Is My Clock Worth Repairing?

This is a question which I am frequently asked.

My answer is always to ask one or more of the following questions:

"Do you like this clock?"
"Do you want to use this clock?"
"Do you have a place to put this clock once it is repaired?"
"Does this clock have sentimental value?"

It is for one or more of these reasons that a clock is usually repaired.

A client may then ask the following question: "If the clock was to be sold would it bring at least the cost of repair?" This is a trickier question as markets and tastes change. In reality any price can be put on an object but then a willing buyer has to be found.

Really, the only reason to repair a clock is because you want to use it, or you are giving it to someone who wants to use it. When we buy furniture, clothing, or cars we select something that we like and will enjoy using without thinking of the amount for which we might be able to sell the item when we are done using it. Clocks should be purchased and repaired using the same reasoning.

If you have an antique clock or timepiece that you are considering having repaired, along with the desire to display and use it there are other things to consider. After professional restoration an antique clock will be functioning as it was designed to do a century or more ago, and many types of clocks will do so very accurately. The quality of many antique movements allows them to be restored with a minimum of environmental impact and will run for many years without the use of any electricity or toxic batteries. Hundreds of years ago, clockmakers were at the cutting edge of technology, and today most of the items they produced are still able to work as accurately as they day they were made. How many of today's technological wonders will still be able to be used a century or even decades from now? A clock might be one of a very few items made hundreds of years ago that we can still use today for its intended purpose.

Tempus fugit—Time flies
but a clock is a beautiful way to observe its passing.