Subject: Strap 96
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 16:33:06 GMT
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Model name :Strap 96
Type :Strap
Period/date :1927
Gender :

Case Maker :Wadsworth
Case Material :14K GF
Case Serial :5290246
Case Style no :

Caliber :885
Movement Maker :Jean Aegler
Movement Serial:165639

Bracelet :

Other info :

I recently added this watch to my collection! My research has come to a dead end, not only for the case style but for the dial itself! The unusual octagon shaped bezel with the beautiful engraving adds to the mystic of this Wadsworth case! The font on the dial is also unique, the numbers are positioned pointing towards the hand shaft, the European style 7 is found only on a very few Gruen dials, I believe it first appears in the early 1920's! This watch is running and it is in fantastic condition! It measures 32mm lug to lug x 25.5mm excluding the crown x 8mm thin! I know watches where small back then, but is this size still considered a mans watch? Any help with this model would be appreciated! Respectfully Michael!

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1) IMG_2897.JPG, downloaded 3667 times


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14K.
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2) IMG_2901.JPG, downloaded 3749 times



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4) IMG_2909.JPG, downloaded 3594 times



5) IMG_2913.JPG, downloaded 3507 times



Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by JackW on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 18:55:25 GMT
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Hi Mike!

Welcome to the Vintage Gruen forums. Check your message as the images are not showing; just lines of code. PM me if you need help getting them online.

Cheers!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 19:35:41 GMT
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Oh... my first post with pictures... How about now!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 19:45:38 GMT
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Cool!
A Strap 96 from about 1928. Nice piece, have not seen one yet. What do you want to know about it?
Ah, and of cause, welcome to the world of Gruen!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 19:51:09 GMT
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Well you answered one question "strap 96", when you say "strap" is that the same as style?

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 19:54:38 GMT
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Thanks for the welcome Barney! Man's or ladies watch!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 20:52:26 GMT

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Gents watch. All Strap classified watches are considered to be mans models. Yes, until the 50s average mens watches were considerably smaller than nowadays.

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by JackW on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 21:53:20 GMT
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Hello again!

That is a nice watch. Especially so in that there is no discernible wear to the gold fill in the high spots; lugs, case corners, etc. I'd suggest ditching the metal expansion bracelet/strap and go for a leather one. The metal on metal leads to premature wear.

Your case serial number, per the work of Cooper (2015) indicates a 1927 date of manufacture. Agrees well with Barney's suggestion of a 1928 date; having worked on case serials for Wadsworth Cases, I'd caveat any date with a +/- 1 year.

Very nice addition to the collection. Got any other Gruen's to share?

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by afire on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 21:59:55 GMT
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MikeL wrote on Mon, 26 June 2017 14:51Well you answered one question "strap 96", when you say "strap" is that the same as style?
To clarify a little farther, most Gruen models early on had no names. Just a number and classification - Strap (mostly men's watches with round movements, or occasionally smaller/narrower men's watches with rectangular movements usually used in women's watches), Quadron (men's watches with larger rectangular movements), Tank (rectangular watches with round movements using a particular patented contruction), Import (watches with Swiss cases), and then several other categories for women's watches and pocket watches.

So "strap" is the classification, "96" is the number.

Great bold deco styling and rarely seen. Definitely a men's watch, and not all that small by the standards of those times. I wear smaller Gruens and I'm not all that small by the stardards of these times.

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 22:04:13 GMT
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Thanks for the information... I do have more to share! I will post when time allows!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Mon, 26 Jun 2017 22:15:25 GMT
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Yes it is in great condition, I was fortunate to come across it when I did! The band will be going ASAP, It is way to small for me, that's what had me scratching my head concerning what gender it was specific too! Great info on the Wadsworth case serial number, I never heard about the prefix code! I searched my Gruen books and the internet looking for this same design, but I came up empty handed, hence the reason I reached out to this great site!

Mike

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by Bazzab on Tue, 27 Jun 2017 21:00:09 GMT
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Great watch!
Question on the dial, can the word Swizerland be seen under where the 6 should be?
Thanks B

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Wed, 28 Jun 2017 15:55:15 GMT
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Nothing is written under the 6:00 position!
Michael

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by afire on Thu, 29 Jun 2017 15:28:40 GMT
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"Switzerland" is likely engraved in the dial hidden under the bezel.

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by Bazzab on Fri, 30 Jun 2017 15:04:43 GMT
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Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by Timeticker on Fri, 30 Jun 2017 16:20:02 GMT
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Hey!!!!!!!!!! Welcome back Bazzab!

Subject: Re: Gruen 885
Posted by MikeL on Fri, 30 Jun 2017 17:48:54 GMT
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afire, you sir are correct!

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GRU
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