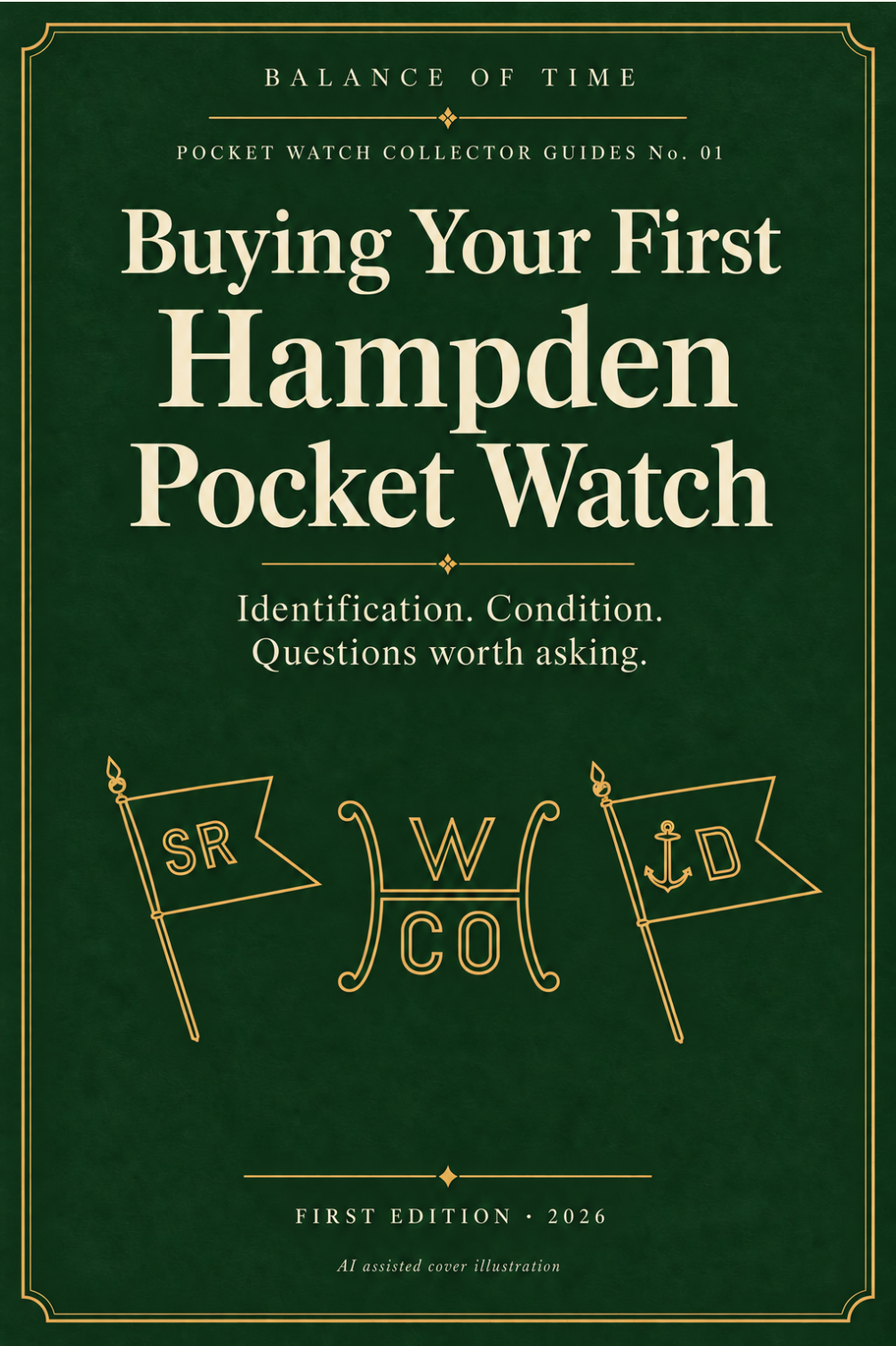




FREE PREVIEW • HISTORY, BUYING TIPS & WORKBOOK

From Springfield to Canton



Dueber-Hampden Watch Works, Canton, Ohio. P. D. Luke. Library of Congress dates the photograph to 1902. Item 2004673183. The archive warns that the caption card contains unverified old data.

Hampden emerged in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1877 after the failure of the New York Watch Company. It continued an existing watchmaking enterprise, rather than beginning in Canton.

John C. Dueber had established his case manufacturing business in 1864. The company timeline dates his controlling interest in Hampden to 1886 and the relocation to Canton to 1888. Bringing cases and movements together connected two different parts of watchmaking.

The factory photograph gives that business a place. Its buildings are documented; an individual watch's original owner is not. History can make a modest watch worth studying without inventing a distinguished provenance.

Before you pay, ask for evidence

1. Identify the movement.

Record the movement serial, size, model, grade, jewel count and setting arrangement. A case number is not a movement number. Compare the lookup result with the actual markings and layout.

2. Request readable photographs.

Ask for the dial straight on, full movement, movement number, case interior marks and exterior condition. Check hinges, bow and cover fit. Several photographs may be needed.

3. Ask what has changed.

Clarify dial repairs, replacement hands, recasing, refinishing and other alterations. Attractive decoration or a high jewel count does not establish originality.

4. Agree condition and return terms.

Ask how it winds, sets and runs, and request a dated service invoice if service is claimed. Do not force an unfamiliar setting mechanism or ask an inexperienced seller to dismantle it.

5. Budget beyond the price.

Include shipping, tax, fees, inspection, servicing, known parts and a contingency. Separate seller claims from confirmed evidence and leave unresolved questions visible.

Identify your candidate

Hampden Pocket Watch | Use one saved copy for each watch

Electronic: save a copy with a new name before entering details. Use a PDF app that supports form fields, save, then close and reopen to check your entries. Keep answers concise; attach extra notes separately. Printable: write by hand. Both versions print on Letter or A4 using Fit. Unknown is a valid answer.

Your record name or number	Record date
<hr/>	<hr/>

Listing URL, seller, or auction reference

Movement serial	Movement size and model
<hr/>	<hr/>

Grade and jewel count	Reported setting and configuration
<hr/>	<hr/>

Case maker, number, and exact material wording

Identification source, access date, and estimated period

What is not yet identified?

Explore the complete guide

Enjoy the history, then use the collecting and buying sections to assess a specific watch. Keep three headings in your notes: confirmed from the evidence, reported by the seller, and still unknown.

\$12 USD

49 page illustrated collector guide

Six page printable workbook

Six page fillable workbook for use in a compatible PDF app

[View the Hampden guide bundle](#)

This preview is a selection, not the full guide or workbook. The included worksheet is a printable sample.

Sources and image notes

Library of Congress, factory photograph. Catalog advisory: “No known restrictions on publication.” This is not a private permission letter or a worldwide guarantee.

Pocket Watch Database, Hampden history. Company timeline and identification reference.

The complete guide retains the fuller source register.

Text and layout prepared with AI assistance. The approved cover is an AI assisted decorative illustration, not a historical photograph. No historical photograph in this preview is AI generated. Independent publication, with no manufacturer endorsement or affiliation claimed. This is not an authentication certificate, appraisal or repair manual.