



ARNOLD & SON
LONDON 1764

HMS1 Dragon

A consummate expression of traditional craftsmanship at its finest

To mark the Chinese Year of the Dragon, which started in January 2012, Arnold & Son announces the launch of the latest addition to the HMS1 collection, the HMS1 Dragon Limited Edition in rose gold with a magnificent gold dragon appliqué.

In Chinese mythology the dragon is a divine creature signifying power and good fortune, and is the free spirit of the zodiac. As a tribute to the Year of the Dragon, which occurs once every twelve years in the Chinese calendar and began on 23 January 2012, Arnold & Son has created a special edition of the HMS1 in rose gold featuring an exquisitely crafted gold appliqué of a traditional Chinese dragon on a black lacquered dial.

But this is no ordinary dragon. The figure on the dial was inspired by one of the dragons depicted on the Nine-Dragon Wall in Beihai Park, an imperial garden to the northwest of the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Wall was completed in 1756, which perhaps significantly was just eight years before John Arnold opened his clockmaking workshop in London's Strand in 1764. It just so happens that the number eight is of particular importance in many Asian cultures.

The exquisite gold dragon appliqué is created by a craftsman selected specially for his expertise in hand-engraving, a traditional art form that involves the use of hardened steel tools called burins in combination with other special tools. These create cuts, lines and texturing that build up entire images or, as in the case of the HMS1 Dragon Special Edition, a perfectly sculpted figure in solid 22-carat gold with a breathtaking richness of detail, which is then duplicated for the series. The three-dimensional nature of the dragon appliqué also provides a spectacular illusion of depth that contrasts starkly with the HMS1's ultra-slim case.

The dragon is mounted on a black lacquered dial with powdered gold indices for the minutes. Ticking away beneath the face is a hand-wound movement, manufactured entirely in-house and just 2.7 millimetres in thickness. The movement features twin barrels, which, apart from generating an 80-hour power reserve also guarantee a more constant force and in turn a more constant rate and greater accuracy. All the plates and bridges in the movement are hand-chamfered and decorated – a further indication of the traditional craftsmanship upheld by Arnold & Son throughout the company's long history.

Available in 18-carat rose gold or in a second, more exclusive, version in 18-carat rose gold with a diamond-set bezel, the HMS1 Dragon Limited Edition is housed in a 40 mm diameter case, with a black hand-stitched alligator leather strap and is water-resistant to 30 metres.



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Main technical characteristics:

Calibre: A&S1001

Exclusive Arnold & Son mechanical movement, hand-wound, 21 jewels, diameter 30 mm, thickness 2.7 mm, power reserve 80 h, two barrels, 21'600 vibrations/h

Functions: hours, minutes

Movement decoration: 18-carat rose gold case:
nickel-silver movement, rhodium treated with Haute Horlogerie finishing: manually chamfered bridges with polished edges, fine circular graining and 'Côtes de Genève', blued screws

Dial colour: black lacquered dial, 22-carat solid gold dragon appliqué

Case: 18-carat rose gold, diameter 40 mm, cambered sapphire with anti-reflective coating on both sides, case back see-through sapphire, water-resistant to 30 m

Strap: hand-stitched black alligator leather

Limited edition: one out of 50 pieces

References : 1LCAP.B02A.C111A 18-carat rose gold case





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