
Subject: Caliber 849 - 6.5L, 16J - Factory L
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2019 03:11:44 GMT
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Maker: Factory L
Size: 6.5 ligne
Jewel Markings: 16 Jewels
Adj Markings: 4 Adj
Config: Hunter
Dial feet: 12.5 & 6 positions
Dial release mech: side screws
Example date: your guess as good as mine... 1918-1920?

Other markings: front plate--"27" lot code & "42796" (sn), "Depose"; back of dial engraved "45252"; signed "Gruen Watch Co"

File Attachments

1) [90F740FC-AE91-4D89-82A9-06DFE077667D \(2\).jpeg](#), downloaded 1966 times



2) [861.JPG](#), downloaded 1930 times



6 1/2" rect. 16 J
No. 861

3) [938827D0-9517-46FC-BD7B-2B25FCF437A6 \(2\).jpeg](#), downloaded 1943 times



A close-up photograph of the back of a metal watch case. The metal has a brushed, slightly worn appearance. Three screws are visible: one at the top left, one on the right side, and a partial one at the bottom left. The text "GRUEN WATC" and "16 JEWEL" is engraved in a sans-serif font at the bottom.

GRUEN WATC
16 JEWEL

4) [F0A52A6F-3D62-4D8A-A5CB-137D184B3B83.jpeg](#), downloaded 1934 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 861
Posted by [Gary](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2019 03:36:23 GMT
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Dan,

An unknown Factory L movement. One of Liz's beauties! 8o

Gary

Subject: Re: Caliber 861
Posted by [timeliz](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2019 03:37:57 GMT
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Dan,
Here is one of two examples I have with this movement.
Gruen lists this as a caliber 849.
Still have not deduced maker Factory L.

https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&goto=67_54&&srch=caliber+849#msg_6754

1921 ad -

My other one with size comparison to normal cartouche:

File Attachments

1) [1921 Gruen 2 ad.JPG](#), downloaded 1640 times

Announcing The GRUEN Cartouche^{*}

the logical wrist watch shape

^{*} Cartouche: An ancient Egyptian style of setting shape leaving the maximum of room.



How the Gruen Cartouche makes possible greater strength and accuracy by providing almost double the movement space.

Copyright 1911, Gruen W. Co.



No. 111. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00



No. 116. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00



No. 112. 14 kt. solid green gold, engraved \$60.00
No. 112. Sterling silver, engraved \$55.00



No. 117. 14 kt. solid green gold, engraved \$60.00



No. 113. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00
No. 113. Sterling silver \$50.00



No. 118. 14 kt. solid green gold, chanted \$55.00



No. 114. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00
No. 114. Sterling silver \$50.00



No. 119. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00
No. 119. Sterling silver \$50.00



No. 115. 14 kt. solid green gold, engraved \$60.00
No. 115. Sterling silver, engraved \$55.00



No. 110. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00

NOTE:
These watches are in
actual size.
Prices include
your size.



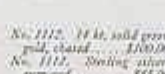
No. 111A. New strap watch for men with greater rise, tangential movement, 14 kt. solid green gold \$100.00
No. 111A. Sterling silver \$60.00



No. 111B. New strap watch for ladies, 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00
No. 111B. Sterling silver \$50.00



No. 111C. 14 kt. solid green gold \$55.00
No. 111C. Sterling silver \$50.00



No. 111D. 14 kt. solid green gold, chanted \$100.00
No. 111E. Sterling silver, engraved \$55.00

2) cal 849 setting parts.jpg, downloaded 1591 times



3) [cal 849 size comp with car cal 835.jpg](#), downloaded 1603 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 861

Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2019 20:56:30 GMT

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Thanks, Gary & Liz--I knew I'd seen this gorgeous watch earlier, but if I search any numbers on the forum it returns no results. Frustrating! Good to have confirmation it's Factory L. Then again... *sigh*

So my dates for mine were right, pre-1920.

I'd looked at the setting bits for both. Super close, but there seems to be a slight difference between 849 & mine/Liz's. Note the notch on the large piece: ours is more triangular vs. the 849. Note also the opposite end of that piece: there's a slight difference (849 not the same on top & bottom, different taper on the tip). I took that this was a 861, since both ends matched better. I could not find a pic of the actual movement, nor did I make out one below. Did I miss it?

Either way, these two must have been nigh identical: same size, almost same setting bits. Likely both from Factory L.

File Attachments

1) [849 or 861.JPG](#), downloaded 1592 times



6 1/2''' rect. 16 J
No. 849



6 1/2''' rect. 16 J
No. 861

Subject: Re: Caliber 861

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2019 21:32:05 GMT

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I think these are just different revisions of the same movement.

Now I'm going to have to take the dial off my other one. Darn you Dan!
I also have a couple spare ones that I need to locate.

Subject: Re: Caliber 861
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2019 03:31:35 GMT
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Oh, man... Sorry, Liz!! But it's just such a beautiful movement--and unknown maker, too, so these fascinate me! I've another, too, so I'll take a look.

Let me also second Gary and say I love your pics. And your watch with this movement is the most exquisite example I've seen. Sadly, my movement here has a gold crown, meaning it was likely once something as beautiful.

BTW, I've also seen a similar movement (perhaps just a later plate style, or whichever variant is the other!) in a 14k man's watch. A pre-quadron Quadron, if you will, similar to the one I believe your 1921 ad shows at bottom right, but case made in 1924-25 and now having a Verithin signed dial/Guild marked movement. I was hoping someone here had it, to see better pics. Haven't seen it yet. Still kicking myself for not being available when it ended.

Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 14 Dec 2019 19:11:52 GMT
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I corrected this thread to say "849". I discovered I also have the sister caliber 861--will post it in a separate thread, comparison below.

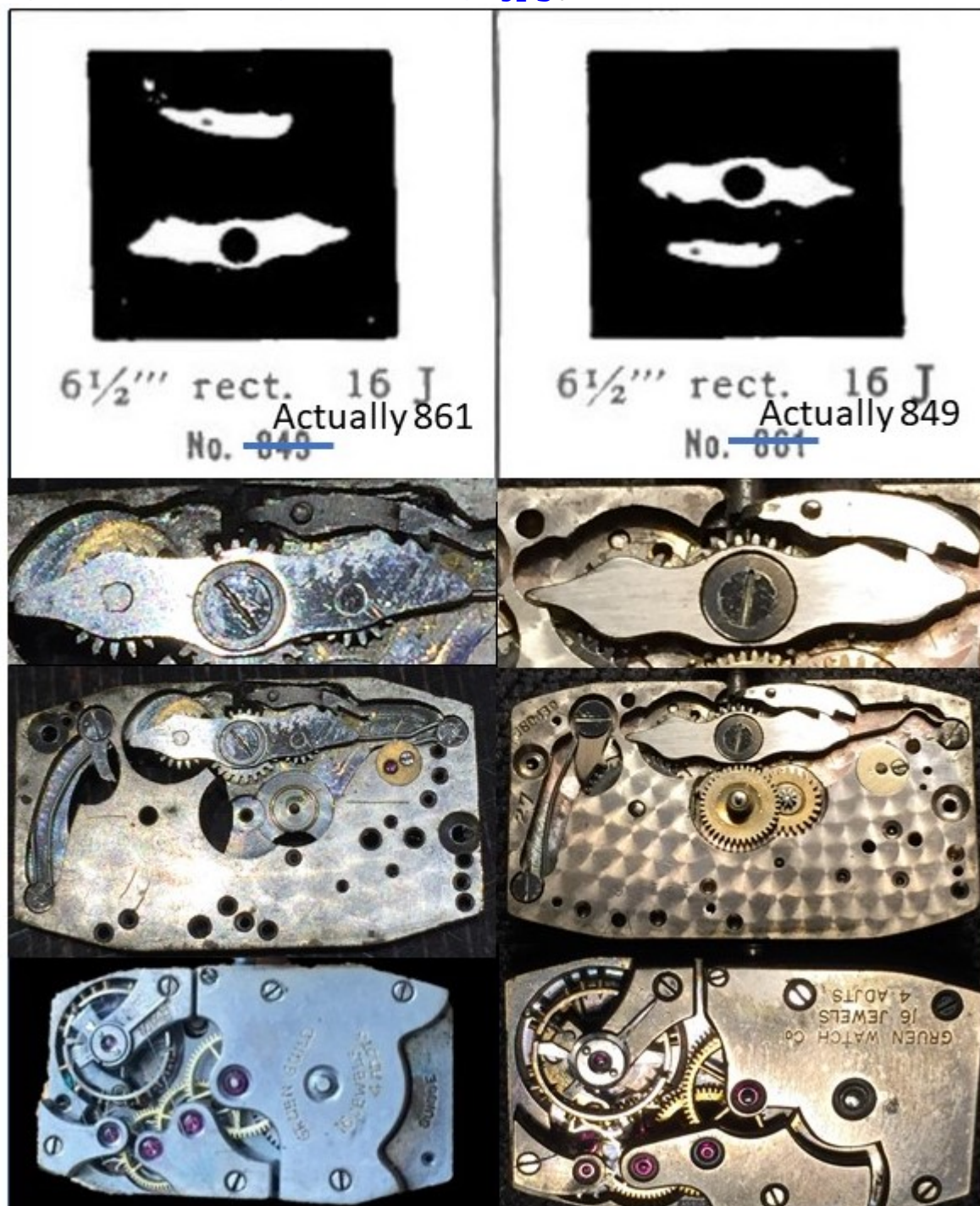
The Caliber 849 back plate is shown in the 1926 Guild Supplement B, and it is the one previously identified as 849 on the forum--linear jewels for the train gears vs. a slight offset in the sister caliber. You can see below there is a noticeable difference in the setting mechanism for each, as well as the click, front plate holes, dial feet holes, etc. The train jewels are a clearest identifier on the back plate, since bridge looks could change along the way.

However, the setting bits we see on all our 849s referenced above and on the "849" page in Supplement B--they all match what's labelled as the "861" in the disco'd models of later Gruen material catalogs. It appears there was a mix-up along the way, and the two got swapped.

So which is the true 849?? I'll default to the one that has a clear picture of the actual movement, concurring with the others here. BTW, Liz has shown me this image swap is also carried over from the Gruen material catalogs to the Swartchild catalogs--since the mainsprings are different, I wonder which is the correct specification for which?!

File Attachments

1) [849 vs 861 \(corrected\).jpg](#), downloaded 1561 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 25 Jan 2020 02:38:39 GMT

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Just to confirm, Swartchild does indeed catalog this movement—the one shown as “849” in the 1926 Guild Supplement B—as Gruen caliber 861. You can clearly see the telltale click

here on the movement detail, in addition to the setting bits.

Wanted to note this, for anyone following later Swartchild or Gruen catalogs, in search of repair parts. Their 861 parts list should be the correct ones for this movement—and vice versa.

File Attachments

1) [C2CE6585-A37D-4FDA-890A-BD32D6CADB6B.jpeg](#), downloaded 1538 times



2) [1A08071D-601E-44DC-8A76-B8EA5BDAAB7C.jpeg](#), downloaded 1516 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 2020 19:06:57 GMT
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Here's an oddity: a movement identical to the 849, except fully rectangular (no edge bevels) and an extra case screw near the balance. I thought it might be a first version of the 849, but I note the serial number would be later vs the above, apparently after the Factory L stamp disappeared.

Is this a different caliber? It looks like it would fit a square edge case similar to 115 in Liz's ad above.

Of note:

-This movement seems to have maintained "Gruen Watch Co" stamp before, during & after the "Factory L" stamps (Cal 861 went to Guild)

-This also suggests fewer than 5k "Factory L" stamped movements may have been produced. Stamp is not there at 42k above, is there at 45k on Liz's movement that Gary linked then gone at 47k here. Perhaps far fewer, since it's likely the supplier serial number sequence.

File Attachments

1) [A2FF6B7F-916B-423B-B6C4-0E7338994529.jpeg](#), downloaded 1501 times



2) [7F26AEEC-DB0C-448D-A821-BB0E0DDA74B3.jpeg](#), downloaded 1508 times



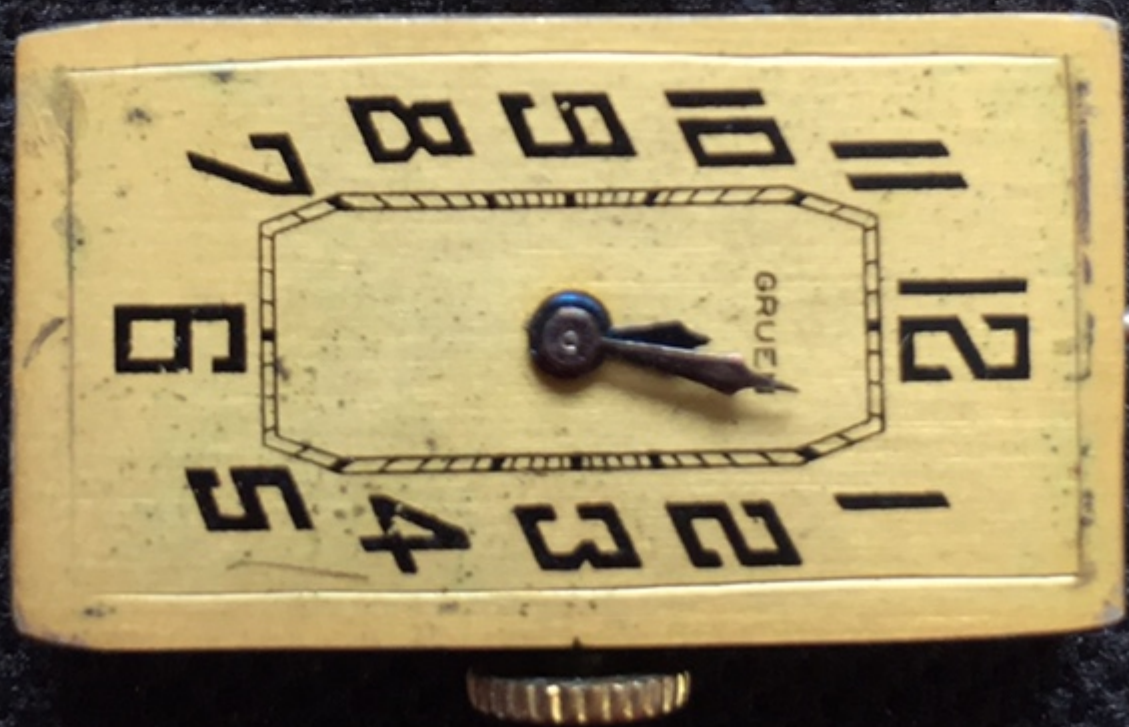
3) [D0A812B7-2391-48C9-8323-5DE77AAECCDF.jpeg](#), downloaded 1477 times



4) [C6B5D616-1B07-4851-93B4-E32681915BE8.jpeg](#), downloaded 1485 times



5) [43A0FAE0-237B-40F9-A001-703FAD14FE89.jpeg](#), downloaded 1460 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 2020 19:42:32 GMT
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Oooohhhh....a rectangular one!? That's a first for me.

I'm feeling a strong sense of covetousness right now. :o

Did you find that on the bay?

Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [Gary](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 2020 19:44:39 GMT
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Dan that one sure is an oddity but boy it sure looks sharp! Like Hewie says...

Don't tell me that I'm crazy
Don't tell me I'm nowhere
Take it from me
It's hip to be square

Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 31 Jul 2020 19:57:37 GMT
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My personal favorite: "It's hip to be a square" - Sesame Street

Subject: Re: Caliber 849
Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 01 Aug 2020 01:57:57 GMT
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Can you believe it still runs & keeps time? I grabbed it a year ago on the bay, but sad to say I just noted it was different last week. That "Gruen Pritler" (?) dial engraving has me scratching

Man, the Sesame Street Huey Lewis reference takes me back! I just introduced the kids to Square One TV. I think that show was the reason I never had to study for Math class until I hit Calculus. Steep learning curve on study habits then, tho! Mid term grade was a 7. My classmates called me Touchdown till the end of the term.

Guess I'll quote Chevy Chase as Gerald Ford: "It was my understanding there would be no math..."

Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Sat, 01 Aug 2020 13:02:25 GMT

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OK, time to uncover Factory L.

To make a long story short: It is one of the suspects already named for this position, Landeron. To be precise, at this time the factory was still called Charles Hahn & Cie, based in the small village Landeron. Later, when the company was part of the ESA, it was simply called after the place, Landeron.

Here is why I am sure that "Landeron" is factory L.

The only known factory L marked movement is caliber 849, caliber 861 is very similar and will have the same source. Here comes the design protection for Charles Hahn in 1918, take a closer look at number 124:

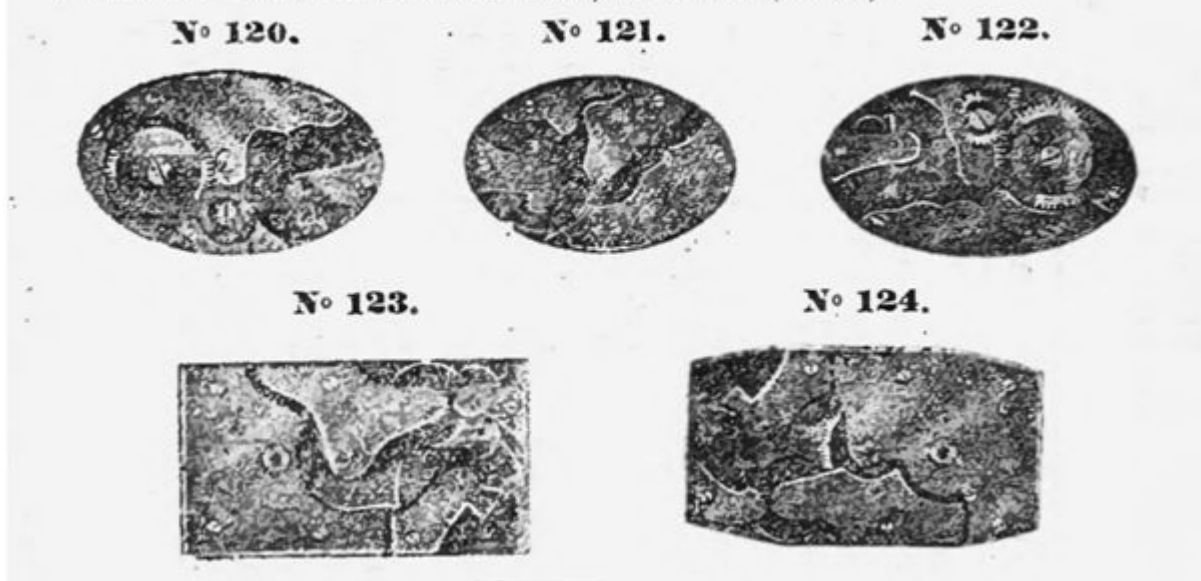
And we can see as #123 the form factor of this remarkable new rectangular version of the cal 849. This new movement is a mixture of 123 and 124...

Barney

File Attachments

1) [Factory L.jpg](#), downloaded 1418 times

N° 29213. 1^{er} mai 1918, 12 h. m. — Ouvert. — 5 modèles. — Calibres de montres. — Charles Hahn & Cie, Landeron (Suisse).



Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Sat, 01 Aug 2020 16:13:56 GMT

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Awesome find, Barney!

Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Case](#) on Sat, 01 Aug 2020 19:33:55 GMT

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Congrats, Barney, on another example of excellent research! Landeron it is. It's hard to say anything about early Gruen with 100% certitude, but these Depose filings make it 100% in my book.

I'd done some looking at Landeron. The sites I found generally state Hahn switched to Landeron in 1925, but I disagree. I can confirm Hahn was already stamping Landeron on at least some movements circa 1920, possibly late teens. Here is one active swamp example with pre-1922 tariff stamps for US import. 133393265453 The dial suggests late teens.

Tangential but related, I have also found that Hahn/Landeron was a member—or at least a source—of SADA. I say that because I sometimes find SADA movements similar to Gruen but can find no info on SADA. Item 303616958737 looks like a left handed variant of 120 above; item 162861925030 has “Landeron” stamped on front plate below 6 position (I had one with a clearer stamp, but it ended).

Anyway—back to the important stuff. Well done, and congrats again!

Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Sat, 01 Aug 2020 19:44:09 GMT

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Great find Bernd!

That rectangle movement is just awesome.

Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Case](#) on Mon, 08 Feb 2021 17:32:44 GMT

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There is no question that these are a Landeron (Hahn) ebauche, but there may be more to the Factory L story. I offer this only because even up until 1922 Hahn was advertising only ebauches.

But rewind back to 1920: there is another "L" offering a familiar finished movement. Also with the style cases & dials that we see on the early man-sized cartouches, which were mostly all imported Swiss cases... You can even see the little anchor tab that is on my curious rectangle variant.

File Attachments

1) [Hahn Gruen 849 bridges in Levailant Cie.png](#), downloaded 950 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 849

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 29 Apr 2022 04:16:49 GMT

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I looked back at this today, and I noticed "125" is engraved on the back of the dial. See the bridge twin Barney posted above: # 124. Landeron it is.

Why was I looking? Caliber 859, a rare 6L oval movement. 16j. Very similar style & markings to the above.
