

*Ole Mathiesen*



*“On behalf of the company and my mother, sisters and entire family I wish to express our deep sorrow at the loss of my father Ole Mathiesen. I would like to express my gratitude to all friends, colleagues and business partners for their loyalty, which has been shown throughout the years. Let us pay tribute to his memory.” - Christian Mathiesen*

October 24th Ole Mathiesen passed away - one of Scandinavia's most important and greatest personalities within horology. He was not only a highly respected figure within the watch trade community, but also regarded as an important contributor to the Danish design history.

Ole Mathiesen was a man with an amazing sense of being proper, upright and sensible. Always reliable and with an intense focus on honesty. He lived unostentatiously, never failed neither his business nor his family and always loving his wife Mette Mathiesen and their three children Helene, Christian and Cathrine. Until the 1990s he was a dedicated Dragon and Knarr sailor participating in several world championships.

Ole Mathiesen was born in Hellerup (Denmark) in 1930 as the oldest son of master watchmaker, Axel Mathiesen. In 1951 he followed in the family's illustrious watchmaking footsteps as a qualified watchmaker - on completing his apprenticeship he travelled to Switzerland where he gained his watchmaking genius from work experience at Swiss watch manufacturer Jaeger-LeCoultre. In 1958 he took over the helm of the family company.

In 1962 Ole Mathiesen set out to design a collection of the finest timely yet timeless classic watches - a collection that still are met with great admiration. As he explained it, “the intention was to introduce a classic watch which was strong enough to find harmony in its own form, a watch which was never pretentious, neither in form nor price” - very much like himself. The characteristic DNA in his watches has ensured the Ole Mathiesen brand to sustain itself well into the future. The range and their success from the early days in 1962 now stand as proof of his genius and vision.

In 2000 his son Christian Mathiesen (third generation) took over the company. Ole Mathiesen stayed as chairman of the board and was honored in 2004 with The Classics Prize and in 2008 with the Appointment to the Royal Danish Court.

For more than 50 years the name Ole Mathiesen has signified reliability and credibility. At the same time Ole Mathiesen has gained an international reputation as a supplier of classic Danish design. Ole Mathiesen secured a unique continuity and received great admiration for combining the tradition of fine watchmaking with new technology and aesthetic performance.

Ole Mathiesen lived his life - a little like the design of his watches - with class and discretion, exuding personality and quality. He lived a long and eventful life. He never failed to do good in his doings and left a significant mark on our time.