



Jaeger-LeCoultre pays tribute to astronomy in 2015.

Captivating is a word that aptly describes the night sky over the Vallée de Joux, this secret hollow nestling in the Swiss Jura that gave birth to the Maison Jaeger-LeCoultre. Very few lights disturb its luminous beauty that remains imperturbably serene, softly enveloping those who take the time to observe it, accepting to reveal its secrets to them. The sky harbours the origins of time, while the sun, moon and stars are the keys that enabled humankind to tame this impalpable phenomenon. They are thus the be-all and end-all of horology.

In 2015, the Manufacture in the Vallée de Joux is keen to share its fascination for the movements of the heavenly bodies, drawing upon these inexhaustible sources of inspiration and using them as a privileged means of expressing its expertise.

An impressive panorama

Because they speak to the mind and the heart, calendar complications have the ability to fire the imagination. Lunar calendar, sidereal zodiac calendar... the very terms used to describe them are a voyage into a universe that stretches far beyond our grasp and yet governs us. Through its new creations, Jaeger-LeCoultre illustrates the phenomena observed by ancient civilisations and which punctuate our daily lives. The calendar year represents a complete turn of the earth around the sun. Moon phases gave rise to the week and the month. The 12 hours represent the 12 decans visible during the night of the spring solstice. Minutes and seconds were adopted in order to facilitate complex astronomical calculations. By bringing them within reach of connoisseurs of fine objects, Jaeger-LeCoultre wanted the complete calendar and the moon phase to occupy the place they rightly deserve in our daily lives.

Fragments of the sky

To embody the magnetic beauty of the sky, moon and stars, Jaeger-LeCoultre opted for materials directly related to its source of inspiration, such as meteorite stone and lapis lazuli. Meteorites, the shooting stars that cross the sky while leaving a luminous trail, have been crafted by the artisans of the Manufacture with a blend of passion and determination, in order to reveal the beauty they have concentrated across the ages. The highly symbolic lapis lazuli was the favourite stone of ancient kings, who associated its colour with the sky chart. Its deep pigmentation is indeed rivalled only by the infinite depths of the heavenly canopy. These rare and mysterious materials are an

integral part in the design of the watches, while offering a singular experience through the energy and intensity they convey.

Invention according to Jaeger-LeCoultre

Since its founding in 1833, the Manufacture has played a key role in countless landmark introductions, from the keyless lever winding system to the silent regulators that serve to enhance the quality of sound emitted by repeater watches, and from the barely one-gram Jaeger-LeCoultre Calibre 101 to the iconic Reverso, along with unprecedented concepts such as the Dual-Wing®.

Surprising and enchanting the men and women who prove sensitive to these concentrated blends of the watchmaking expertise: such is the mindset nurtured by Jaeger-LeCoultre, which has made inventiveness a key focus. Calendar functions have long since been part of the watchmaking culture of the Grande Maison, admirably complementing other complications such as the Tourbillon or the Minute Repeater. This year, they are expressed in their own right and thus find themselves resolutely in the spotlight.

Above and beyond their utility, the very nature of all functions provided by Jaeger-LeCoultre is to offer the person wearing the watch an elegant scaled-down interpretation of the surrounding universe. Each of its new creations is destined to make the heart of devotees of fine objects beat a little faster. They can thus eagerly look forward to discovering models such as the Duomètre Sphérotourbillon Moon with its infinitely accurate moon-phase display.



FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF TIME

Several thousand years B.C., humankind became aware of time past, present and future, observing the regularity of the cycles manifested by the alternation between day and night, the various appearances of the moon and the return of the seasons. These physical phenomena represented the first points of reference. Progressively, the organisation of social, religious and economic life dictated the necessity of developing specific markers of time. Thousands of historical monuments dotted around the globe indicate specific moments of the year by their geographical location.

Time in motion and the vagaries of the calendar

The invention of writing served to note the recurrence of the phenomena that were observed and to perform calculations. The Mesopotamians devised a unit serving to determine distances covered as well as to measure time. This more than 4,000 year-old division stills forms the foundations of our sexagesimal system of measuring the degrees of angles, as well as minutes. Each aspect of time thereby stems from astronomical measurements reproduced by instruments that were initially rudimentary such as the gnomon and subsequently more elaborate such as the sundial and the astrolabe.

The calendar is another remarkable invention showcasing the extraordinary level of erudition and thought reached by each of the great civilisations that invented one. The creation of leap years served to remedy the three-month difference between the Roman calendar and the seasons. This so-called Julian calendar, still prevailing in the 16th century, was by then running eleven days behind the astronomical year. Clerics who felt they were no longer celebrating Easter at the correct date thereby appealed to Pope Gregory XIII. The latter opted to adjust the lag by means of a new solar calendar divided into 12 months of unequal duration, which asserted itself worldwide.

MANUFACTURE JAEGER-LECOULTRE

Since its founding in 1833, the Manufacture has been an inventive protagonist in the field of Haute Horlogerie. The keyless watch, silent regulators for repeater watches, Calibre Jaeger-LeCoultre 101 weighing barely one gram, the iconic Reverso, as well as unprecedented concepts such as the Dual-Wing®, all contribute to the wealth of the Jaeger-LeCoultre heritage. The 1,249 mechanical calibres developed and the 413 registered patents illustrate the creative passion that continually drives the men and women of the Grande Maison.



Heirs to the inventive spirit of the Manufacture's founder, Antoine LeCoultre, our artisans pool their expertise so as to delight and enthral devotees of beautiful objects. The unique story of each of our watches begins in the Vallée de Joux workshops and comes to vibrant life on the wrist of the men and women who wear it and make it their own.

www.jaeger-lecoultre.com

