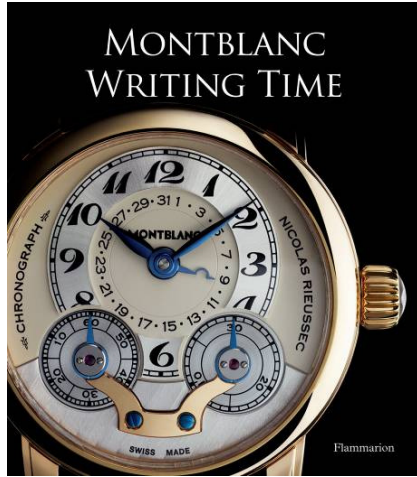


Flammarion



WRITING TIME

Montblanc

Gisbert Brunner,

Laurence Marti & Reinhard Meis

Foreword by Franco Cologni

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The Minerva watch manufacture, established in 1958 in Villert, Switzerland, produces fine handmade watches in a time-honoured fashion. The expertise, precision, and grand tradition of watchmaking has been passed down for generations. An important and forward-looking brand, it encourages new and modern tools and production, while still maintaining the spirit of a small company.

In 2007, Minerva joined forces with renowned fountain pen producer Montblanc, and created the Minerva Institute for Research in Fine Watchmaking to safeguard the company's savoir-faire and craftsmanship. The carefully-chosen master watchmakers in the Minerva workshops continue to make watches by hand, respecting the traditional principles of the industry.

Reviving the most sophisticated tradition of Swiss watchmaking, legendary models have made their appearance, from the two single button chronographs of the Villeret 1858 Collection, to the Montblanc Nicolas Rieussec that pays homage to the inventor of the "instrument of writing time" and is the first Montblanc movement entirely conceived in the workshops of the manufacturer.

In 2008, Minerva celebrated its 150th anniversary, marking one and a half centuries of watch making history, and a rich heritage of tradition and techniques that is preserved by Minerva and Montblanc in the Minerva Institute.

Gisbert Brunner is an eminent watch-making specialist and expert and is the author of the important work, *Wristwatch*. **Laurence Marti** is a historian and doctor of sociology and the author of a book on Longines. **Reinhard Meis** is a watch collector and the author of a book on A. Lange & Söhne manufacture. **Franco Cologni** is the author of many books on the history of watchmaking including *The Secrets of Vacheron Constantin* (2005), and *Jaeger-Le Coultre* (2006), both published by Flammarion.

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