Subject: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 09 Aug 2016 09:45:33 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I have announced to get an interesting Gruen a few weeks ago, after 2 month I got it in the post yesterday. Here are a few quick and dirty photos. I found only one single photo in the web of such a model before. There I have seen that it did have a bow to wear the watch attached to some kind of chain.
The case is stamped GRUEN W. Co. twice, the dial says GRUEN and the movement GRUEN GUILD, so it is all authentic for a true Gruen. The hallmarks in the sterling silver case are for the Huguenin frères Niel factory in Le Locle, there is also a patent mark with the #98835 in the case which is the patent for such kind of folding case for this case factory. It was filed for in 1922 and issued in 1923, so 1923 is the earliest possible date for this watch. The 885 movement would put it towards 1925 or later. The watch is not mentioned in the 1927 or 1929 Guild books or the 1931 amendment so I tend to believe the watch might be from 1925 or 1926. Any thoughts about a date?

Model name : unknown
Type : purse watch / travel watch
Period/date : ca. 1930
Gender : bi

Case Maker : Huguenin frères, Fabrique Niel
Case Material : Sterling silver with Niello filling
Case Serial : 18578
Case Style no : n.a.

Caliber : 885
Movement Maker : Gruen Guild (FHF?)
Movement Serial: 148876

Bracelet : none

Other info : bow missing

Closed front view

Open front view

Inside, marked Gruen W. Co. on the upper right

Movement container back

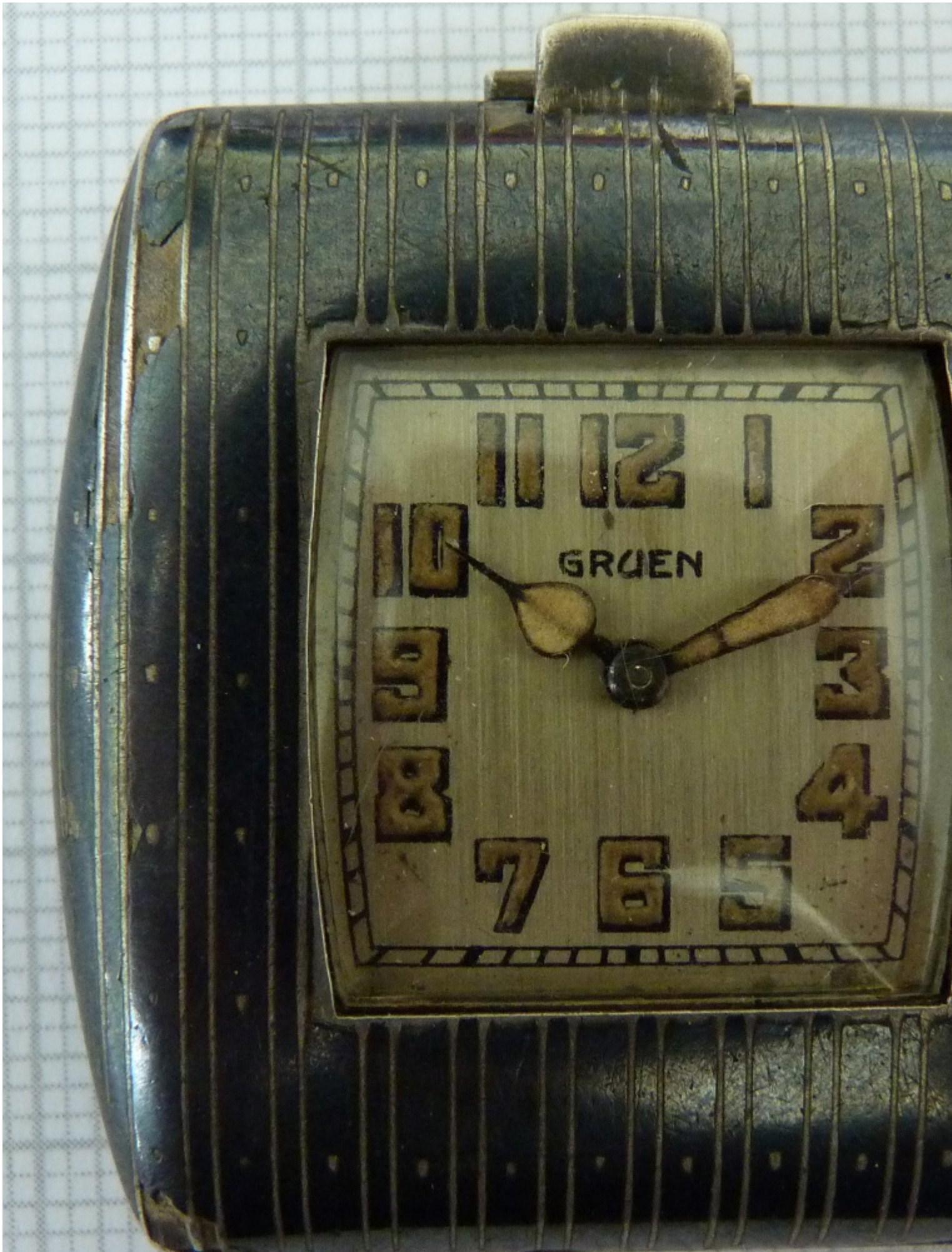
Movement

File Attachments

1) Back.jpg, downloaded 3883 times


18578
GRUEN W. Co.
SWITZERLAND
0925
STERLING SILVER

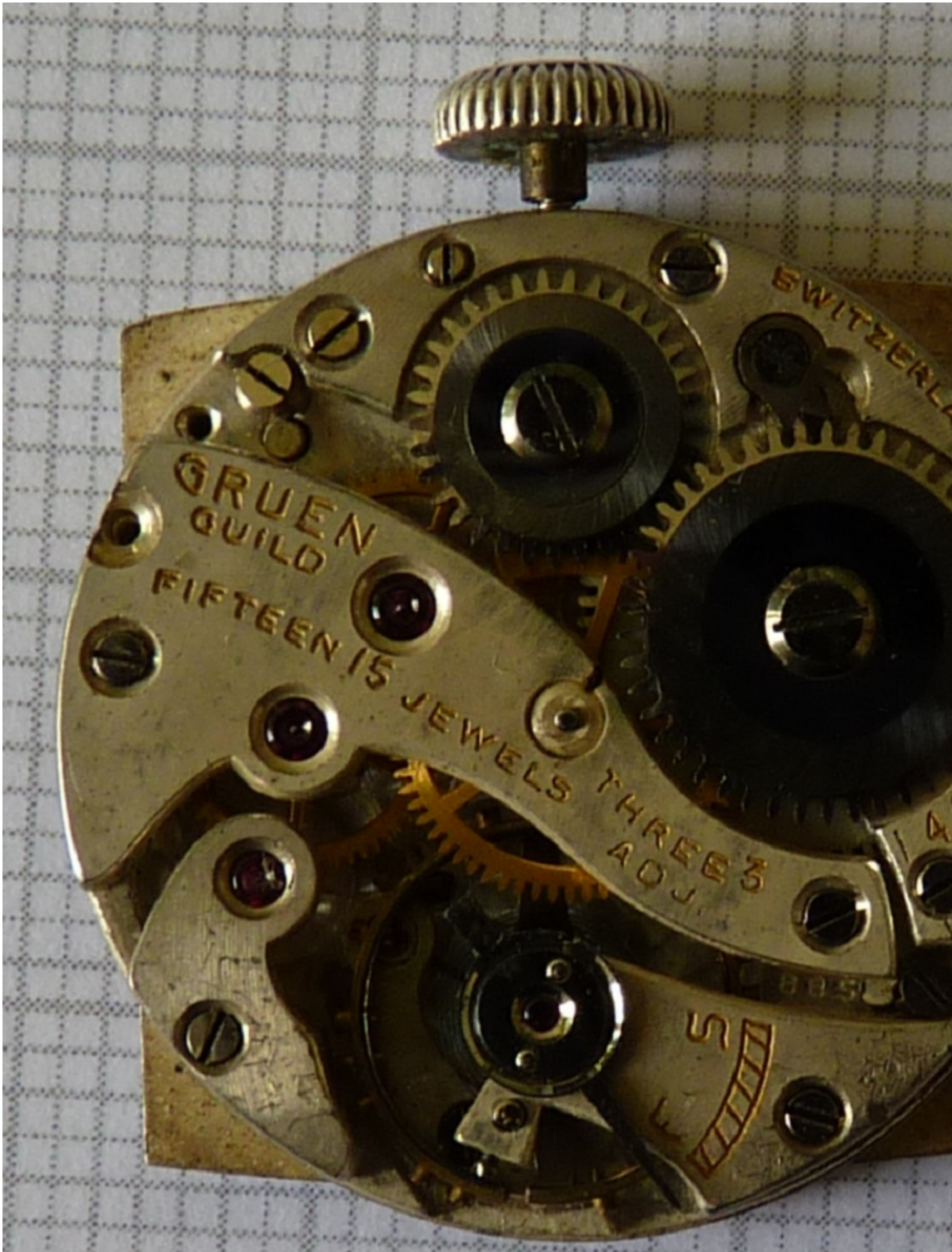
2) Front.jpg, downloaded 3891 times


GRUEN

3) Inside.jpg, downloaded 3940 times



4) Movement.jpg, downloaded 3939 times


GRUEN
GUILD
FIFTEEN 15 JEWELS THREE 3
ADJ

5) Open.jpg, downloaded 4021 times


GRUEN

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Tue, 09 Aug 2016 16:14:24 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I agree with you on the date. Gruen has done a few different models of this type of purse watches before a more "industrial approach" was chosen with the Carre model.

My feeling is that these early purse watches were mostly one-off's or very small series. I collected photos of some examples over the years. I will post a few when I have access to my computer again.

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Tue, 09 Aug 2016 16:17:29 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Oh yes, forgot to say that I'm jealous of your nice watch. Did you find it in Germany?

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 09 Aug 2016 16:53:37 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Thomas,

yes, I purchased it in Germany. Please post the photos when available.
I also thought that this watch was offered before the Carrés were announced. I also believe that only a few hundred have been made at max. Even without the bow I am sure it was worth it's price.

Barney

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 19:54:36 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Here are a few examples that I have found.

The following two look very similar (but have suttle differences) and are marked Alpina on the dial, but Alpina Gruen inside.

File Attachments

1) Travel clock 3.3.JPG, downloaded 3545 times



2) Travel clock 3.1.JPG, downloaded 3529 times



3) Travel clock 3.2.JPG, downloaded 3576 times



4) Travel clock 4.1.JPG, downloaded 3537 times


11 12 1
10
Alpina
9
8
7 6 5

5) Travel clock 4.2.JPG, downloaded 3506 times



6) Travel clock 4.5.JPG, downloaded 3509 times



7) Travel clock 4.4.JPG, downloaded 3516 times


Alpin

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 20:06:09 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Wow, I did not know that they issued so many different modela! I was aware of the different Carre variants, but it is astonishing that they also issued a variety of travel watches. Cool stuff, thank you very much for sharing the pictures!

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 20:09:04 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

This one is a true Gruen as opposed to the other two and marked Gruen only.

File Attachments

1) Travel clock 2.7.jpg, downloaded 3493 times



2) Travel clock 2.6.jpg, downloaded 3451 times



3) Travel clock 2.4.jpg, downloaded 3442 times



4) Travel clock 2.1.jpg, downloaded 3449 times



Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 20:18:33 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

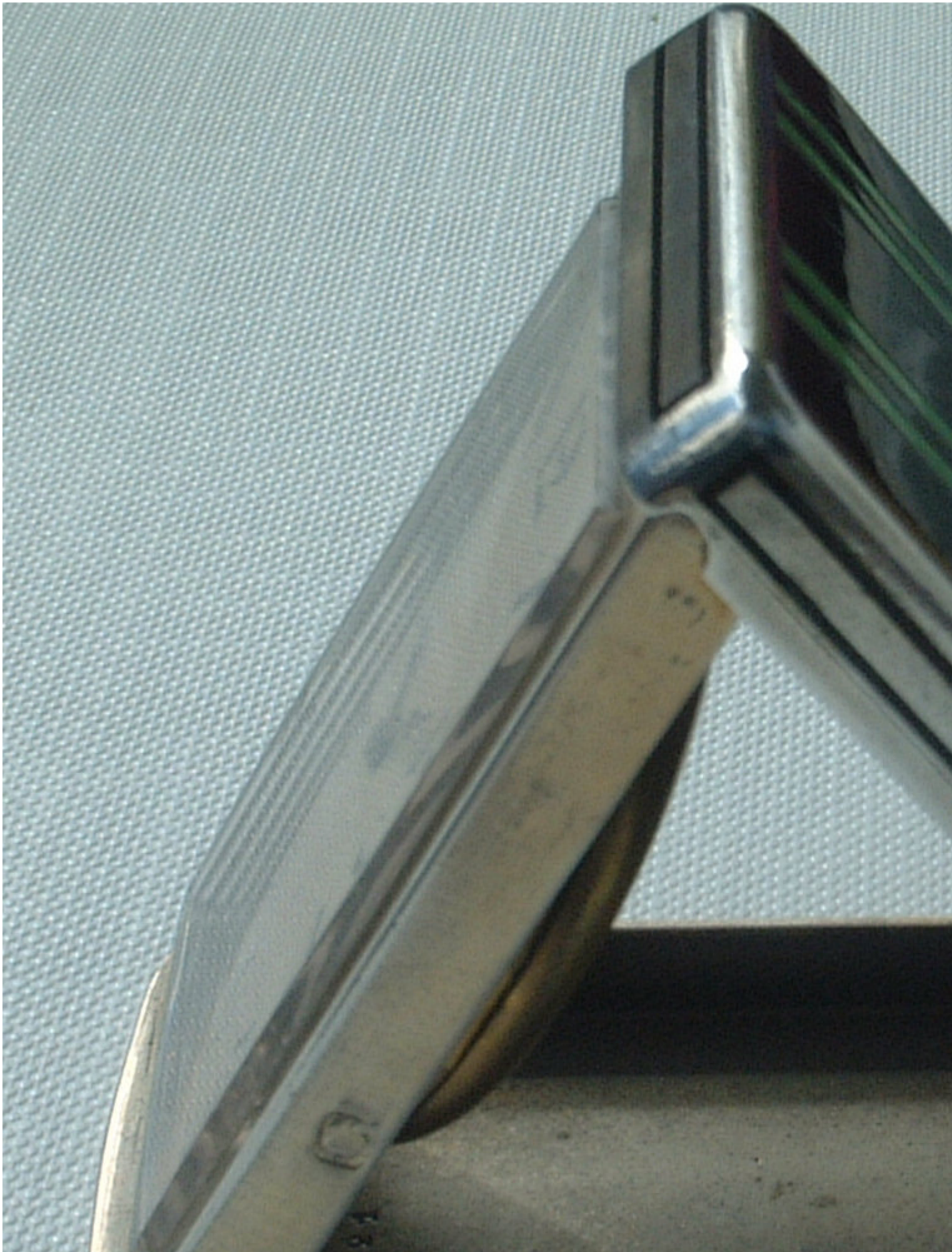
The final purse/travel clock that I have found is not marked at all, but according to the seller had a Gruen movement. So can't really say if this one is original or not.

File Attachments

1) Travel clock 1.1.jpg, downloaded 3406 times


12
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

2) Travel clock 1.2.jpg, downloaded 3489 times



3) Travel clock 1.3.jpg, downloaded 3431 times



4) Travel clock 1.4.jpg, downloaded 3498 times



Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Thojil on Sat, 13 Aug 2016 20:30:49 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

If you can still call it a travel or purse clock I don't know, but this is definitely the best I've ever seen

File Attachments

1) Lighter clock 1.1.JPG, downloaded 3535 times



2) Lighter clock 1.2.JPG, downloaded 3424 times



3) Lighter clock 1.3.JPG, downloaded 3481 times



Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Sun, 14 Aug 2016 04:55:02 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Awesome! I have heard of those cigarette lighter watches and seen some in a catalog, but I never knew that Gruen also sold some of these under their name.

Thomas, this is amazing stuff you have are showing here, far from the Gruen mainstream. I have seen the Gruen / LeCoultre Atmos being sold quite often. Although this is not the typical Gruen stuff there seem to be quite a number of them on the market. But the watches here seem to have been sold in very small quantities.

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by kastner on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 01:37:34 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I am delighted to say that I have my own to add to this thread, arriving today fresh from ebay (maybe I was bidding against some of you?).

These are the sellers photos but the watch is on my desk and it is just wonderful. It has the exact same markings as Barney's, including the patent number of 98835. I did go through the 1920s and 1930s ad books to double check, and it isn't there.

Case Serial : 18605
Movement Serial: 148599

File Attachments
1) Back Closed.jpg, downloaded 3568 times



2) Front 8:10.jpg, downloaded 3354 times



3) Front closed.jpg, downloaded 3354 times



Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by thesnark17 on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 03:02:21 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Ya beat me on that one. But I'm glad it's gone to a good home!

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by JackW on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 06:02:12 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Nice! All of the examples up thread are. But this one. wow!

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 06:47:59 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Cool! I saw it but as I already have one of these I did not bid high. Good to see that you got it in the end, Jason!

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by afire on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 17:21:22 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I saw that too, and while tempted, had to stick to my wristwatch only rule. FYI, the name for that finish is niello.

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 17:39:22 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Yes, Niello or "Tula-silver". Tula because this city was famous for this technology and Niello because of the Fabrique Niel which most likely made this case. It was run by the Huguenin Freres and I would bet the their "Niel HF" mark is stamped into the case. I just bought a pocket watch two weeks ago with almost exactly the same finish...

Not a Gruen...

File Attachments
1) Niello.jpg, downloaded 3281 times



Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by afire on Fri, 21 Feb 2020 17:55:38 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Interesting. I didn't know that Huguenin Freres was known for this type of case. And you are correct about the mark being there:

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by olivierwatch on Tue, 10 Mar 2020 14:44:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Very interesting indeed ! I am amazed by the amount of knowledge on this forum !

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Ephemerald on Mon, 17 Aug 2020 19:30:24 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

May be of interest.

File Attachments

1) 20200817_132119.jpg, downloaded 3226 times





Grossistes,

Demandez à vos Fourni
montres la dernière Cr

LA „SURPRIS

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by kastner on Thu, 20 Aug 2020 17:18:26 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Wow, that seems to be it! Where (and when) did this ad come from?
.

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Barney Green on Thu, 20 Aug 2020 18:04:56 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

It comes from the 1924 edition, vol.2, of the "Indicateur Suisse De l'Horlogerie" also known as Davoine.

Subject: Re: GRUEN purse watch / travel watch
Posted by Ephemerald on Fri, 21 Aug 2020 02:53:27 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hey, beat me to it, fitting, thank you for being the one to point it out to me also.

Kastner, there are a two more ads for Huegenin in that 2nd volume. And how is your hunting for an ad for every watch going? Lmk if you are stuck with one...