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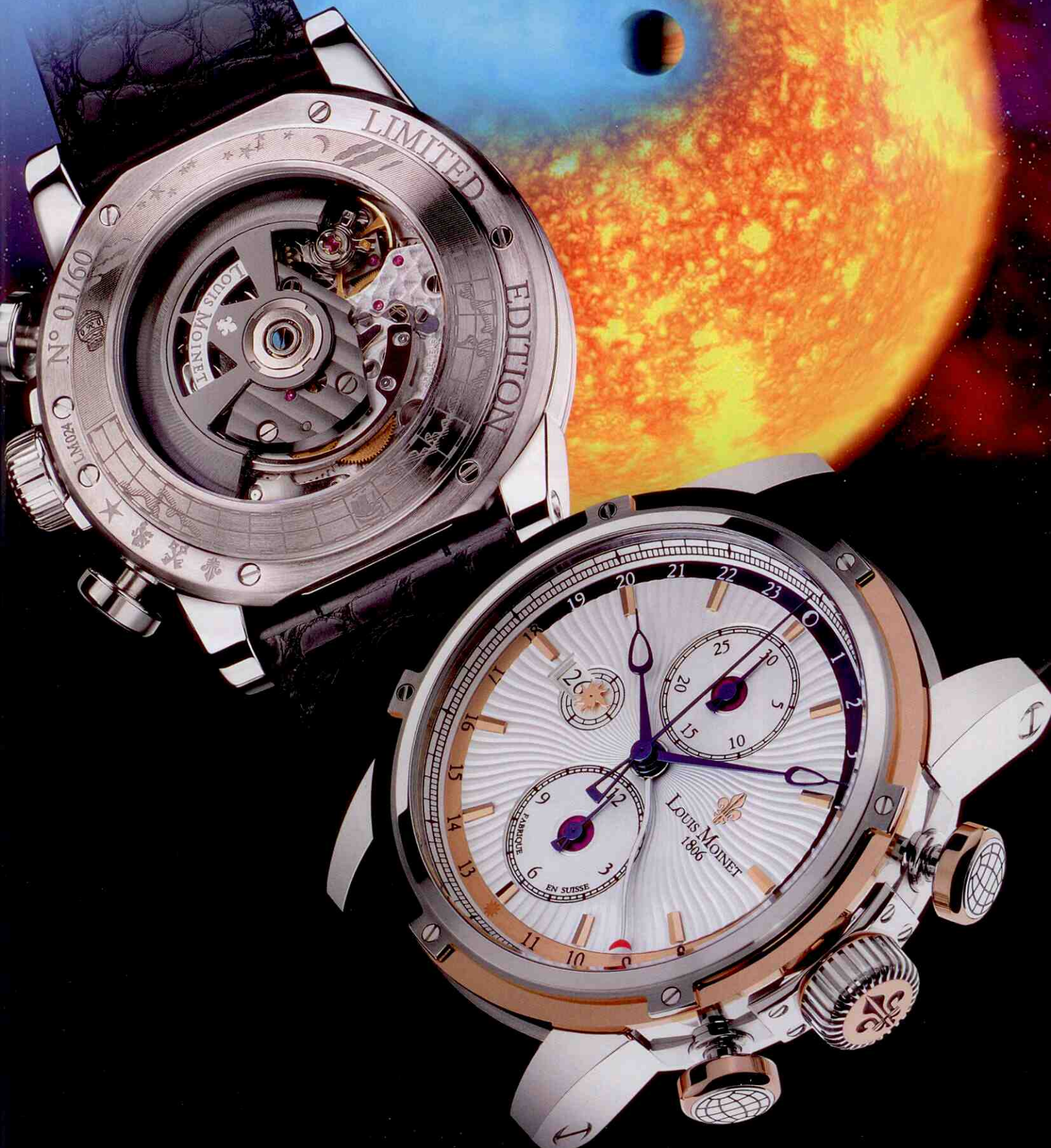
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A TIME TO TRAVEL

THE LOUIS MOINET GEOGRAPH CHRONOGRAPH WITH DUAL-TIME DISPLAY IS INSPIRED BY ADVENTURE BY JACK FORSTER

The name Louis Moinet was at one time one of the best known in horology — Louis Moinet (1768–1853) was a contemporary of and collaborator with A. L. Breguet, president of the Chronometry Society of Paris, a clock- and watchmaker whose clients included Napoleon Bonaparte, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe (among others), and perhaps most importantly to historians of horology, is the author of the encyclopedic *Traite d'Horlogerie* (1848) which set a new standard for comprehensiveness and clarity (it contained illustrations done by Moinet himself, who in addition to clock- and watchmaking also devoted considerable time to mastering painting, drawing and sculpture).

To name your watch company for Moinet is a pretty daring thing to do unless you intend to follow through on the devotion to horological innovation and attention to detail that the name promises. Today's Louis Moinet seems intent, fortunately, on ensuring that its claim to the master's name is justified by the beauty of its watches. The flagship timepiece, which we introduced in our BaselWorld 2011 coverage, is the Astralis watch, a highly complicated timepiece incorporating a rattrapante

chronograph and tourbillon whose most unique feature is a rotating “planetarium” disc decorated with rare meteorite samples originating from various celestial bodies in the solar system. Based on a vintage Venus movement, it's a stunning talking piece, and fortunately, the other watches made by Louis Moinet also present the same intriguing mixture of traditional design elements and tastefully innovative finish and construction.

One of our favorites is the Louis Moinet Geograph, a dual-time chronograph with a pleasingly idiosyncratic design. The two elements that caught our eye most immediately when we saw the watch at BaselWorld 2011 were the “Côte du Jura” decoration on the dial, and the oversized “champagne cork” chronograph pushers. The 24-hour hand has a sinuous serpentine shape that parallels the pattern on the dial, and the hour, minute and center chronograph seconds hands are in contrasting blued steel. The hour and minute chronograph subdials are at six and 12 o'clock, and the handling of the seconds subdial is especially nice — the running seconds are displayed with a small, rotating golden sun at nine o'clock (there's a slightly elongated ray projecting from the sun to show the seconds) with which the date has been integrated.

The overall visual impression, thanks to the difference in scale between the seconds subdial and the chronograph subdials, is that of a vintage two-register chronograph, which lends a dressy and slightly formal air to the neo-Victorian, vaguely steampunk flavor the watch has overall. This genteel touch of machine fetishism is further reinforced by the polished bezel, which



The oscillating weight takes its shape from the sextant, a navigational tool

is held in place by six screws, and by the use of four more screws to fix the plate that carries the crown tube in the case flank. We also really love the use of very large synthetic rubies to form the central pivots of the chronograph hands; it's a gorgeous touch and a very sophisticated way of referencing some of the lovelier design elements of classic movement construction without overwhelming the more traditional elements of the dial.

This care in design extends to the back of the watch as well; the rotor of the self-winding chronograph movement is a stylized sextant — in keeping with the travel theme a dual-time watch suggests — and the navigational and travel motifs also include engravings invoking the explorer James Cook, and the Montgolfier brothers who were contemporaries of the historical Louis Moinet, and who pioneered manned flight in their early hot air balloons. ★

LOUIS MOINET GEOGRAPH

MOVEMENT Mechanical self-winding chronograph movement with dual-time display; 48-hour power reserve

CASE 45.5mm; stainless steel, or rose gold and stainless steel; water resistant to 50m

STRAP Louisiana alligator leather with crocodile leather lining



LOUIS MOINET

1806

ASTRALIS
Limited Edition of 12



ASTRALIS is a spectacular, unique and decidedly different masterpiece. Its rarity is linked to the unique nature of the world's most extraordinary meteorites: Mars, the moon, a solar asteroid, and a fragment of the oldest known rock in the entire universe ...

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