

WATCHES AND JEWELRY

Phillips to auction George Daniels wristwatches

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George Daniels' anniversary watch in yellow gold. Image credit: Phillips

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Global auction house Phillips is preparing to auction three timepieces designed by notable watchmaker George Daniels at the upcoming Geneva Watch Auction XVI this fall.

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Mr. Daniels was considered by those in the horology sector to be one of the greatest luxury mechanical watchmakers of his time. His spring case tourbillon in yellow gold, a yellow gold special edition limited to 35 pieces in yellow gold and a yellow gold Millennium limited to 48 pieces will be among the leading highlights of the November auction in Geneva.

"George Daniels was one of the greatest watchmakers in history, and it is an honor to present a unique tourbillon wristwatch with spring case and two of the most sought-after wristwatches by an independent watchmaker ahead of the auction in November," said Alexandre Ghotbi, head of watches at Phillips continental Europe and the Middle East, in a statement.

"For Daniels, a watch had to have historic, intellectual, technical, aesthetic, amusing and useful qualities, a mantra that he applied to all his creations, with these three examples being no exception," he said. "His legacy continues to influence the generations of watchmakers that follow him, and we have no doubt these three watches will inspire those able to visit our early preview."

History of time

In advance of the sale, the timepieces will go on view during Geneva Watch Days from Aug. 29-Sept. 1, alongside other auction highlights.



George Daniels 'spring case tourbillon in yellow gold. Image credit: Phillips

The spring case tourbillon in yellow gold is estimated to collect more than 1 million Swiss francs, or \$1.04 million at the current exchange rate.

The yellow gold special edition piece, limited to 35 units in yellow gold, is estimated between 300,000-600,000 Swiss francs, or \$311,176-\$622,353. The yellow gold millennium, limited to 48 pieces, is estimated to garner 250,000-500,000 Swiss francs, or \$259,313-518,627.

During his lifetime and by his own hand, Mr. Daniels made 23 pocket watches and only two unique wristwatches. In addition, and in collaboration with Roger Smith, two more tourbillon wristwatches and two production series of wristwatches, the Millennium and Anniversary watches, have been made.

Also included in the lot is a George Daniels Millennium, created in 1999 to celebrate the arrival to the market of the new coaxial escapement. This watch features a modified Omega caliber with the coaxial escapement as well as Mr. Daniel's distinctive guilloché dial.

Last year, Phillips offered four major Philippe Dufour watches at its annual auction in Geneva.

The timepieces were supplied by a private collector, and their sale marked the first time the four creations were offered by one auction house in a single season ([see story](#)).