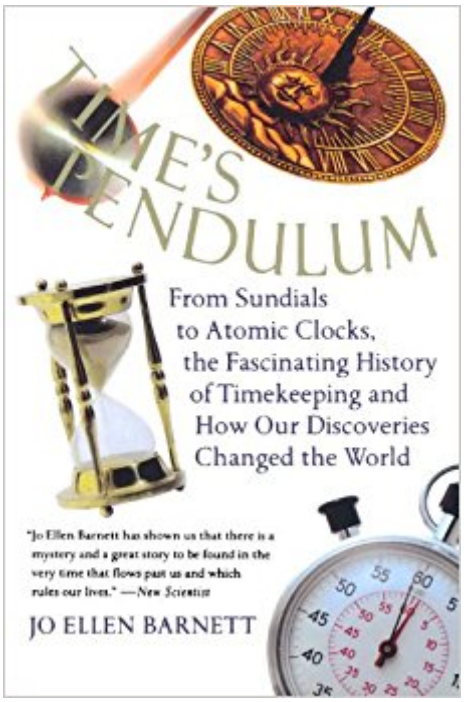
Time's Pendulum: From Sundials To Atomic Clocks, The Fascinating History Of Timekeeping And How Our Discoveries Changed The World



Synopsis

A perfect balance of science, history, and sociology, Time’s Pendulum traces the important developments in humankind’s epic quest to measure the hours, days, and years with accuracy, and how our concept of time has changed with each new technological breakthrough. Written in an easy-to-follow chronological format and illustrated with entertaining anecdotes, author Jo Ellen Barnett’s history of timekeeping covers everything from the earliest sundials and water clocks, to the pendulum and the more recent advances of battery-powered, quartz-regulated wrist watches and the powerful radioactive "clock," which loses only a few billionths of a second per day, making it nearly ten billion times more accurate than the pendulum clock. A tour of the discoveries and the inventors who endeavored to chart and understand time, Time’s Pendulum also explains how each new advance gradually transformed our perception of the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Likely you’ve heard that the mechanical clock is one of humanity’s most significant inventions, comparable to the printing press, or electricity, or the automobile. But first-time author Jo Ellen Barnett admits that most of us, if we’re honest, don’t quite see why. Our perception of time, and our artificial division of it into little, repeatable pieces, is so ingrained in us that we forget it’s an invention. Barnett, who admits to having been fascinated by time all her life, seems the perfect person to clear up this conceptual blind spot. Drawing from many disciplines, she’s conducted a sweeping survey of our relationship with time, from our earliest attempts to measure and understand

it to our more recent breakthroughs with carbon dating and atomic clocks. Time’s Pendulum never skimps on the science, with its detailed explanations and unapologetic technical discussions. But what makes the book so very likable (and readable) is Barnett’s passion for meditating on time’s cultural and even spiritual mysteries. If you’re already intrigued by time, Time’s Pendulum makes for a satisfying, meaty read, rich in insights and historical anecdotes; if you aren’t already intrigued, you will be. --Paul Hughes

Ã¢â ¬Å“With Time’s Pendulum, Barnett has shown us that there is a mystery and a great story to be found in the very time that flows past us and which rules our lives. There is no need for wild speculation. Time’s Pendulum is history. In both senses of an ambiguous phrase, it is the history of our time."-New Scientist Ã¢â ¬Å“The story of time and its machines is long, but indisputably interesting. [Barnett’s book]. . . is entertaining and worth a few hours’ reading time."-The San Diego Union-Tribune

I purchased this book as a gift for a friend who absolutely loved it. He’s a big fan of anything to do with time, from clocks to wrist watches. He said it was a very informative and enjoyable read.

Great read and informative on the differnt methods of time keeping and measuring and the reasons for their developement.

I gave this book as a gift.

I agree with the Gibson review below ("Two books in one, both interesting!") and can little to it.I wish the author would come out with a update version with pictures and more diagrams.

Accurately titled - a fascinating read.

The subject matter IS fascinating; the writing style is acceptable; but the illustrations leave something to be desired; they are often too small to be of any value and or poor reproduction. If I had been able to thumb through this book in person, I would not have bought it. As it is, I read it and then donated it to the library sale. In other words ... worth reading but not worth keeping.

I’ve already had some interest in the topic, but wanted to pickup another book and see what else I

could learn, so got this one based on the reviews. A very good book, would highly recommend for someone who wants to learn about the history of keeping time.

Good resource for teachers and a fun read.

Time's Pendulum: From Sundials to Atomic Clocks, the Fascinating History of Timekeeping and How Our Discoveries Changed the World Antique Trader Clocks Price Guide: Including All Types of Clocks-17th Through 20th Century (Antique Trader's Clocks Price Guide) Sundials at Greenwich: A Catalogue of the Sundials, Nocturnals, and Horary Quadrants in the National Maritime Museum The Quantum Beat: Principles and Applications of Atomic Clocks Rhythm and Drumming Demystified: A Method to Expand Your Vocabulary While Improving Your Reading, Timekeeping, Coordination, Phrasing, and Polyrhythmic Skills. Sundials: History, Theory, and Practice Chaos in Atomic Physics (Cambridge Monographs on Atomic, Molecular and Chemical Physics) The Atomic Sea: Part Seven: The Atomic Jungle The Story of the Atomic Bomb: How It Changed the World (The World Transformed) Fifty Ships That Changed the Course of History: A Nautical History of the World (Fifty Things That Changed the Course of History) World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) The Fossil Chronicles: How Two Controversial Discoveries Changed Our View of Human Evolution Telling Time: How to Tell Time on Digital and Analog Clocks About Time: A First Look at Time and Clocks Discoveries: Birth of the Motion Picture (Discoveries (Harry Abrams)) Discoveries: Story of Jazz (Discoveries (Harry Abrams)) Sundials: Their Theory and Construction Galileo's Pendulum: From the Rhythm of Time to the Making of Matter National Geographic 125 Years: Legendary Photographs, Adventures, and Discoveries That Changed the World Inventions and Inventors: How American Discoveries Changed the World (Graphic America)