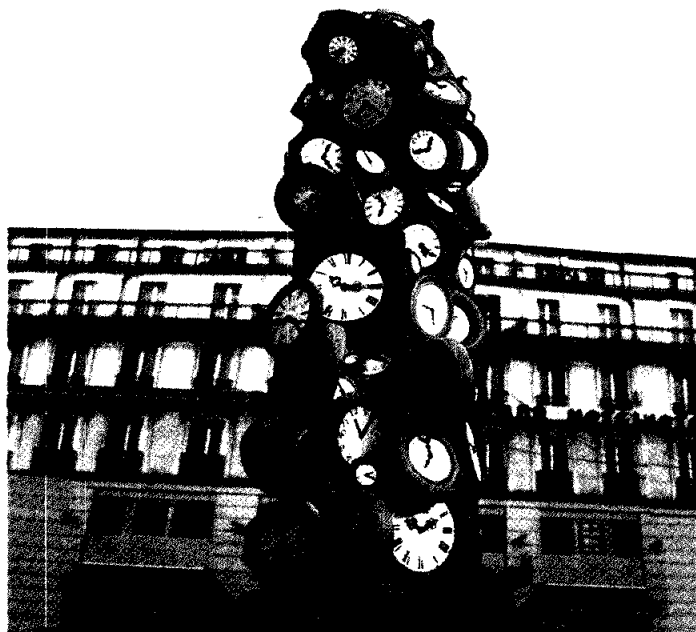
Big Ben, London

With the Houses of Parliament situated below it, Big Ben is one of Europe's best-known landmarks. Built in 1858, its chimes have been heard over BBC Radio since 1923.

'Big Ben' refers to the 13-tonne bell within the clock. It was named after the first Commissioner of Works, Benjamin Hall.

During World War II, a bomb destroyed the Houses of Parliament, but Big Ben continued to keep time. Its chimes were broadcast all around the world and served as a welcome reassurance of hope to all who heard it.

Big Ben has stood by the world, through good times and bad.



'L'heure de tous', Paris

Just outside the Saint Lazare Railway Station in Paris is an unconventional masterpiece of modern art: 'L'heure de tous'.

Designed by New York-based artist Arman (short for Armand Pierre Fernandez) and unveiled for the first time in 1985, this sculpture is an asymmetrical composition of clocks, with each clock showing a different time. Aptly titled 'Everybody's time' and stationed outside a point of departure, this work of art reveals the eternal connection between travel and time.

With no two clocks showing the same time, 'L'heure de tous' is proof that your sense of time is as unique as you are.