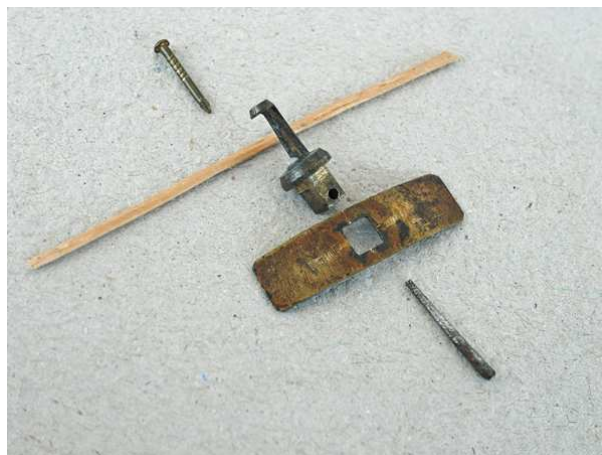
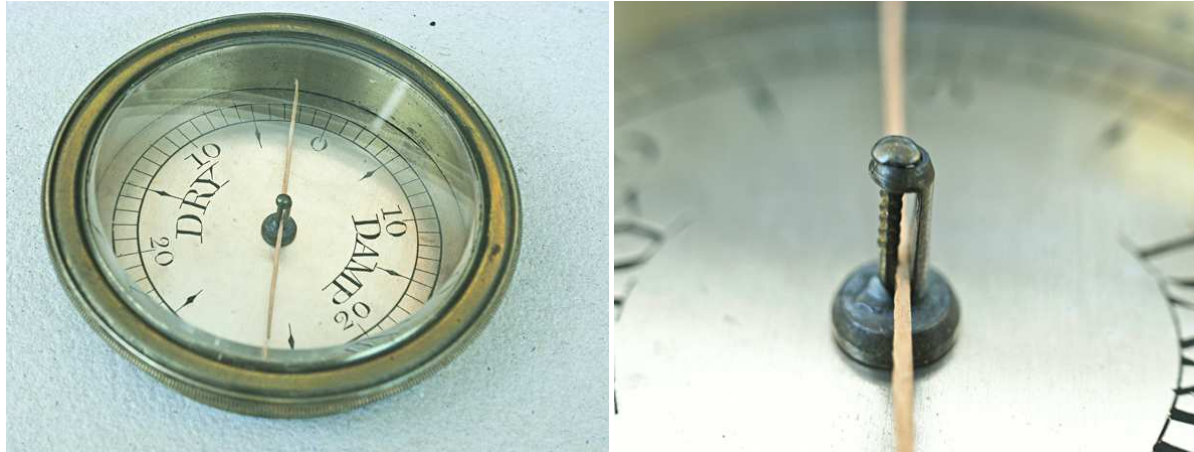


The Repair of Oat – Beard Hygrosopes

In addition to the barometer and thermometer, ancient wheel barometers often feature a hygroscope. Dry – Damp can be read on it.

The latter instruments are nowadays - without exception - nonfunctional. They are frequently „repaired“, out of necessity, in such a fashion that only their outer appearance is intact. (Fig. 1-3)



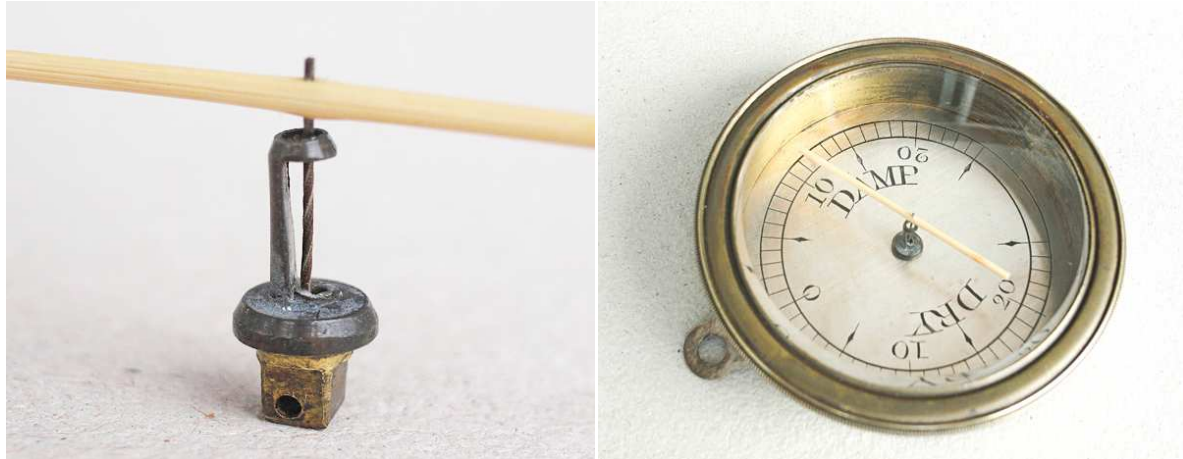
Knowledge regarding the workings of the hygroscope according to Maignan & Hooke was profoundly hidden, but was brought back to light in the course of our endeavours.

In all these instruments, beards of wild oat (oat grass) (*Avena barbata*, *Avena fatua* or *Avena sterilis*) were employed as hygroscopic material. Unfortunately, the nature of these oat-beards is such that they cannot perform forever, and break down upon aging.



Through my research and following a number of experiments, I have discovered a way to handle these oat-beards in such a manner that they can function properly in hygrosopes of ancient construction. Many collectors will be pleased to see the needle of their hygroscope performing once again.

To repair an ancient hygroscope is a very difficult and painstaking effort, which is practically only feasible using a binocular loupe.



Of course, it is crucial that the instrument has not been previously damaged in the area where the oat-beard should be mounted, which can occasionally be the case with poor-quality „repairs“. If that should be the case, the corresponding part should be newly manufactured prior to mounting the oat-beard.

I would be pleased to perform such work as of now, following expression of your interest.

Please contact me through my private website:

<http://www.villa-hibiskus.de>

Then press: „Kontakt“,

As subject please type: „Hygroscope“