
Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 12:28:55 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Very cool finds, Dan!

Cal. 640/641 is the only one I also have ever seen being Factory R stamped. I share Dan's thoughts that also other movements may have come from this source although they might not have been Factory R stamped.

This movement or at least the ebauche for it was in my opinion manufactured by a Swiss maker starting with "R". So I think that the Factory R riddle may be solved. I know that there will be critics which see differences in the pictures but my personal opinion is that I found a match for the movement, so I try to be careful with my writing.

Have a look into the design registration from December 1922, here are two movements, one being an 8.75 ligne, the other one a 10.5 ligne, number 10520:

To me this is a match. A better picture can be found in an ad from the maker. To disclose the name, it is a company called Russbach-Hänni & Co, located in Court. Founded in 1888 under the name Hänni, later Hänni & Cie, it became Russbach-Hänni & Cie, when Mr. Georges Russbach who married the widow of Arnold Hänni, Marie-Eugenie Hänni, nee Frey (don't they belong all together somehow?), took over the company in 1911.

This ad is from August 1922, so we know that the movement must have been available before the registration already. Russbach also supplied to Alpina before the Alpina-Gruen connection, I have one Alpina watch with a Russbach made movement. But all timings here match perfectly with Dan's observations.

The company went out of business about 1928 and Mr. Georges Russbach-Hänni became member of the board of a pharmaceutical company called Pharmasera.

You may now again start throwing stones on me but this is something I owed some members of this forum.

There is also evidence for another factory ID, this time it is one of the suspects named in the movement document already. I may share my findings as well, don't know if someone is interested.

Barney

File Attachments

1) [R10520.jpg](#), downloaded 1638 times

N° 8751



N° 10520



2) [Russbach.jpg](#), downloaded 1649 times

Russbach-Hänni & C^o, Court

Maison fondée en 1888

Ebauches et Finissages



Téléphone N° 1

Télégrammes
Fabrique Court

SPÉCIALITÉS :

5 1/2" ancre formes tonneau,
rectangulaire et ovale.
6 3/4" cyl. mêmes formes.
8 3/4" et 9" cyl. rondes.
10 1/2", 16" et 18 1/2" ancre
lépine et savonnette.

Calibres Interchangeables

Fournitures d'horlogerie
Décolletages, Barillets
Tiges, etc



Fabrique MONTOSZ, Court

Manufacture spéciale pour la
fabrication de blocs à colon-
nes et de matrices à découper.

MATRICES

pour Horlogerie, Pendulerie,
Bijouterie, Boîtes à musique,
Appareils photographiques et
d'optique, Machines à calcu-
ler, Electricité, Lunetterie,
Chirurgie et pour tous autres
Appareils

Découpage et fourniture de
pièces en série

Téléphone No 1

Télégr.: MONTOSZ, Court