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Like a fine watch, new book has all the inner workings

The Illinois Watch: The Life and Times of a Great American Watch Company by Fredric J. Friedberg, Schiffer Publishing, 2004. Hardcover/dustjacket, 272 pgs, color photos, values, index. List price: \$79.95.

Time will tell how *The Illinois Watch: The Life and Times of a Great American Watch Company* is received by the collecting community. However, like a finely made watch itself, this book has all the inner workings to make it a real prize among collectors and dealers.

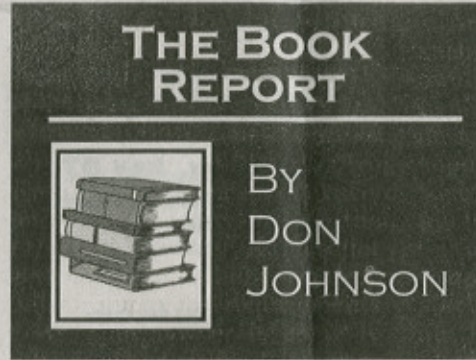
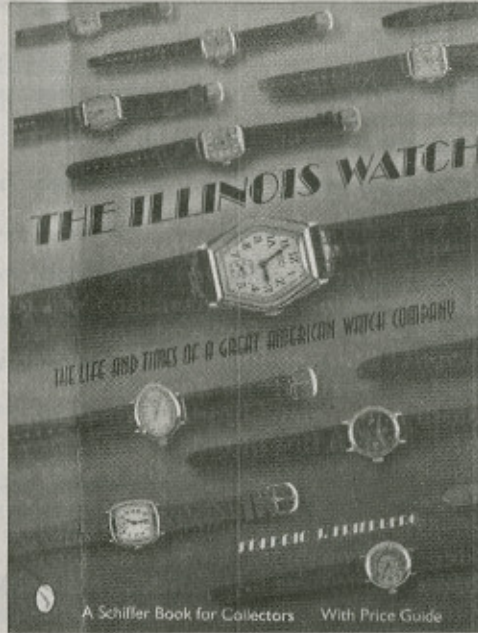
It's the authoritative and encyclopedic nature of the book that sets it apart from many reference titles that are nothing more than a marriage of photographs and captions. The author, Fredric J. Friedberg, goes far beyond the minimum. This is a complete look at a company and the wristwatches they produced.

Approached from several angles, the historical information in the book is well-detailed, including items as diverse as company documents, employee interviews and Illinois Watch Co. advertisements.

As Friedberg presents his timeline for the company, he adds interesting asides, such as notes on what else was happening in the United States during that period.

The author gives attention not only to the finished product, but also to its production and parts.

At the heart of this work is a wristwatch identification guide that provides a visual record of nearly every wristwatch design created by the Illinois Watch Co. It's here that the company's highly collectible lines of Art Deco and modern-inspired watches of the 1920s and 1930s can be seen as utilitarian



Left: Readers will need some time on their hands to work their way through *The Illinois Watch: The Life and Times of a Great American Watch Company*. The book is an authoritative look at the company.

works of art. Detailed information about the watches gives collectors a huge boost in understanding these instruments and their rarity. Values are listed at the back of the book.

For watch collectors, this is a book whose time has come.

Beyond Venice: Glass in Venetian Style, 1500-1750 by Jutta-Annette Page, The Corning Museum of Glass, 2004. Hardcover/dustjacket, 339 pgs, color photos, no values, index. List price: \$89.

This publication was designed to accompany a major exhibit of Venetian-style glass at The Corning Museum of Glass in New York. It's a scholarly work that examines the history of the glassware. Examples are highlighted from five regions. Readers will be pleased