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Appraisal/Valuation

American MIL-SPEC WW2 Navigational Chronometer, Hamilton Model 22
Deck "Watch" model, cased in plated base metal Keystone case, used in a padded
mahogany box which is present and associated with this watch.
Serial #2F23959, 1943

Hamilton made two versions of this movement for the US Navy during World War II, a boxed/gimbaled chronometer version and this deck watch version, cased much like a very large pocket watch. This is the more rare of the two models and the more sought after.

This watch is undamaged and is housed in a case which is virtually flawless and without scratches. The case back was factory engraved with USN procurement data and is unblemished. The case cuvette or dust cover is present and in next to perfect condition.

All jewels are in perfect condition without chips or cracks. The balance serial number matches the plates. The mainspring is of the second generation made and still retains appropriate strength to power the movement. All parts are genuine Hamilton. Repairs over the years have been of excellent quality. Time-keeping is outstanding, easily surpassing the even tighter specification for the Model 21. While originally specified for adjustment in multiple positions, none of these was ever adjusted that way. All were optimized for accuracy and repeatability in the dial-up position.

This watch is an outstanding example of the Model 22 Deck Watch. Few are still this untouched, unblemished and thoroughly original as this one is. As this is such a fine example, published guides are of little use in determining market value for such a piece. Based on my personal knowledge of sales of instruments in similar condition, I would place the value of this piece with box at between \$1950 and \$2500. Kept in its current fine condition, the value will only increase over time and this should be taken into consideration when insuring this item.



John Crabtree, AWI #30279