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WATCHES

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ROYAL MARINE

PRO-ONE

BY TECHNOMARINE

LET'S SEE YOUR POKER FACE

Blancier has come up with an ingenious way to truly personalize a watch by letting watch-lovers design their own. The latest model, Poker Face, has a newly developed dial that features playing card insignia. Blancier owner Willem Kamerman says of the new watch, "It struck me that there was no high-quality watch available with a poker face. Not only does a hand-made analog watch like this make a great prize in casino poker competitions, it is also a beautiful and unique gift for lovers of the game." By visiting the virtual workshop at <www.blancier.com>, people can design and order a Poker Face watch to their very own specifications, including the inscription of a lucky number. The master watchmakers at Lottermann & Söhne in Mannheim, Germany, assemble the watches and deliver them within six weeks.



Blancier's Poker Face

CUERVO Y SOBRINOS

Cuervo y Sobrinos continued its tradition of recognizing classic automobiles by sponsoring the final competition of the 2006 international racing year, the 2006 Tour de España Clasico, in which more than 150 entries from Europe and the Americas competed. The brand with "Latin soul and Swiss heart" held an event for racers and watch



Cuervo y Sobrinos' Alfa Romeo

dealers at the completion of each stage of the race, which began in Madrid and stretched across several provinces. The brand's chairman, Marzio Villa, was one of those celebrating a win, taking fourth place in the Supersport category in a 1959 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider Veloce. Also during the race, the watch company unveiled the Torpedo Chrono Pulsometro 8 watch, created especially for the 2006 tour. Cuervo y Sobrinos is looking forward to keeping the Tour de España Clasico an annual brand event. Telephone 877.83.7869.

ICELINK EXPANDING

Following a successful year, fueled in part by its first national advertising campaign, IceLink is expanding its horizons by exhibiting at Baselworld for the first time. IceLink, which is popular with rappers and athletes, is now hoping to reach a broader audience. Brand ambassador and college football star Matt Leinart might be recognized as a celebrity in the US, but that's not necessarily the case worldwide. As part of IceLink's worldwide campaign, the brand will introduce 18 karat gold limited edition Six Time Zone Ambassador and Senator watches. IceLink will also launch an automatic GMT timepiece. For details, visit <www.icelinkwatch.com>.



Frank Spurrell and Twysden Moore

DENT & CO. OF LONDON

A longstanding British maker of astrological and turret clocks—as well as chronometers and watches—will introduce items fit for royalty when it launches its new line of wristwatches in April. Dent & Co., founded in 1876 by Edward Dent and run by family members until 1977, has served royalty and the military throughout its history. The Dent family had royal warrants



Blancpain's Alain Delamuraz and Arnaud Blandin with contest runner-up Franck Giovannini and winner Fabrice Desvignes (holding the gold trophy).

BLANCPAIN TIMES GASTRONOMY CONTEST

Blancpain used a [really big] Léman Flyback Chronograph to give 24 aspiring chefs exactly five hours to prepare three dishes using Bresse Chicken, Norwegian White Halibut and Norwegian Red King Crab at this year's 20th World Cuisine Contest, the Boccuse d'Or. The contest took place during the International Hotel Catering and Food Trade Exhibition, held in Lyon, France, January 23–24. "The quest for excellence,

know-how, precision of movement, passion and meticulous attention to detail are values which Blancpain shares with the world of gastronomy," says Christel Räbel of Blancpain. Blancpain also awarded the winner of the contest, Fabrice Desvignes, chef of the Kitchens of la Présidence du Sénat, Paris, with a special hand-engraved Léman GMT Alarm watch valued at 14,000 Euros. Visit <www.blancpain.com>.

from Queen Victoria, King Edward VI, King George V, Queen Mary, Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II and Emperor Meiji of Japan, to name a few. Frank Spurrell bought the company two years ago, and now runs it along with co-CEO Twysden Moore. According to the book *Edward John Dent and his Successors*, by Vaudrey Mercer, Dent & Co. made the standard clock at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, where all time starts; produced the Dent Chronometer No. 633 that traveled on the *HMS Beagle* with Charles Darwin, the Palace Clock at Balmoral and Big Ben. The new owners are also producing a book on the history of their company. Telephone 44.20.7873.2363; visit online <www.dentwatches.com>.

CATERING TO COLLECTORS

Last fall, a free website was launched to help collectors create a catalog of their prized items. Called Squirrel, the site allows people to "squirrel away" images and descriptions that are shared. Explains co-founder Steve de Brun, "Many people end up putting their

collections in storage. They rarely see the light of day until the collector wants to sell or exchange them. Squirrel breathes new life into people's collections and allows them to make connections with other passionate collectors." The site has more than 30 templates, batch uploading, RSS, privacy controls, messaging and the ability to comment on unusual items such as cowboy and Indian bookplates, sixteenth-century autographs, panda-themed stamps, female action figures and even coffins, according to co-founder John McGrath. For an overview of the new online service, visit <www.squirrel.info>.

WATCHING BAYOU BEND

Bayou Bend—the historic Houston home of the unfortunately named Ima Hogg—will be the site of a raffle drawing on April 15. The item at stake is number one of ten Classical Bayou Bend watches by Corum. The painted dial of the gold and diamond watch recreates details of a gold-leaf garden-motif mural in the late Miss Hogg's dining room. Telephone 949.788.6200.

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