Subject: Wristlet 103
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 01:14:05 GMT
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Model name :WR 103
Type :Wristlet
Period/date :
Gender :Ladies

Case Maker :Gruen
Case Material :White GF Ultra Quality
Case Serial :1029210
Case Style no :

Caliber :179
Movement Maker :
Movement Serial:161570

Bracelet :

File Attachments

1) 20190906_184657.jpg, downloaded 3702 times


GRUEN
12
1
10
9
8
7
6
60
50
40
30
20

2) 20190906_184752.jpg, downloaded 3661 times


GRUEN
GUILD
FIFTEEN 15 JEWELS
THREE 3
ADJ.
SWITZERLAND

3) 20190222_163838 (1).jpg, downloaded 3645 times



Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Gary on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 02:20:19 GMT
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Nice! Some good reading on the 179 and the relationship with Alpina and Favre.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Case on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 03:14:40 GMT
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Wow, a nice example! The engraving details are very crisp!

Here's my shot at dating it with case #s. The case was likely made mid/late 1925 and I believe is actually an unsigned Wadsworth case. Many of the Ultra Quality line, including these and the tanks, remained unsigned long after gf/reinforced cases started being signed, but they follow wads case #s, including the jump to 5mm in late 1925/early 1926. This case was made either just prior to that jump or maybe even concurrent: it appears Gruen built up a large stock of GF Quadrons right at the 5mm jump, occupying much of 5-5.1mm.

I believe the movement may be later, perhaps 1927. Can't tell for sure, but from the font your sn looks like it could be 151k vs 161k. The 179 examples I have for this time indicate mvmt #s 118k @ UQ case # 995k, 129k @ 1028k, 138k @ 5108k, 148k @ 5110k. Mid-1928, 179 was @ 173k.

Looking forward to hearing what others have to say.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Ephemerald on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 04:13:41 GMT
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I appreciate you giving it a shot on the date, Dan!
I too thought the same thing on the sn, it being a possible 5 or 6, toss up. But to me it didn't look enough like the other 5, so I went w 6.

& Gary thanks for the link.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 13:45:05 GMT
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The 179s have a strange numbering scheme. I own six of them with the following case /serial / maker combinations:

125686 / 996799 / GRUEN ULTRA QUALITY
130365 / 5144168 / Wadsworth 14K GOLD REINFORCED WITH METAL
320132 / 5158901 / Wadsworth 14K GOLD REINFORCED WITH METAL
320317 / 5239682 / Wadsworth 14K GOLD FILLED REINFORCED WITH EXTRA GOLD
320411 / 5278253 / Wadsworth 14K GOLD FILLED REINFORCED WITH EXTRA GOLD
1216071 / 2112798 / GRUEN 14K GOLD FILLED REINFORCED WITH EXTRA GOLD

The first one I dated the case probably too early, but I gave it a 1922 for the case and 1926 for the

movement.
Number two and three I gave a 1926 for the case and a 1927 for the movement.
Number four and five got a 1927 all over.
The last one got a 1931 for the case and a 1930 for the movement.

The three 320k movements are very close, but three different watches: Strap 28, Strap 57 and Strap 91. The 30s one is a Strap 176.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 13:58:52 GMT
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I checked for my Gruen UQ serials and it looks like they really share serial number base with Wadsworth cases of that time.
With the new check I had to recalibrate my dating algorithm and I am now at 1925 for the 996799 serial number...

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by JackW on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 17:24:19 GMT
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I'll chip in my 2¢ then for what it is worth...

There is what I'm presuming to be a maker's mark for this case. I don't know it.

btw... if some one would like this watch, pm me.

File Attachments

1) case_back_sm.jpg, downloaded 2941 times


GRUEN
ULTRA
QUALITY
1029098
179

2) dialside.jpg, downloaded 2946 times



3) mvt_sm.jpg, downloaded 2938 times



Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 17:45:13 GMT
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Now this becomes very interesting! According to the Mikrolisk trade mark website the makers mark is the one of Fritz Moeri from St. Imier in Switzerland. Shall these cases be imports?

Here is the trademark filing:

File Attachments
1) Fritz Moeri.JPG, downloaded 2945 times



Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by JackW on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 18:14:18 GMT
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WOW Bernd, that was fast.

edit.... Watch Wiki lists Moeri as part of the Union Horologie.... aka the Guild.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Sat, 07 Sep 2019 18:41:45 GMT
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Yes, but the Guild was later. Moeri delivered movements to Alpina, this is for sure.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Case on Sun, 08 Sep 2019 04:02:56 GMT
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That might help explain why this particular 179 UQ case style is the last holdout to jump to 5mm case #s--as I say it seems to have occurred near 5.1mm. Perhaps a supplier change to wads or a retooling/runnout time with Moeri.

Amazing find, guys!

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Gary on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 01:32:58 GMT
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So I wonder if many of the Guilds used Fritz Moeri like Aegler or others?

This is probably a later cased 885 but case looks similar to the 179 case.

Sorry for stepping on this thread. :blush:

File Attachments
1) 20190908_182349_resized.jpg, downloaded 2793 times


SWITZERLAND
GRUEN GUILD
102624
FIFTEEN 15 JEWELS
THREE
3 ADJ.

2) 20190908_182312_resized.jpg, downloaded 2790 times


GRUEN
ULTRA
QUALITY
5134894
855

3) 20190908_182000_resized.jpg, downloaded 2840 times


GRUEN

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 07:31:12 GMT
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Hi Gary,

I have the exactly same case with serial 5136844, so just 2k apart from yours. Strangely mine houses a "Watch Specialties Co" marked 806 movement which other than this 1926 case, dates towards 1917 to 1920. So I think mine got a movement swap before I bought it.
I think that in 1926 Gruen was not able to fulfill the demand with their usual supply so they sourced here and there even with the cases in order to satisfy the demand. The demand on the plain version of the Ladies Paris Square might have been deminishing, so they bought a batch from Moeri and stamped it in the US.

Just one possibility.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Case on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 16:07:01 GMT
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Just curious, Gary & Barney--do both of your 5MM series UQ cases now lack the "P" stamped in front of the case # last 4 on the bezel? Looks like Gary's does not have a "P" above--there's something but unclear. Not a clear "P" in same font as +last 4, like you see on the case for Wristlet 103 and for Jack's case above.

I expect they do not have a "P", but would like confirmation. This relates to the Wadsworth case sequence(s).

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 16:21:08 GMT
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Hi Case, I have to disappoint you, the P is there. P6844...
But the next one I have in this series, 5139277, comes without it.
The two around them are Wadsworth 14K REINFORCED marked: 5121097 and 5144168, both lack the P.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Case on Mon, 09 Sep 2019 17:25:27 GMT
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Not a disappointment! Helpful--Thanks! Trying to build more data.

The reinforced cases I have seem to be just +4, but I recall seeing one marked "E"+4.

Subject: Re: Wristlet 103
Posted by Gary on Tue, 10 Sep 2019 14:28:15 GMT
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Mine does no have a "P".