Precision Balance 4

HANS JENEMANN

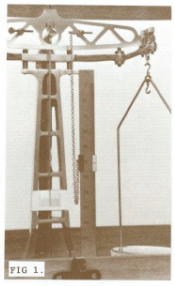

FIG 1.

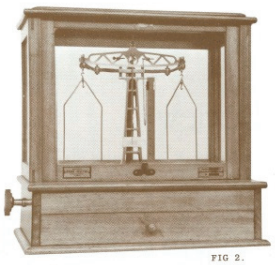

FIG 2.

Courtesy Mettler A.G. Switzerland.

This 'Chainomatic' balance was made by Rhone-Poulenc in Paris, c1925. In the chainomatic arrangement, one end of a chain was fastened to the beam and the other end was fixed to a support which could be moved along a vertical graduated pillar. At the highest position of the support, the reading was zero. By moving the support downwards, that part of the chain suspended from the beam became longer and therefore heavier, Fig 1. In other words, the chain was a clever form of weight. The chain support could be moved from outside the case by a knob on the right side (not visible in the illustration). The knob on the left operates the arrestment mechanism. The balance has a sensitivity of 0.5mg with the maximum load of 200g.

There is also a variation of the chainomatic system where the chain is wound on to a drum, instead of moving along a pillar. In this case, the measurements are indicated on a dial face or rotating drum.

Using the chainomatic arrangement, weighing was faster, compared with a rider weight, because the chain could be altered during oscillation of the beam. Chainomatic balances were favoured by manufacturers in the USA and Western Europe, but not in Central Europe. The first chainomatic system was invented by V.Serrin, of Paris, in 1891. An improved system was devised by Christopher A.Becker in the USA, in 1915. (He was the grandson of Christopher Becker, born in 1805 in Filsum/Hanover, see EQM p477).

620

Author Jenemann, H.R.

Title **Precision Balance 4 [Rhone-Poulenc]**

In Equilibrium, 4 (1983), p. 620

Size 1 p., ill., 20.8 x 27.8 cm

Publisher ISASC International Society of Antique Scale Collectors

Place Chicago **Year** **1983**

ISBN ISSN 0893-2883

Abstract

Remarks