

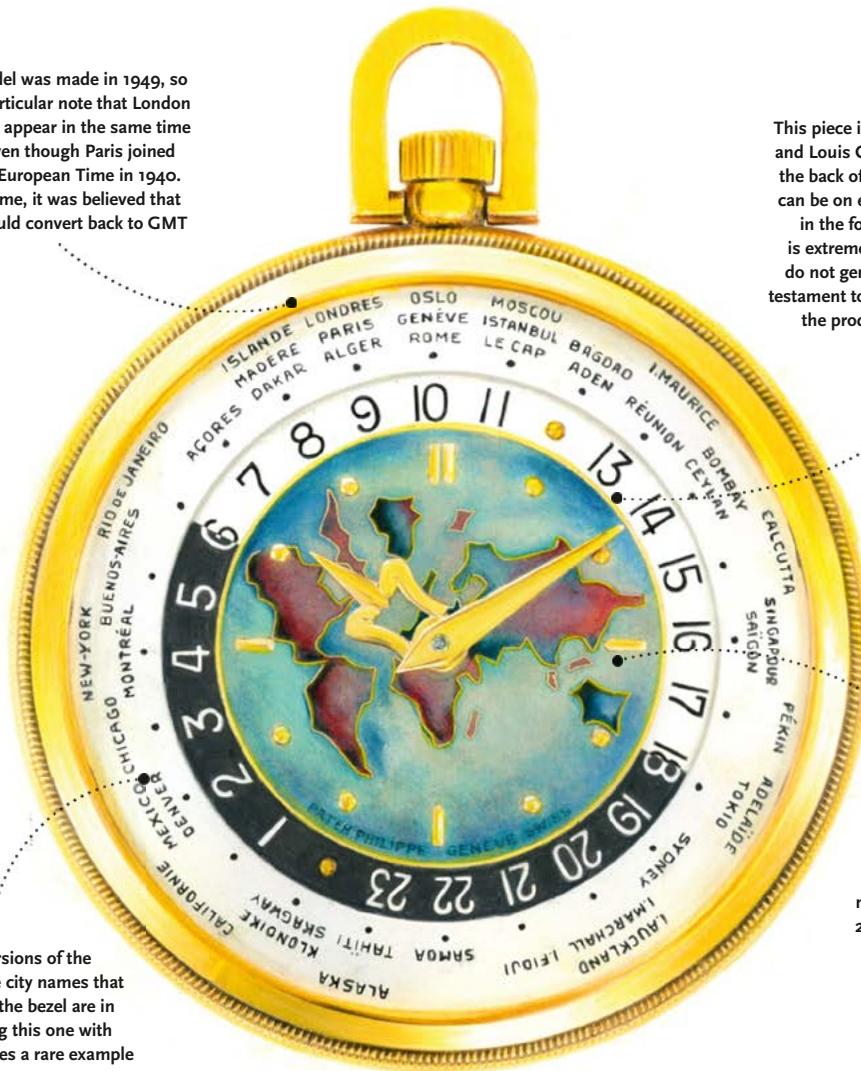
Collector's guide

This model was made in 1949, so it is of particular note that London and Paris appear in the same time zone even though Paris joined Central European Time in 1940. At the time, it was believed that Paris would convert back to GMT

This piece is fitted with the caliber 17''170, and Louis Cottier's stamp can be found on the back of the model's enamel disk, as it can be on each REF. 605 HU. This feature, in the form of an interlaced L and C, is extremely rare because watchmakers do not generally sign a dial. The mark is testament to the fact that Cottier supervised the production of every single piece

On most versions of the REF. 605 HU, the city names that appear around the bezel are in English, making this one with French place names a rare example

Models with an original cloisonné enamel design, like this one, are most covetable because fewer than 20 exist. Measuring around 22 mm in diameter, this world map is the largest cloisonné design on any vintage Patek Philippe pocket watch dial. Versions with a satin-finished dial are more affordable, and some originally with a metal dial were upgraded to enamel



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While some watches have come to be seen as fine works of art and not simply luxury mechanical objects, pocket watches are regarded as the old masters of the horological world. And no model better exemplifies this than Patek Philippe's World Time pocket watch, the REF. 605 HU, produced from 1937 until the early 1950s.

The mechanism used in this model was invented by the watchmaking genius Louis Cottier, and it allowed watches to display the time anywhere in the world by means of a rotating 24-hour ring and an outer ring that displayed the names of cities in 24 time zones.

Over the years Cottier, who made his first World Time pocket watch movement for Patek Philippe in 1937, delivered 82 pieces of the REF. 605 HU. The model's case was integrated into the mechanism to allow for the adjustment of "home" time (which could be set at twelve o'clock via the ridged, rotating bezel), and Cottier oversaw the finishing of each of these timepieces after

it was cased to ensure the mechanism worked flawlessly. He also made the hands for these watches himself, in a variety of designs such as circles, bisected circles, and a fleur-de-lys motif (as seen in the example illustrated above, dating from 1949), so each timepiece was unique.

Designated the "World Time Dress Watch" by Patek Philippe, the REF. 605 HU featured a number of different dials including a silver guilloché version and others in black, champagne, or pink. But the rarest examples – fewer than 20 – have a cloisonné enamel dial with an intricate decorative design such as a map, sign of the zodiac, or mythical creature.

Among the rarest and most prized of these is the world map version, of which only two are known to exist. And though the enamelist's expression of his craft makes this particular model a covetable artwork, the hands-on involvement of Cottier in every REF. 605 HU ensures that each one is a unique mechanical treasure. ♦