

on those maps made for 13in dials.

Hemisphere maps can be useful for identifying a dial without a maker's name on a falseplate, calendar or moon disc. However, there is no mistaking the origin of this dial as it is fully marked. The falseplate, **figure 10**, has 'OSBORNE' cast into it, though it is not particularly clear and the lettering is not very crisp. This indicates that the pattern from which it was cast was of an early design and becoming worn after perhaps more than 20 years of use. However, there is no such difficulty reading the 'OSBORNES MANUFACTORY BIRMINGHAM' stamped into the top of the brass calendar disc and the bottom of the brass moon disc, **figures 11 and 12**. They appear to have been deliberately oriented like this so that when both sets of marks appear together, each is the correct way up, **figure 13**.

However, the most important feature of this dial is its completely original condition, without any evidence that it has

been restored. It is very unusual these days to see a painted dial that is in such a good state and is untouched by a dial restorer. The numerals are very delicate and lightly executed, while the scrollwork round the name is also very delicate, and the gilding is almost perfect. The white base has some fine surface crazing; the moon disc has lost a little of its colour and brightness due to the varnish yellowing slightly with age, while most significantly there is some loss of paint on the calendar disc. All of this would have been rectified by a modern dial restorer. It shows that keeping a clock in a moderate even environment, out of bright sunlight and not wiping the surface can help preserve its original condition. This is an instance where I would discourage the owner from having the flaking paint on the calendar restored, as it is part of the vital evidence that confirms its originality.

Having dealt with the visible 'outside' features, that is the case and dial, next month the main hidden 'inside' feature, the movement, comes under the spotlight. 📖