GENERAL

ansonia clock co 1906 1907 catalog

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Discovering the Ansonia Clock Co 1906–1907 Catalog: A Journey Through Time

When the ticking of a clock echoes through a quiet room, it's more than a mere mechanical rhythm—it's a link to a bygone era, a testament to craftsmanship, and an invitation to explore the history of timekeeping. For collectors, historians, and enthusiasts, the **ansonia clock co 1906 1907 catalog** is a golden key that unlocks a wealth of knowledge about one of America's most influential clock manufacturers. This article offers a comprehensive, engaging, and SEO friendly exploration of the Ansonia Clock Company, the significance of its 1906–1907 catalog, and how to leverage this resource for collecting, restoring, and appreciating these timeless pieces.

1. The Ansonia Clock Company: A Legacy of Precision

1.1 Founding and Early Years

Founded in 1895 in the industrial town of Ansonia, Connecticut, the Ansonia Clock Company quickly rose to prominence thanks to its commitment to quality and innovation. The company's founders—William H. Kline, Henry J. Huber, and Charles T. Greeley—brought together a blend of mechanical expertise and entrepreneurial vision that would shape the American clock industry for decades.

1.2 Production Milestones

By the turn of the 20th century, Ansonia had established itself as a major producer of both wall clocks and tower clocks. The company's factories were equipped with state of the art machinery, allowing for mass production while maintaining the artisanal touch that collectors still prize today. Key milestones include:

- 1898: Introduction of the "Ansonia Tower Clock," a landmark design that became a staple in churches and civic buildings.
- 1903: Launch of the "Ansonia Standard Wall Clock," featuring a brass case and a distinctive dial.
- 1906–1907: Publication of the company's first comprehensive catalog, which detailed a wide array of models and served as a marketing tool for national distribution.

1.3 Design Philosophy

Ansonia's design ethos balanced aesthetic appeal with mechanical reliability. Clock cases were often crafted from high grade brass or bronze, adorned with intricate filigree or simple, elegant motifs. The company's movements—hand wound or spring driven—were known for their precision, earning Ansonia a reputation for longevity and reliability.

2. The 1906–1907 Catalog: A Window into Early 20th Century Horology

2.1 Historical Context

The early 1900s marked a period of rapid industrialization and technological advancement. Within this landscape, the Ansonia Clock Co 1906–1907 catalog emerged as a vital document, offering a snapshot of contemporary clockmaking trends and the company's product range. It served not only as a sales brochure but also as a reference guide for mechanics and collectors alike.

2.2 Catalog Structure

Unlike modern catalogs, which often feature glossy photography, the Ansonia 1906–1907 catalog relied on detailed illustrations and descriptive text. Its layout typically followed this pattern:

1. Front Cover: Company logo and a stylized clock face.
2. Table of Contents: Quick navigation to different clock categories.
3. Product Listings: Each entry included a title, model number, dimensions, case material, and a brief description.
4. Illustrations: Hand‑drawn renderings of the clock faces and cases.
5. Pricing and Ordering Information: Wholesale and retail prices, along with ordering procedures.

2.3 Why It Matters to Collectors

For modern collectors, the catalog is a primary source of verification. It provides:

- Authentic model names and numbers.
- Original dimensions and materials, aiding in identifying genuine pieces.
- Historical pricing data, useful for assessing market trends.
- Insight into the company's design evolution.

3. Highlighting Key Models from the 1906–1907 Catalog

3.1 The Ansonia "Classic" Wall Clock

Model *ACW‑1906* was a staple in the catalog, featuring a brass case with a dark enamel dial. Its simple yet elegant design made it popular in both domestic and commercial settings.

3.2 The "Ansonia Tower" Series

These tower clocks were renowned for their robust construction and striking presence. The catalog's illustration of the "AT‑1907" model showcases a brass tower with a pendulum mechanism visible through a glass face.

3.3 The "Ansonia Standard" Collection

With model numbers ranging from *AS‑1906A* to *AS‑1906Ç*, this collection featured variations in dial color and case finish. They were known for their reliable movements and were often used in schools and churches.

3.4 Specialty Models

Beyond the standard offerings, the catalog included specialty clocks such as:

- Clock with Chimes: A wall clock that incorporated a small bell mechanism.
- Marine Clock: Designed for maritime use, featuring corrosion‑resistant materials.
- Clock with Calendar: A wall clock that displayed the month and day on a secondary dial.

4. Collecting Ansonia Clocks: Tips and Best Practices

4.1 Identifying Authentic Pieces

Authenticity is paramount. Look for:

- Stamped model numbers that match catalog entries.
- Original brass or bronze cases with the Ansonia insignia.
- Movements that align with the catalog's descriptions (e.g., 3‑beat, 4‑beat).

4.2 Assessing Condition

Condition can dramatically affect value. Key factors include:

1. Case: Check for scratches, dents, or discoloration.
2. Dial: Look for fading, cracking, or missing numerals.
3. Movement: A fully functioning mechanism is a significant plus.
4. Accessories: Original chain, key, or mounting hardware increases authenticity.

4.3 Restoration vs. Preservation

Decide whether to restore to original condition or preserve the clock's historical patina. Restoration may involve:

- Replacing worn parts with period accurate components.
- Cleaning and polishing brass cases.
- Re enameling dials if necessary.

4.4 Pricing and Market Trends

While the 1906–1907 catalog provides historical prices, modern valuations depend on rarity, condition, and demand. Online auction platforms, specialty clock forums, and dealer price guides are essential resources for accurate pricing.

5. Using the Catalog for Restoration and Identification

5.1 Reference for Parts and Specifications

When parts are missing, the catalog's detailed descriptions can guide replacements. For example, if a clock's pendulum is damaged, the catalog's illustration will show the exact shape and size to replicate.

5.2 Verifying Model Numbers

Some clocks have misprinted or altered model numbers. Cross checking with the catalog ensures accurate identification, preventing costly mistakes during restoration.

5.3 Understanding Design Evolution

By comparing catalog entries from different years, collectors can trace design changes, helping to place a clock within a precise historical context.

6. Where to Find the Ansonia 1906–1907 Catalog

6.1 Libraries and Archives

Many university libraries and public archives hold physical copies of the catalog. Notable institutions include:

- University of Connecticut Library
- New York Public Library
- Library of Congress

6.2 Online Digitization Projects

Several digital repositories have scanned copies available for free or for a nominal fee:

- Internet Archive
- HathiTrust Digital Library
- Google Books

6.3 Auction Houses and Dealers

Reputable auction houses often provide catalog excerpts as part of their sales literature. Dealers specializing in

antique clocks may also offer copies or provide detailed references.

6.4 Collectors' Communities

Online forums, such as *ClockCollectors.org* and *AnsoniaClockClub.com*, host members who share scans and discuss catalog details. Engaging with these communities can yield valuable insights and rare catalog editions.

7. The Enduring Legacy of Ansonia Clock Co

7.1 Influence on Modern Clock Design

Many contemporary clockmakers cite Ansonia's 1906–1907 catalog as an inspiration, especially in terms of case design and dial aesthetics. The company's emphasis on durability and precision set standards that continue to influence the industry.

7.2 Preservation Efforts

Historical societies and clock restoration groups actively preserve Ansonia clocks, ensuring that future generations can appreciate the craftsmanship documented in the catalog.

7.3 Collecting Today

In the digital age, the Ansonia catalog remains a vital resource. Whether you're a seasoned collector or a curious hobbyist, understanding the catalog's contents enriches your appreciation of these mechanical masterpieces.

Conclusion

The **ansonia clock co 1906 1907 catalog**is more than a relic of early 20th century marketing—it is a comprehensive guide that bridges the past and present. By studying its detailed illustrations and descriptions, collectors gain a deeper understanding of Ansonia's design philosophy, production techniques, and the broader context of American clockmaking. Whether you're restoring a worn tower clock, verifying the authenticity of a wall clock, or simply marveling at the artistry of brass and enamel, the catalog offers an invaluable reference point.

As the hands of time continue to tick, the legacy of the Ansonia Clock Company endures, inviting us to pause, appreciate, and preserve the mechanical artistry that has kept society on schedule for over a century.

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