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Subject: Re: Caliber 89 (Extra Precision) – 8.75" 18J, All Adjustments  
Posted by [Case](#) on Tue, 14 Sep 2021 13:21:23 GMT

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Mention of Caliber 89 elsewhere cued up some info I gleaned on Agassiz:

-In addition to their US distribution, their production (and Touchon's) appears to have been largely/exclusively controlled by Wittnauer from 1895 until the 1920s. See attached quote from 1913 tariff & 1925 article quote from Miss Wittnauer.

-Agassiz serial number 255733 was stolen in 1917, so their serial number range is not a fit. But Cary now has good benchmarks for dating his: between 1910 deposit & 1913 tariff changes.

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## File Attachments

1) [agassiz serial number 1917.JPG](#), downloaded 2611 times

October 24, 1917.

### THE JEWELERS' CIRCULAR-WEEKL

#### JEWELERS WARNED

##### Check Swindler Who Has Been Operating Successfully in New York Still at Large

Jewelers in New York and throughout the country are warned to beware of a man who has been going about in the jewelry and allied trades passing worthless checks. An investigation has shown that he has visited several concerns in New York. In the man's recent operations he has used the name of "Ernest Sawyer."

The man is described as wearing a dark suit and a dark fedora hat and had several small badges stuck on the lapel of his coat. He is about 50 years old, five feet six inches tall and weighs about 145 pounds. He has brown-gray hair, a thin face, is smooth shaven, has a light complexion, wears glasses, has a prominent nose and receding chin and is a good talker.

One of "Sawyer's" recent victims is Lester Cerf, 49 Maiden Lane. Mr. Cerf stated to a reporter of THE JEWELERS' CIRCULAR that on Oct. 9, at 2 P. M., a man giving his name as "Ernest Sawyer," called on him and stated that he was desirous of purchasing two chronometers. Before he left he selected two chronometers, two watches and

the First National Bank of Ridgefield Park, which "Sawyer" later gave to Mr. Cerf in part payment for the diamond.

Mr. Baldwin stated that he was somewhat suspicious of the transaction and that the first thing the next morning he called on the Chelsea Exchange Bank and there learned that the check was bogus, and then stopped payment on his \$500 check. "Sawyer" promised he would call on Mr. Baldwin that day and make further payment on the house.

A description of the articles taken from Mr. Cerf follows:

Fine perfect round diamond, weighing 3-30/100 carats.

"F. W. C. Nieberg," New York, 8-day chronometer, No. 210, with mahogany brass inlaid box 8 1/4 inches high by 8 inches wide by 8 inches deep, 4 1/2-inch dial. Lester Cerf, N. Y., stamped on key.

One pair of "Trieder" 6 power binoculars, No. 3743.

One pair of "B. & L. Zies" 8 power binoculars. Gold open-face 12 size minute repeater stem-wind watch, case No. 139782, with "Huguenin Breguet" name on movement. Arabic dial with name "Lester Cerf, N. Y.," smooth polish.

Gold open-face 12 size 21 jewel "Agassiz" chronograph and register stem-wind watch, case No. 16309, movement No. 255733, smooth polish.

Should any of the seven above articles be offered for sale, jewelers are asked to

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2) [agassiz wittnauer 1925.JPG](#), downloaded 2657 times

**“IT WAS a great responsibility,”** Miss Witt-  
nauer’s thoughts were with that first hard  
decision. “You see, the business was worth  
well over a million dollars. There was the  
famous Longines factory in Saint Imier for  
which we were American agents and importers.  
We were handling the Majestic and the Aude-  
mars Piguet, too. There were the Agassiz  
and Touchon factories which made our own  
watches. There were our offices in Geneva,  
Montreal, Chicago, and New York. Looking  
back, I don’t see how I had the courage to step  
into the presidency.”

3) [agassiz wittnauer tariff hearing 1913.JPG](#), downloaded 2643  
times

**TESTIMONY OF EMILE J. WITTNAUER, REPRESENTING A. WITT-  
NAUER CO., 30 WEST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET, NEW YORK.**

Mr. Emile J. Wittnauer was duly sworn by the chairman.

Mr. WITTNAUER. I have been in the Swiss watch business 25 years. I represent several Swiss watch factories. My firm has made Swiss watches for the last 50 years. We make the Longines, Agassiz, and Touchon. We believe in protection, but we do not believe in prohibition. The present duty on watches is slightly high. The specific duties are very confusing. The customhouse people make mistakes all the time. They overcharge for goods and then send back rebates afterwards. So we think it is highly confusing. I believe that an ad valorem duty is more advantageous for the general business. It used to be very successful before the McKinley bill. The duty on gold cases is rather high, at 40 per cent ad valorem. It costs in this country to make gold cases from \$2 to \$5. I do not think it is exactly fair to charge so much on gold, as most of the gold comes from the United States and is sent to Switzerland to be manufactured.