



Title: Time and Navigation: A History Through Seven Objects

Presented by: Carlene Stephens

This presentation offers a history of time's relationship to navigation in seven objects from Smithsonian collections. The objects are a mariner's astrolabe from about 1600, a Boston-made marine chronometer constructed during the War of 1812, a wristwatch from the 1920s, a quartz frequency standard from the 1960s, a submarine inertial navigation system designed in the 1960s installed in U.S.S. Alabama in 1980s, a GPS receiver from the 1980s, and a robot vehicle from 2005. Each artifact is central to a significant episode in how we get from here there--at sea, through the air, or in space.



Carlene Stephens recently retired as a curator in the Division of Work and Industry at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She took care of the Museum's historical collections of clocks and watches, robots and automatons, office machinery, and acoustic sound recording technologies. During her career, she curated more than a dozen exhibitions on those topics.

Her publications include two books on horological subjects, *On Time: How America Has Learned to Live by the Clock* and, written with colleagues at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, *Time and Navigation: The Untold Story of Getting from Here to There*. She has a book on the history of the electronic wristwatch forthcoming from MIT Press.