



Born in Porrentruy, Switzerland, in 1965, to a family of third-generation jewel-cutters, I have lived and breathed clockmaking from infancy.

Having always been attracted by the universe of small things, my future path was already traced.

Moreover, since our town vaunts a School of Clockmaking, my choice was not a difficult one.

Twenty years old and holder of a professional degree, I opted for a post with one of the largest watch manufacturers in Bienne (Rolex). After a trial period of two and a half months I realize that industrial manufacturing is not my thing.

A second posting takes me to Lausanne, this time to a jeweller's, where my work is much more interesting and varied. Nevertheless, I still hadn't found the shoe to fit my foot and a year and a half later I decided to leave Lausanne.

By then, watchmakers had started to become rare in our region, so I decided to set up shop on my own.

On June 15 1987 an ad in the regional press announced the opening of the Clinique Horlogère, my watch and clock clinic in a former bakery, in the town center, at Grand-Rue no. 19.

Ten years later, ten years of hard work, I have attained my goal: a wide variety of commissions, ranging from a private owner of a watch or clock, to jewellery shops in both the German and French-speaking parts of Switzerland, and to collectors who require my services or are searching for a specific watch.

In 1996, an ad placed by Renaud & Papi, a firm based in Le locle and now owned by Audemars Piguet, a prestigious international brand, constituted a turning point in my career: the company was seeking watch-makers capable of assembling complex movements.

From then on I begin meeting a number of people well-established within this closely knit circle, people I will work with for several years to come. Thanks to this door-opener, I begin working with the greatest watch companies (Ulysse Nardin, Paul Picot, Parmigiani, Greubel & Forsey, Girard-Perregaux, Omega, Richard Mille).

In 1998 I participate for the first time in the great Watch Exchange at La Chaux-de-Fonds, and have participated every year since.

The year 2000 was fraught with changes : a house bought and refurbished, a household and a workshop moved to the new location, all this did not go easily.

In the autumn of that same year, I helped establish the first Watch Exchange at the Museum de l'Hôtel Dieu in Porrentruy.

On January 6, 2001, the new workshop is inaugurated at rue du Creugenat 29. The premises are larger and better suited for my work.

In August of the same year, Sébastien Theurillat, engraver by profession, told me of his intention to set up his own shop and that he was looking for suitable premises. Since I had more than enough room I suggested, with success, that he rent space in my workshop.

My new « neighbor » soon awakened the wish in me to give my professional life a more dynamic aspect. A common internet site is created with Sébastien Theurillat and the Neuchâtel School « CPLN ».

I also participate in a greater number of Watch Exchanges in Zurich, Basle, Berne, the Joux Valley and, of course, La Chaux de Fonds. This is one of the best ways to make oneself known to collectors. Ever since many of my clients come from across the border.

I have clients from the United States, from France, Italy and even from Japan.

In 2001 I keep toying with an idea : why not have an exhibition in my workshop. The subject : « Russian Watchmaking », a very important branch and not at all well known by the public at large.

Spring of the following year will see the opening of the exhibition which will receive media coverage by three newspapers and by the regional program of the Télévision Suisse Romande.

An article on the subject, written by Sébastien Theurillat and myself will appear in two issues of the watch magazine « Chronométrophilia » in 2002.

The success of this exhibition encourages me to contact 24 firms specializing in up market watchmaking with the idea of preparing a further exhibition on the subject of « L'objet promotionnel dans l'horlogerie haut de gamme », or "Promotional objects in up market watchmaking". Finally, 13 agree to participate and lend us all kinds of objects (golf club, scale model of the Alinghi boat, items of clothing, ashtrays, promotional material, for a total of 70 objects). The exhibition takes place in the spring of 2003 and is covered by several newspapers, the Télévision Suisse Romande and the radio station Fréquence Jura.

Following an e-mail from a new client, an American, in 2003 a clock is shipped from San Francisco to Porrentruy. It is a French travelling clock, built in Paris in 1876, which presents a number of complications and will require months of work to restore. A journalist working for Fréquence Jura, even dedicates a broadcast to it.

As 2004 comes along, I am presented with a new challenge. The watch manufacturers CompliTime, Robert Greubel and Stephen Forsey, propose that I assemble a clock with large complications to be manufactured in only one copy. A metal puzzle with over 1400 pieces and months of work await me.

It is 2007, the workshop celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The mandate of CompliTime on behalf of Richard Mille is about to expire. A cocktail party takes place at the workshop. Richard Mille, the firm of Valgine et CompliTime, as well as all the other companies having participated in this challenge, about 15 in all, convene at my workshop to admire the Planetarium close up.

It will then be sent to Singapur Salon where, in september, it will be shown in a world preview.