

N° 35 (N° 3 - 1956)



THE EASTERN JEWELLER AND WATCHMAKER

पूर्वी जौहरी और घड़ीसाज 極東時計宝飾業誌
شرقی جوہری اور گھڑی ساز 東方鐘表鑽飾家
ชาวช่างเครื่องเพชรและนาฬิกาตะวันออก

WORLD-TIME CLOCK

IN THE CENTRAL AIRPORT AT MEXICO-CITY

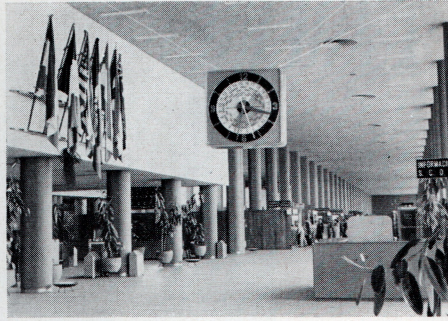


The largest world-time clock with universal hours that has been built up to the present is, however, still very young. It was constructed in Switzerland in October and November 1955 before being flown to Mexico.

The airport in Mexico City is one of the most modern plants of its kind and a striking representative of Mexican work and will to progress. Every month there pass through here 60,000 passengers who are received and distributed over some 2,460 air routes. The 90,000 sqm. in front of the airport building can simultaneously accommodate 24 large planes for the handling of the passengers. The 200-meter-long passenger hall, with its luxurious and at the same time very practical arrangement, was equipped a few months ago for its beautification and in the interest of its international air passengers with the largest double-faced world-time clock in existence.

For the initiative which led to this installation one has to thank the genial air-travel promoter and well known pilot, General P.A. Alberto Salinas Carranza, director of Civil Aeronautics in Mexico. He came personally to Switzerland to study on the spot the possibility of constructing such a clock. For this purpose he searched out the firm and engineer that had built the up-to-this-time best known universal clock, which is located in the airport of Zürich-Kloten (Switzerland). Having in mind the special conditions required for Mexico, the engineer L.M. Loske at once drew up a satisfactory set of specifications which were immediately accepted.

Illustration above—Placing the largest world-time clock in position : the clock is raised to the desired position by means of a freight-lifting truck and then swung by cables to the ceiling.



This project, which is very interesting from the standpoint of watchmaking technique, is a perfect example of an individual piece of execution in which the movement works on the principle of electric clocks with minute impulses given by a precision mother pendulum clock. In order to render the greatest service from the position in the hall where it is placed, this clock has duplicate faces. The dial surfaces are of 1,90 sqm. and are illuminated by a special neon lighting device. The execution of the dials was achieved by using plexiglas in several bright shades harmonizing with the surrounding colour scheme. The frames and the inner elements of the clock are made from an aluminium alloy.

The normal Mexican time, which corresponds to six hours less than Greenwich meantime, is indicated by the three hands for seconds, minutes and hours on the outer circle of figures divided into twelve sections. The inner circle of the dial, divided into sections from one to twenty-four, gives the time for all the cities mentioned in the interior portion of the dial. This name disc is divided into twenty-four zones and carries the designation of 38 well known places in all continents. The background of this name disc is equally divided into two parts, with one half in a light and the other in a dark shade. One can thus immediately see whether the places included in these zones are in night-time (the darker section from 18 to 6 o'clock) or in day-light (the brighter half from 6 to 18 o'clock). The whole device, comprising the two coloured discs of the background and the dials with the hour figures from one to twenty-four, moves once a day in a direction contrary to that of the hour hands, around the central disc carrying the city names. In this manner the indications of the localities correspond with the hour figures which represent the normal time of the city in question.

The whole clock was constructed in such a way that it could be dismantled, and even the larger surfaces of the dials were made up in four parts, so that for freighting the whole could be packed in relatively small cases and be consigned for air transport to the K.L.M. Dutch Airlines.

Illustration above—The clock is fitted on both sides with the same dial and indicates, in addition to the Mexican normal time, that of 38 other cities all over the world. Its surface measures almost 2 sqm. and is enlivened by beautiful bright colours.

Design and construction : Engineer L. M. Loske, Zürich.

Construction firm : A. Türlér & Co. Zürich.