

Lacquer finish bracket clock by Joseph Smith

This clock came on the market in the USA in October 2015.

Joseph Smith made many bracket clocks but this one is the first we have seen with lacquer. It probably dates to the period after 1725 when Joseph moved into Gloverstone, but not later than 1740.

These photos are courtesy of the vendor in the USA.

George Ormerod's *History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, 1819, has a clear image of a family crest which resembles that in the arch of this clock. See a photo and sketch of the crest on the next page.





The photos do not show it well, but a silver cartouche engraved with a coat of arms is in the arch. We believe these are the arms of the Egerton family whose presence in Cheshire dates back over a thousand years. (See sketch, right.) A branch of the family lived at Oulton Park where a baroque mansion was built for John Egerton in 1716. This was in the parish of Little Budworth, Cheshire, where the church of St Peter, has a clock by Joseph Smith, dated 1727, the agreement for which was signed by John Egerton and the clockmaker. The mansion burned down in 1926; the grounds now house a motor racing circuit. We believe the bracket clock was made for John Egerton.

