

Professor David Torrens

Special mention should be made of an unlikely and close relationship that lasted many years between Donald and Professor David Torrens, Dean of the Medical Faculty of Trinity College, Dublin.

David Torrens was even more modest than Donald – he was a celebrated figure in the world of university medicine, mainly as a teacher and administrator and was also acknowledged by his peers as one of the greatest horological scholars of the time.

When visiting England he mostly stayed at Donald's house in Pinner, Middlesex, and many hours were devoted to discussing all things horological. David Torrens carried out much research for Donald's books and proof read most of them. Donald held David Torrens in the highest esteem and liked to tell of an occasion when he visited David Torrens in his office at Trinity College. A fairly spacious room was lined with book shelves from ceiling to floor and corners to corners. As usual Donald had a question for David Torrens – one relating to the date of the invention of something horological. "I'm not certain, Donald" said Torrens " go to the 4th shelf up and the third column along from the right and behind the book that should be XYZ you will find a book by whoever and the answer should be at the end of chapter 3. It was!