

George Daniels' personal collection to be auctioned

Sotheby's London has announced a sale of the late George Daniels' horological collection, to be held on November 6. It will comprise approximately 130 lots and is expected to fetch around £5m.

Daniels, who died last year at the age of 85, was considered by many to be the greatest watchmaker of his time. Inventor of the revolutionary co-axial escapement, he was also an avid collector of timepieces.

The collection comprises clocks and watches Daniels made for his own private use, as well as examples – many of which have not been seen in public for several years – from some of the most famous makers of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

“The auction represents a one-time opportunity to acquire the clocks

George Daniels collected to satisfy his lifelong fascination with horology,” says Jonathan Hills, deputy director of Sotheby's clock department.

Daniels started his career after the Second World War as a trade watch repairer in south London. In the Fifties, he made his first and only marine chronometer, while over the ensuing 40 years he produced hand-made watches for connoisseurs and collectors. His Grand Complication watch, pictured, is expected to achieve up to £800,000 at the auction.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the George Daniels Educational Trust, which supports students of horology, medicine, engineering, building or construction.

John Philips

