Cooke of York

The company produced around 150 turret clocks during the second half of the nineteenth century, which are beautifully engineered pieces of art. Catalogues listing the clocks were printed between 1867 and 1876; these include the date and place of installation, and sometimes the name of the purchaser. However, more clocks were made after 1876 and some clocks, even within the catalogue timeframe, were not included.

A number of turret clocks have been lost over the years; some were destroyed, for example by fire or enemy action during WWll, others have been 're-homed'; this latter group is proving difficult to find. In addition, a large group of clocks listed in the catalogues were manufactured for installation in Post Offices throughout the country, but these seem to have disappeared, leaving little trace.

Thomas Cooke and Sons are primarily remembered for their telescopes, some of which are still in use in observatories around the world. They also made a range of surveying equipment, navigational and drawing tools. These are usually clearly marked with the company name. We are very keen to photograph and collect images of these. Please email us if you know of any such items.



Left: one of the many Cooke domes for observatories
Right: A large turret clock made c1870

Far right: an astronomical regulator

Top, from left:

Transit telescope

A large telescope

A typical dial









