Subject: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Fri, 18 Jan 2019 23:57:53 GMT
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March 1917.

The team.

Check out the description and an example here.
Thanks!

http://www.greyflannelauctions.com/1916_boston_red_sox_players_championship_pocket_wa-lot40296.aspx

File Attachments

1) 20190118_101909.png, downloaded 2646 times

Cincinnati had the h
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engraved the player's n
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2) 14492a_med.jpg, downloaded 4014 times



Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by thesnark17 on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 01:15:20 GMT
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Fascinating!

The only other baseball team that I've heard of receiving Gruen watches after the World Series is the 1923 Yankees (14k V2.5 Pentagons). I wonder how many years this was done?

Thank you for a much higher quality data point than usual!

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by JackW on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 02:58:48 GMT
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Whoa! It went for $48,871.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 03:17:24 GMT
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thesnark17 wrote on Sat, 19 January 2019 01:15Fascinating!

The only other baseball team that I've heard of receiving Gruen watches after the World Series is the 1923 Yankees (14k V2.5 Pentagons). I wonder how many years this was done?

Thank you for a much higher quality data point than usual!
No problem.

I don't know how accurate it is but from the description in the link, easy to miss but it may answer your question.

"Championship rings for World Series victory first debuted in 1922 and became the standard format in 1926. Before that time, pendants and watch fobs were the most common player prize."

Seems to fit in with your Yankees story.
If you have a reference I'd love to see it.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 03:23:51 GMT
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JackW wrote on Sat, 19 January 2019 02:58Whoa! It went for $48,871.
Makes you wonder what the one inscribed with "Babe Ruth" would go for...

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by JackW on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 03:31:15 GMT
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Ephemerald wrote on Sat, 19 January 2019 03:23Makes you wonder what the one inscribed with "Babe Ruth" would go for...

It went for $717,000

https://www.atimelyperspective.com/blog/2014/02/24/babe-ruth
-1923-world-series-pocket-watch-by-gruen-sells-for-717000.ht ml

That is alot of peanuts and popcorn.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 03:57:25 GMT
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JackW wrote on Sat, 19 January 2019 03:31Ephemerald wrote on Sat, 19 January 2019 03:23Makes you wonder what the one inscribed with "Babe Ruth" would go for...

It went for $717,000

https://www.atimelyperspective.com/blog/2014/02/24/babe-ruth-1923-world-series-pocket-watch-by-gruen-sells-for-717000.ht ml

That is alot of peanuts and popcorn.
Oh nice! Wow.
It was big news. This is what I love about Gruen.
I have learned more about Babe than I ever have because of these watches.
Started out as a pitcher blew my mind.
Looks like the Sultan of Swat had his own collection of Gruen watches.
Very cool. I think I prefer the green gold octagon, personally.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by thesnark17 on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 15:58:42 GMT
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I guess what I really want to know, is how many times it was done with Gruen watches! I had assumed only once (1923) - but here's 1916! I guess any year up to 1926 is fair game.

Even for the two years we know about, most of the issued watches are "missing from the Internet" (probably in family deposit boxes or private collections). If there were other years, we might not know about them at all. However, this has sparked my interest. I will go explore the Google!

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by thesnark17 on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 17:55:08 GMT
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Okay, here's what I can find:

1903 Boston Red Sox - watch fob
1904 no Series
1905 New York Giants - tie pin
1906 Chicago White Sox - watch fob
1907 Chicago Cubs - watch fob
1908 Chicago Cubs - watch fob; losers Detroit had Elgin watches
1909 Pittsburgh Pirates - watch fob, Jules Jurgensen watch given by team owner
1910 Philadelphia Athletics - watch fob
1911 Philadelphia Athletics - watch fob
1912 Boston Red Sox - watch fob, (probably unofficial) Dubois/Longines watch
1913 Philadelphia Athletics - E. Howard (players), Waltham Colonial (management) given by team owner
1914 Boston Braves - tie pin, some were made into rings
1915 Boston Red Sox - watch fob

1916 Boston Red Sox - Gruen V4 Octathin
1917 Chicago White Sox - watch fob
1918 Boston Red Sox - watch fob
1919 Cincinnati Reds - watch fob
1920 Cleveland Indians - cuff links, watch fob
1921 New York Giants - watch fob
1922 New York Giants - ring - first "official" ring
1923 New York Yankees - Gruen V2.5 Pentagon (possibly other calibers too)
1924 Washington Senators - watch fob
1925 Pittsburgh Pirates - watch fob
Rings were official issue every year from here on, but that doesn't mean other things weren't issued!
1926 St. Louis Cardinals - rings, Illinois A. Lincoln pocket watch (from fans by subscription)

1928 New York Yankees - Hamilton wristwatch

1930 Philadelphia Athletics - Hamilton (?? private label) pocket watch, tie pin
1931 St. Louis Cardinals - Waltham 21j Colonial A pocket watch (from fans by subscription)

1937 New York Yankees - Hamilton pocket watch
1938 New York Yankees - Hamilton pocket watch

1941 New York Yankees - Hamilton pocket watch

1944 St. Louis Cardinals - Gruen unknown model, probably 380

1947 New York Yankees - Hamilton 21j pocket watch

1956 New York Yankees - Rolex Oyster Perpetual wristwatch

So it turns out there were three years with Gruen watches! The 1944 watches are quite striking.

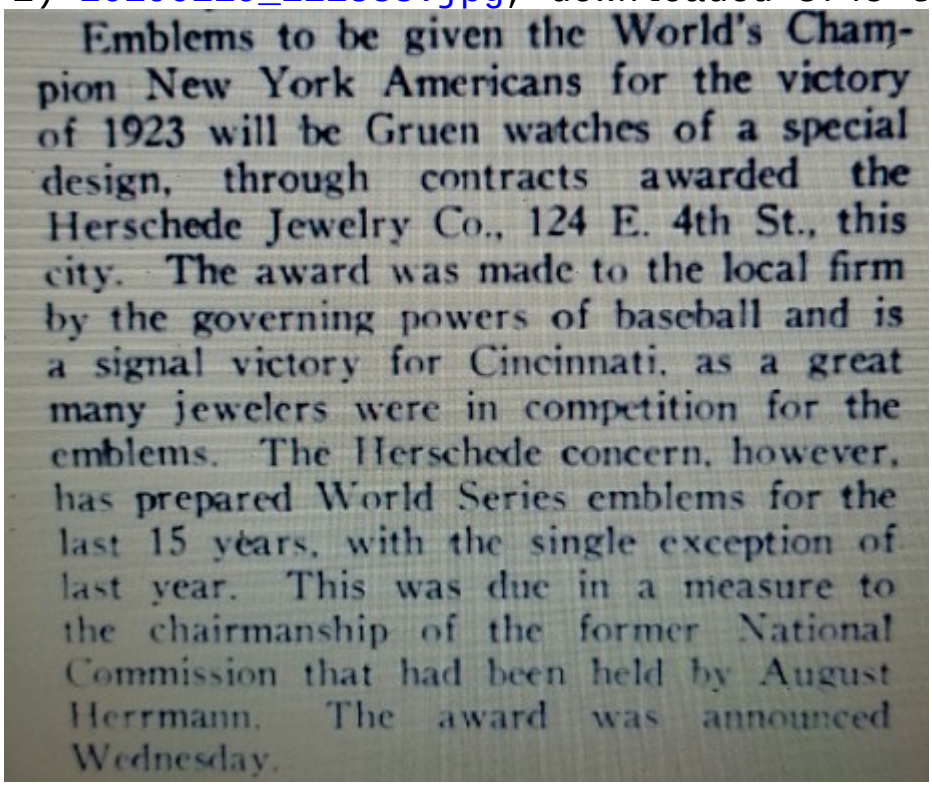
Also it appears that the Yankees were rich - who would have thought?

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 18:25:40 GMT
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You got serious Google skillzz. :)
I did find one mention of some 1923 Gruens, the only thing I can't quite figure out is....we're the Yankees called the Americans...
Apologize about the quality of this one.

File Attachments

1) 20190119_111838.jpg, downloaded 3745 times



Emblems to be given the World's Champion New York Americans for the victory of 1923 will be Gruen watches of a special design, through contracts awarded the Herschede Jewelry Co., 124 E. 4th St., this city. The award was made to the local firm by the governing powers of baseball and is a signal victory for Cincinnati, as a great many jewelers were in competition for the emblems. The Herschede concern, however, has prepared World Series emblems for the last 15 years, with the single exception of last year. This was due in a measure to the chairmanship of the former National Commission that had been held by August Herrmann. The award was announced Wednesday.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by thesnark17 on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 19:04:25 GMT
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Fascinating that Herschede prepared most of the early watch fobs. They are extremely similar year-to-year (basically only the date differs) up to about 1921.

The New York Yankees were/are an American League team, and at the time, the National/American League rivalry was very strong. I assume that the text is referencing the fact that the American League team won in 1923. There is no doubt that they are referring to the Yankees!

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 19 Jan 2019 23:54:02 GMT

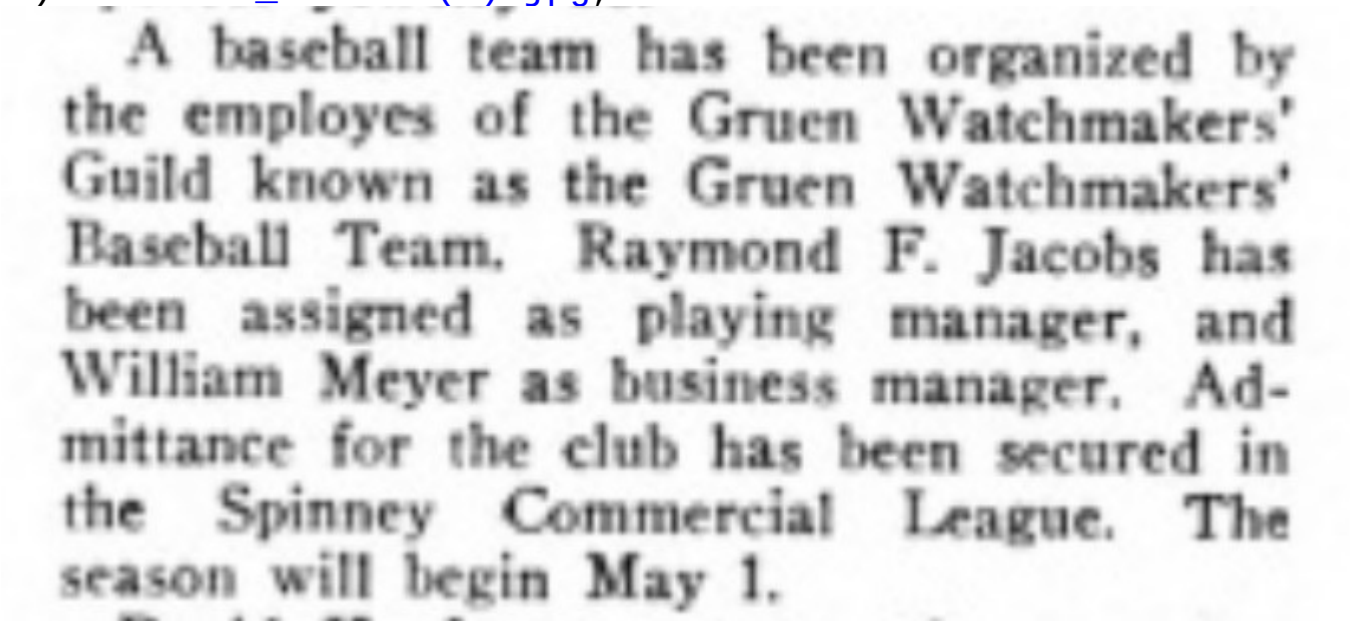
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Looks like Gruen took baseball as serious as their bowling team.
I can not tell you how many blurbs I have on their bowling league.
At one point, they had a combined team of Wadsworth/Gruen employees.

1920.

File Attachments

1) 20190119_152910 (1).jpg, downloaded 3646 times



A baseball team has been organized by the employes of the Gruen Watchmakers' Guild known as the Gruen Watchmakers' Baseball Team. Raymond F. Jacobs has been assigned as playing manager, and William Meyer as business manager. Admittance for the club has been secured in the Spinney Commercial League. The season will begin May 1.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by kastner on Sun, 20 Jan 2019 17:44:40 GMT
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I have some copies of the Gruen Time, the employees' magazine, and in 1944 there was also the Gruen Girls Glee Club, the Gruen Girls Basketball Team (who won the Ohio State Championship in the amateur athletic union), and a Gruen Girls Softball team.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by JackW on Sun, 20 Jan 2019 20:44:10 GMT
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kastner wrote on Sun, 20 January 2019 17:44I have some copies of the Gruen Time, the employees' magazine
Which months do you have? Did you know that there was an employee edition and also one for

their retailers?

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by kastner on Mon, 21 Jan 2019 02:34:36 GMT
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I didn't know that they made an employee edition and retailer edition. I have the 1944 employee editions, all of them it seems, bound in a personalized cover for John R. Bullock. They are filled with wonderful glimpses of the company: Lists of birthdays, reports from Gruen employees in the service and where you can write them, suggestions for improvements, select employee profiles, misc. fun facts ("With the fog that Cincinnati has had for the past few weeks this is probably excusable and at least understandable, but George Kueffner came to work recently wearing one black and one brown shoe"), articles about the company, and so on. I should scan this and share.

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Ephemerald on Mon, 04 Feb 2019 21:31:18 GMT
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I came across this absolute must read on the 1923 watches:

http://haulsofshame.com/blog/?p=27381

Subject: Re: "1916 World's Champions" Watches.
Posted by Timeticker on Sun, 14 Jul 2019 00:02:20 GMT
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I sure am glad I held on to my Octathin!!!