Subject: Caliber 861 -- Factory L -- and a magic show
Posted by Case on Sat, 14 Dec 2019 19:40:35 GMT
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Maker: Factory L
Size: 6.5 ligne
Jewel Markings: 16 Jewels
Adj Markings: 4 Adj
Config: Hunter
Dial feet: 1 & 6.25 positions
Dial release mech: side screws
Example date: late 1922-1923

Sister caliber to the 849. Note the difference in train jewel orientation on back plate, setting bits and layout on front plate. This is a later version, now no longer marked "Gruen Watch Co" or "Gruen Watch Co Factory L" but transitioned to "Gruen Guild". This would be ca. 1923, possibly later 1922. Apologies for the poor quality photos of the back plate, it's currently fully disassembled for service, so can't get better for now.

Note that the machining Gruen did to remove any maker's marks has also totally effaced the Serial Number on this one. A little magic trick happened when I viewed the pic I took at the watchmaker's yesterday--some of the maker's stampings that were machined off the front plate by Gruen partially re-emerged! If you look closely at the front plate pic: by the click spring you can see writing ending in "Co.", and more writing in lower/left center. I assure you, these marks are ground completely away and cannot be seen by the eye or under a loup (I also find evidence of machining down on my 849s). No matter what I did, I could not replicate this. Now you know where to look for any remnants on yours--best of luck! So close to Factory L, but so far!

Any forensic science hobbyists out there? Or any idea of the base metal of these plates? I know there are reagents that can make all these stamps reappear clearly.

File Attachments

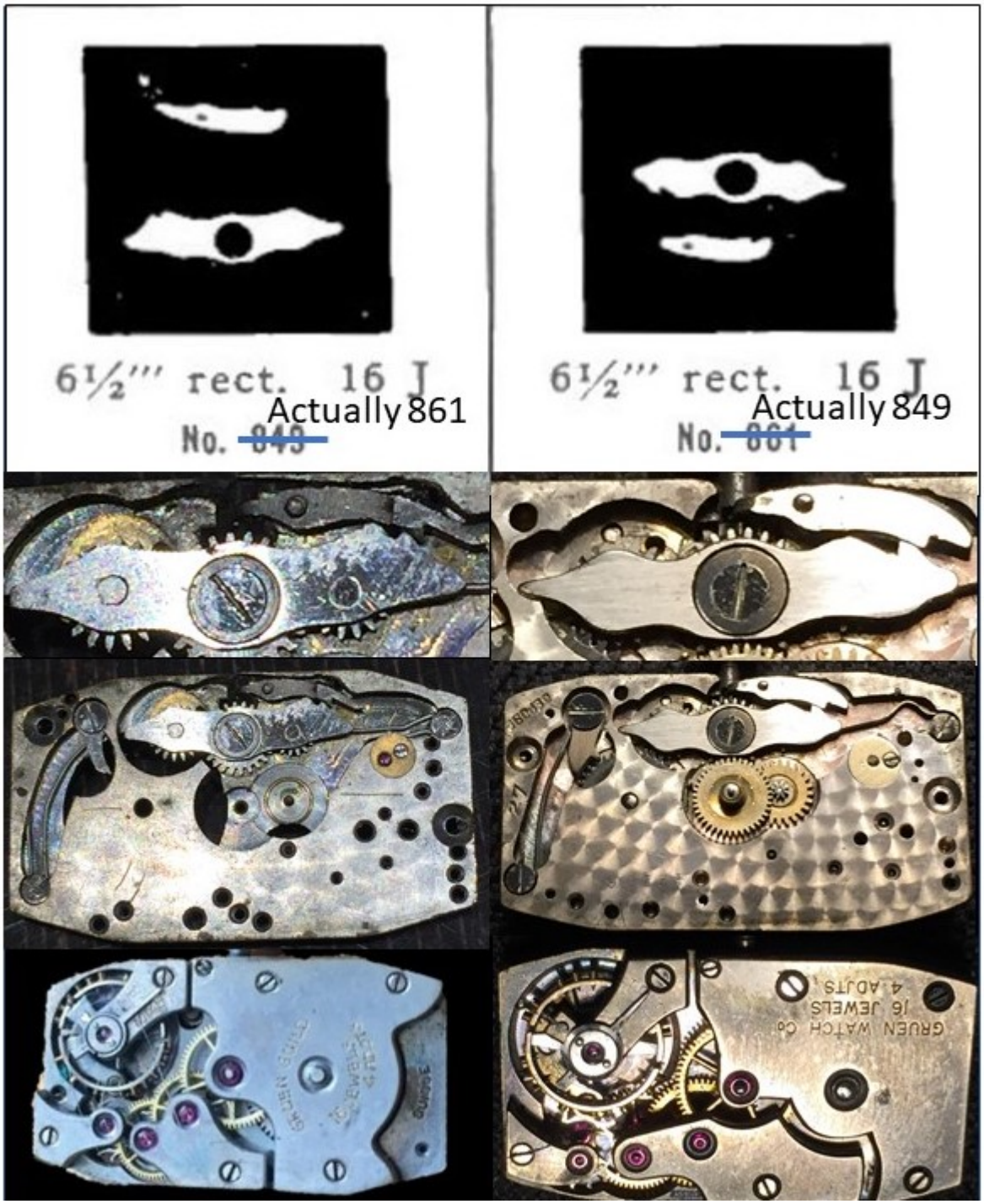
1) E08D5DFA-0857-4971-97D6-873A4D1AD016 (4).jpeg, downloaded 3195 times



2) 861 back plate.jpg, downloaded 3226 times



3) 849 vs 861 (corrected).jpg, downloaded 3240 times


6½''' rect. 16 J
No. 849
Actually 861
6½''' rect. 16 J
No. 861
Actually 849
GRUEN WATCH Co
16 JEWELS
4 ADJTS