Subject: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Sat, 01 Feb 2020 04:08:52 GMT
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This caliber appears to have been introduced in 1922, possibly even late 1922. They have pre-1922 tariff markings, but there was a grace period. It's the only Factory R stamped caliber I've seen yet, and the timing would make it one of the later "Factory X" stamps to come into use. But I do find evidence Factory R may have been a Gruen supplier earlier, just didn't have or use the stamp until 1922. Perhaps a renaming/reorganization—remains to be seen.

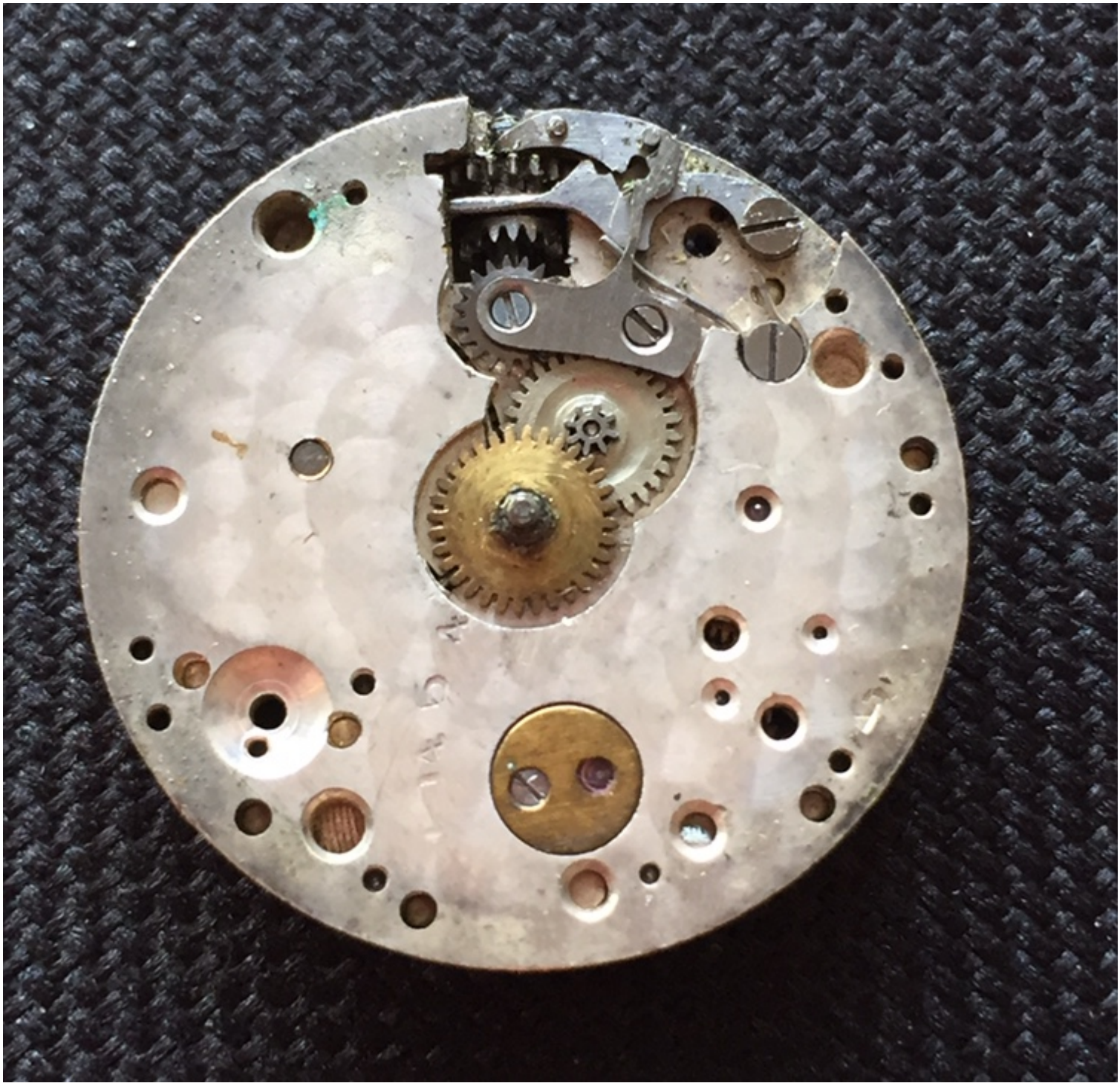
These are stamped "640" between plates by the dial screw. All examples I've seen are the hunter variant, all marked "641" on the dial back. So they're stamped for the base 640 open face caliber, the 641 the hunter variant.

Dials are made by Singer SA, all dials bear "107" stamp, which I believe could be Singer's customer number/reference for Factory R. "107" appears on other much larger Singer dials at this time, too—like the 650. Hope to share an example soon.

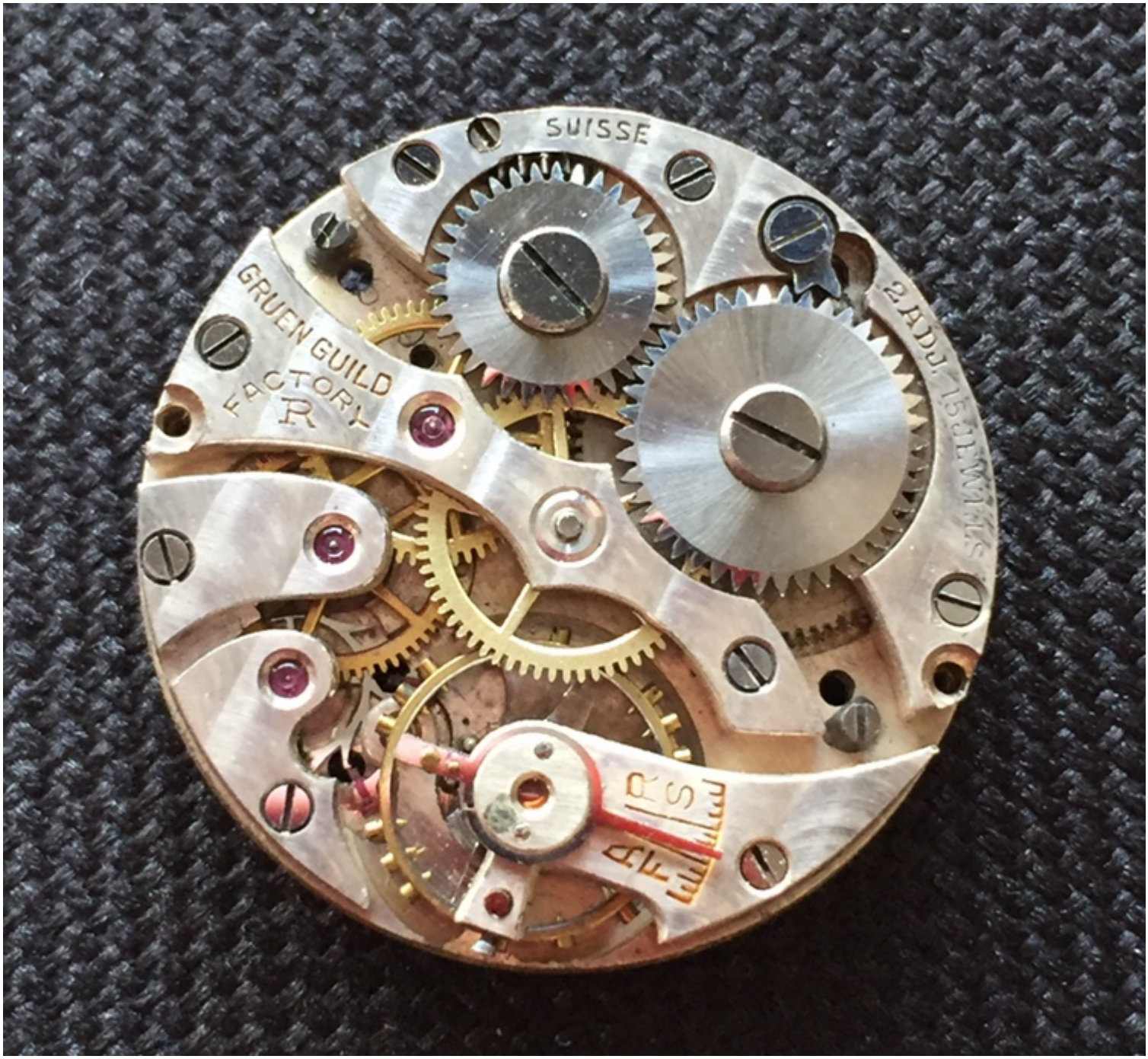
Example 1:
Sn (front plate): 11454 (also has a partial "2" stamped to one side)
Markings: 15 jewels, 2 adj. (#s only)

File Attachments

1) 3A599CA1-D0A4-4619-9DC3-87E0C9AFADE3.jpeg, downloaded 3583 times



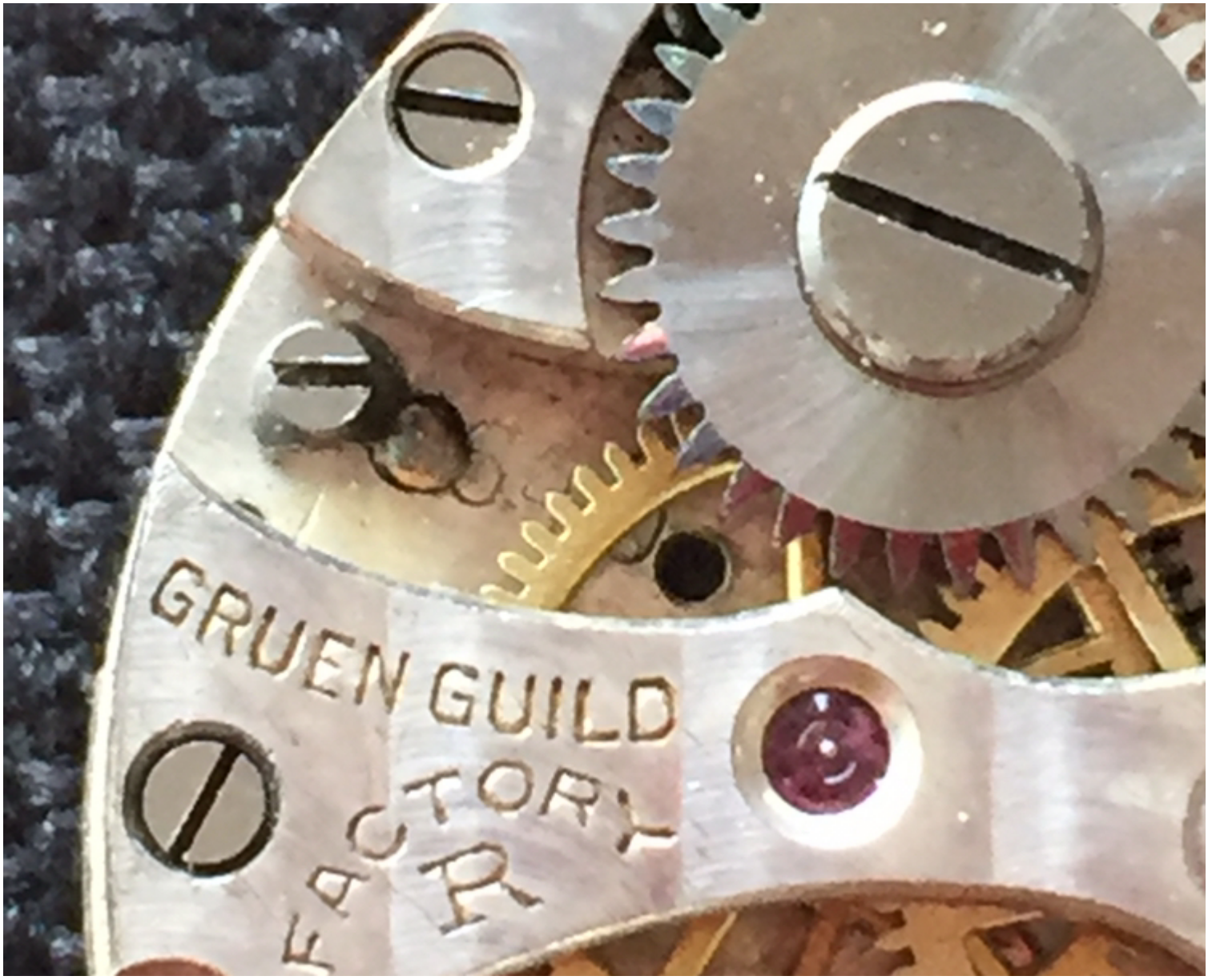
2) 80AAF033-300B-48FF-AE6C-039D715B53F1.jpeg, downloaded 3697 times



3) 1B5D769F-B04B-4DED-98CD-D056CD5A0F32.jpeg, downloaded 3532 times



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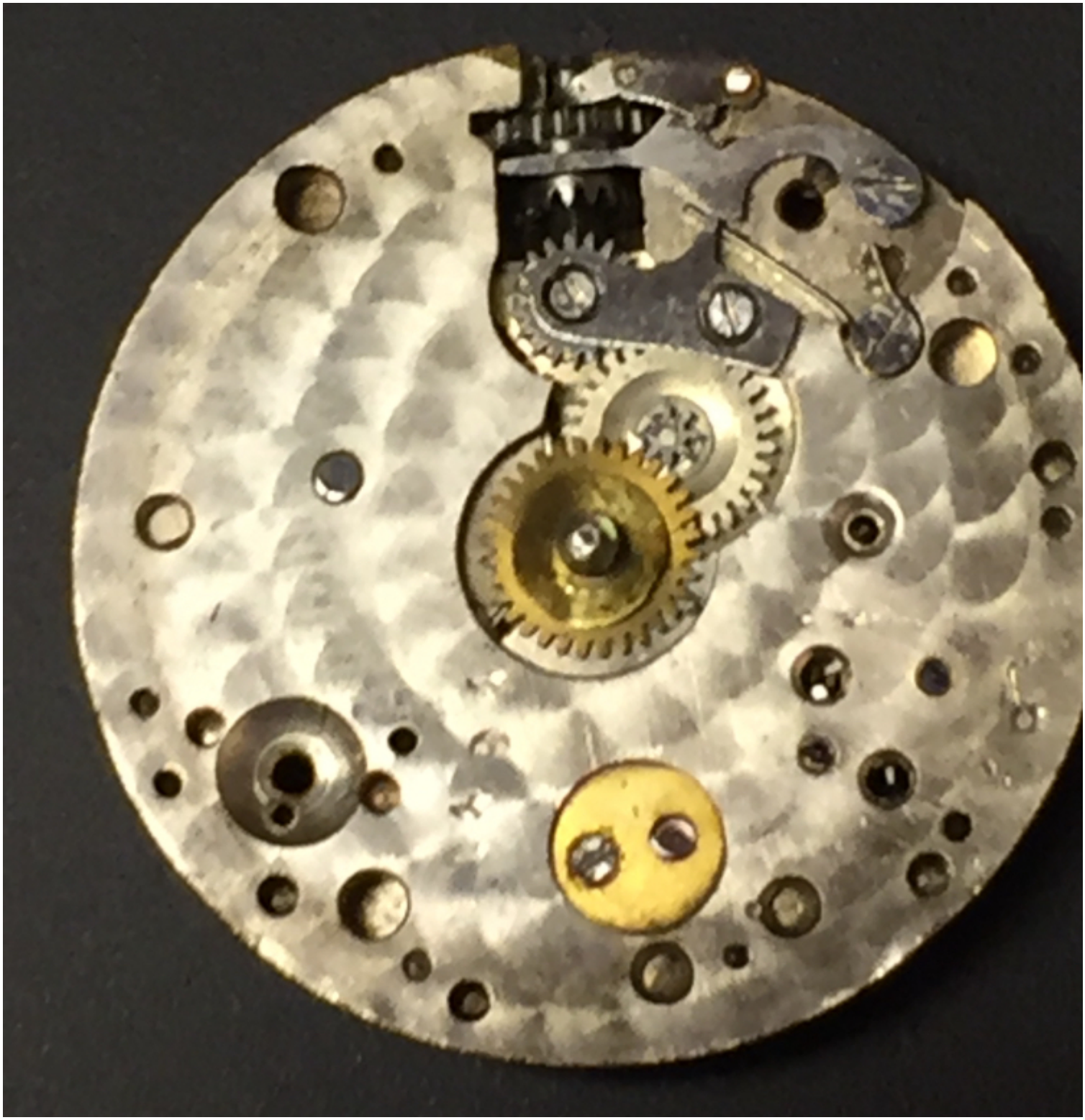
Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Sat, 01 Feb 2020 17:34:15 GMT
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Example 2
Front plate stamped with sn 12191 (other illegible marks)
Dial stamped Singer “107”, etched “641 1/2”

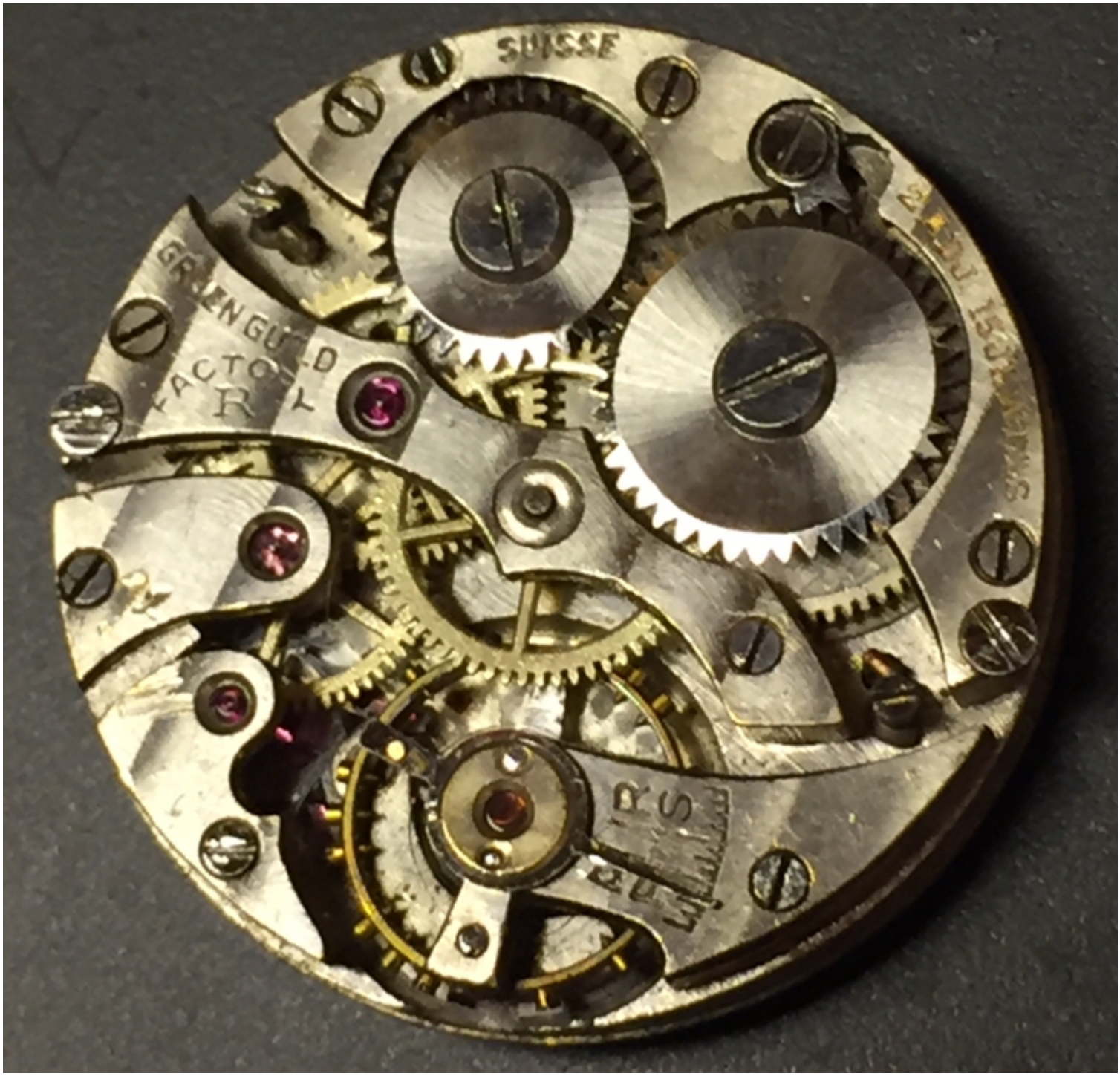
File Attachments

1) 7B8D087A-D828-41BB-AC67-037D3D3F49C8.jpeg, downloaded 3086

times



2) 1DBED9FD-DEFB-4C84-B384-7DF5EFE99D0B.jpeg, downloaded 3093 times



3) 166CCD52-9BFE-4D45-A219-04407B73EAFC.jpeg, downloaded 3129 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Barney Green on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 12:28:55 GMT
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Very cool finds, Dan!

Cal. 640/641 is the only one I also have ever seen being Factory R stamped. I share Dan's

thoughts that also other movements may have come from this source although they might not have been Factory R stamped.
This movement or at least the ebauche for it was in my opinion manufactured by a Swiss maker starting with "R". So I think that the Factory R riddle may be solved. I know that there will be critics which see differences in the pictures but my personal opinion is that I found a match for the movement, so I try to be careful with my writing.
Have a look into the design registration from December 1922, here are two movements, one being an 8.75 ligne, the other one a 10.5 ligne, number 10520:

To me this is a match. A better picture can be found in an ad from the maker. To disclose the name, it is a company called Russbach-Hänni & Co, located in Court. Founded in 1888 under the name Hänni, later Hänni & Cie, it became Russbach-Hänni & Cie, when Mr. Georges Russbach who married the widow of Arnold Hänni, Marie-Eugenie Hänni, nee Frey (don't they belong all together somehow?), took over the company in 1911.

This ad is from August 1922, so we know that the movement must have been available before the registration already. Russbach also supplied to Alpina before the Alpina-Gruen connection, I have one Alpina watch with a Russbach made movement. But all timings here match perfectly with Dan's observations.
The company went out of business about 1928 and Mr. Georges Russbach-Hänni became member of the board of a pharmaceutical company called Pharmasera.

You may now again start throwing stones on me but this is something I owed some members of this forum.
There is also evidence for another factory ID, this time it is one of the suspects named in the movement document already. I may share my findings as well, don't know if someone is interested.

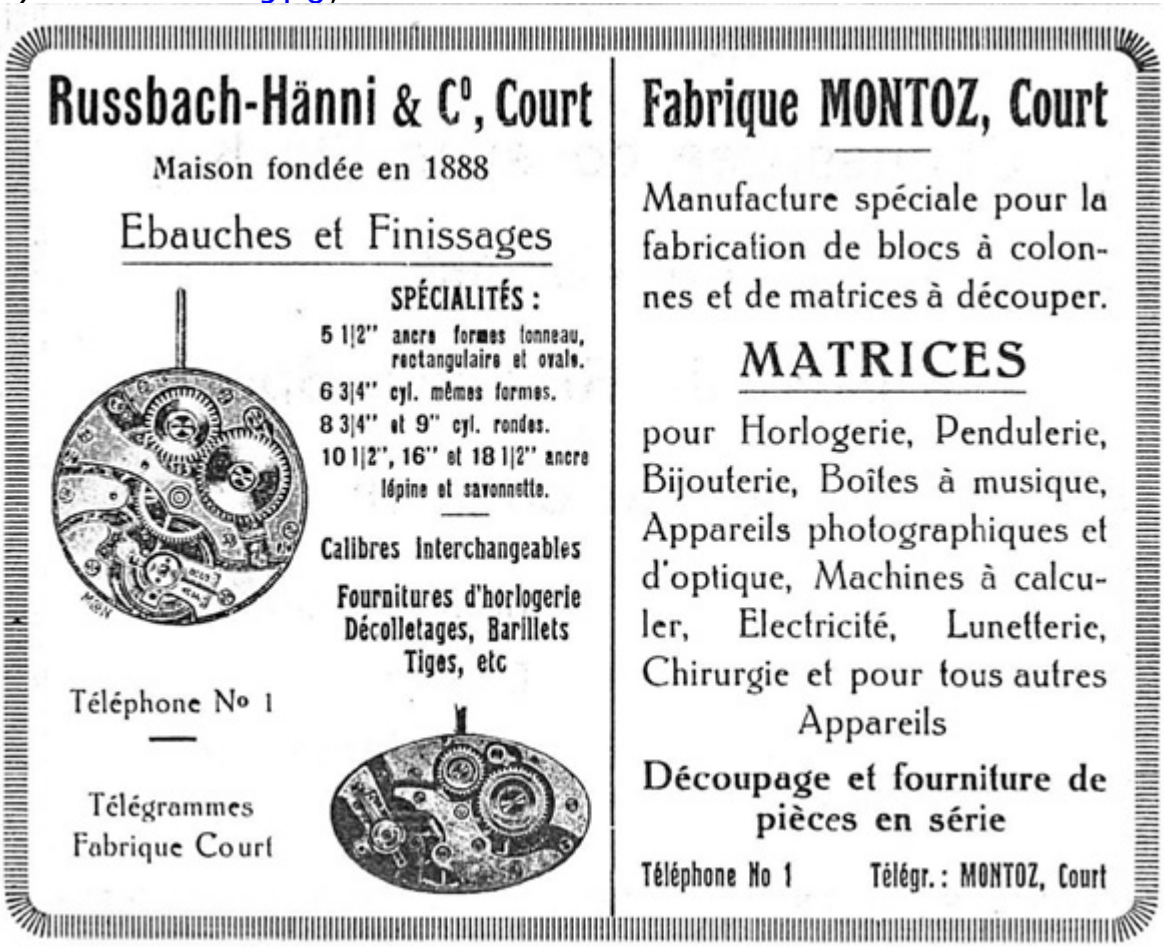
Barney

File Attachments

1) R10520.jpg, downloaded 3277 times



2) Russbach.jpg, downloaded 3209 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by JackW on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 15:10:41 GMT
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Barney Green wrote on Sun, 02 February 2020 12:28
You may now again start throwing stones on me...

As long as I'm the resident geologist here, I'll see none of this....

Bernd, the escape finger bridge is very distinctive. It is a match to what you've shown. I've seen this movement with other brands, but that bridge. I think I had previously postulated Font Roberts, but it wasn't based on much. This is far better.

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Ephemerald on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 18:30:41 GMT
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I must say to you both, Dan & Bernd, absolutely outstanding work.
Thank you both for sharing. I get very excited when fellow members share their finds and this is a really inspiring motivator to keep going on some threads Ive been discouraged by.
Dan, Bernd, Way. To. Go.

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by mikey on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 19:40:53 GMT
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Well done Barney & Case! I think everyone on this site is interested in both of your research findings!

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Sun, 02 Feb 2020 19:53:12 GMT
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Thanks, guys! Was just sharing my conjectures, but to see it in an ad & trademark, to put a name to it...THAT is something.

Goodness gracious, Barney—what a find!! I've been closely examining the movement in the ad, and agree it looks a perfect match. Every hole, screw, and bridge is lining up. I'd been looking for a match, have seen close resemblances, but like Jack have always found multiple differences.

The winding setting mechanism is particularly distinct. I had been thinking this started its life as a Felsa ebauche. Mechanism is similar, but this appears to be a unique adaptation. Had been looking at patents for setting mechanisms, as well as movements from period Record and other candidates. Never anything like what's on the 641, so came up dry.

Echoing all with a congrats & a HUGE thanks for sharing it with us. The family connections make my head spin :p

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Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Sun, 23 Aug 2020 03:48:52 GMT
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Here’s a curiosity. A 640/641 (stamped “640” as others) with different setting bits. Suggestive of a Felsa ebauche?

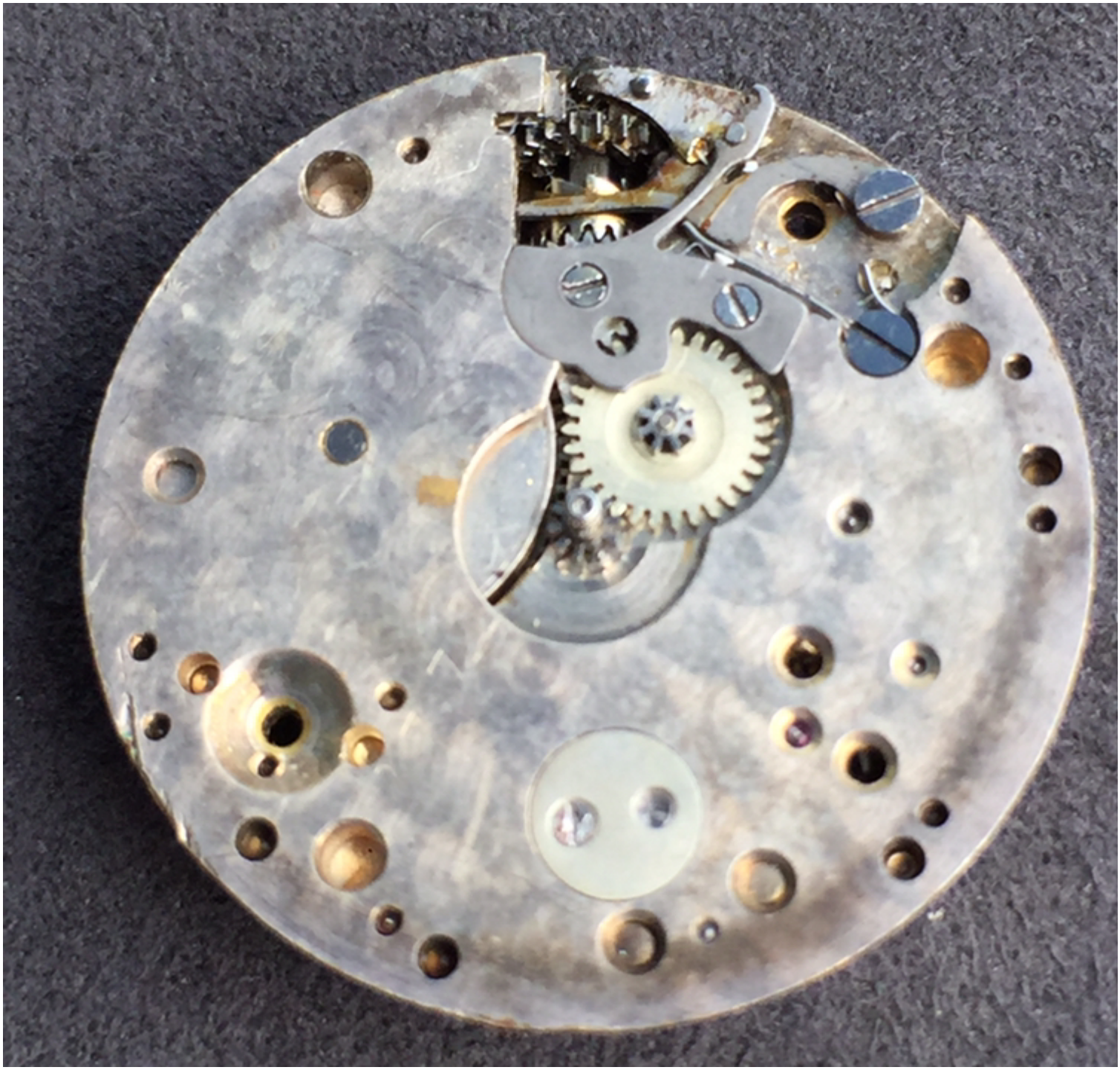
Anyway, finishing seems rougher, and the sn is 837. I thought it may be an an early run, pre-Factory R stamp.

File Attachments

1) BFDA1D04-413E-43B0-BA19-EBCDFC28A664.jpeg, downloaded 3159 times



2) 7F4C33C4-C86C-4D0D-84AE-3F48148F02A4.jpeg, downloaded 3119 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 24 Aug 2020 07:33:47 GMT
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The differing setting bit looks like a replacement to me, may be the spring was broken like from your second example and the replacement part looks different? Other than that the movement looks the same to me.

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Mon, 24 Aug 2020 13:34:24 GMT
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Could be. There are some differences like the silver vs gilt plate holding balance, but the biggest difference is the finish quality of the main plate, which I can't really show. Thought it worth capturing.

Btw, I think based on Felsa 71.

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Barney Green on Mon, 24 Aug 2020 15:06:25 GMT
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Felsa 71 has different locations for many components, I still believe in Factory R's own development.

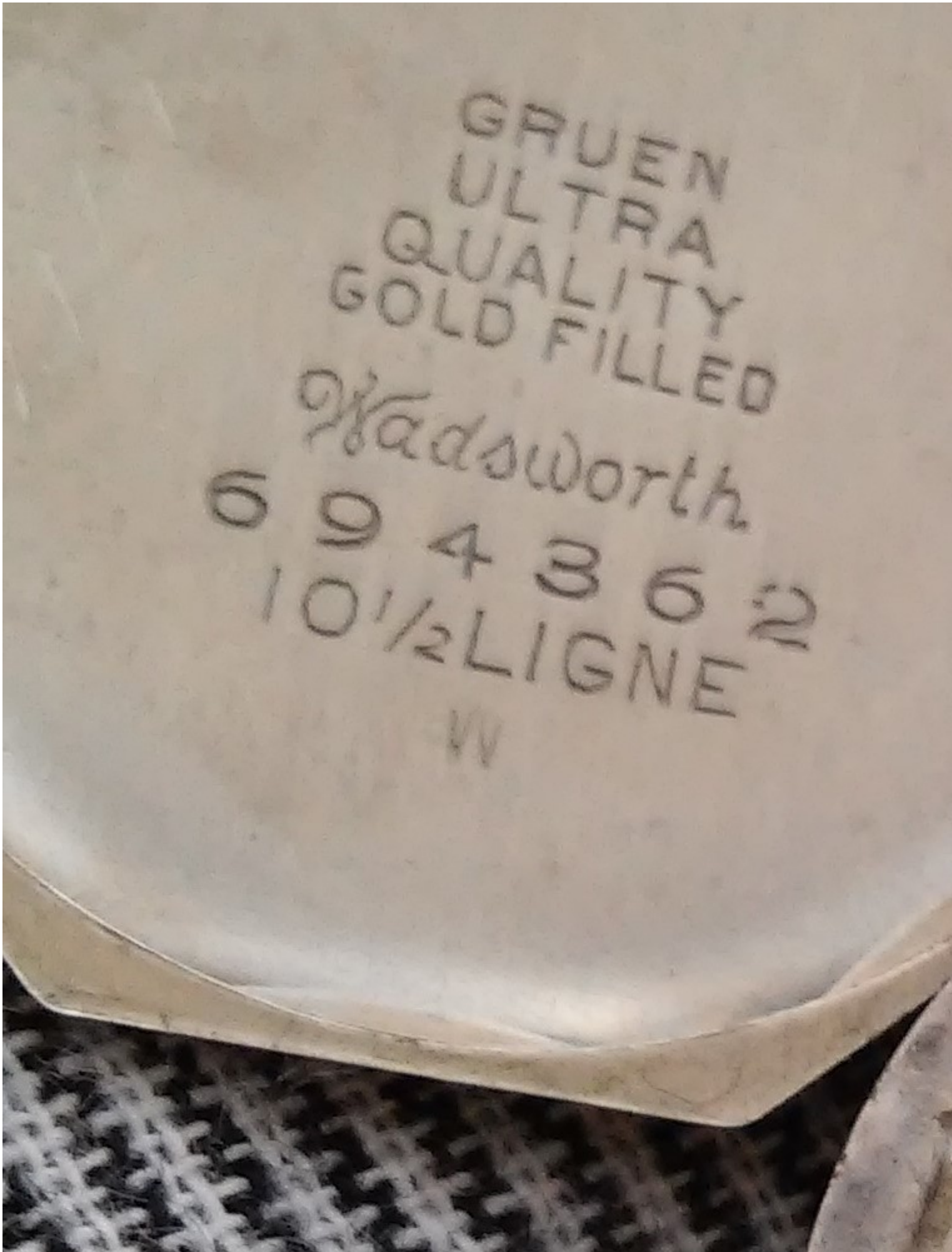
Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by timeliz on Tue, 25 Aug 2020 02:52:50 GMT
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This is an interesting topic. I'm going to throw my 640 into the mix.
Notable is that Record is listed in interchangeability list for these two different movements: 647 (c. pre 1910) & 650 (c. 1918).

Mine has no "R" stamp, yet has same setting bits as R stamped movement:

File Attachments

1) Gruen cal 640 dial side & case hallmarks (2).jpg, downloaded 3072 times


GRUEN
ULTRA
QUALITY
GOLD FILLED
Wadsworth
6 9 4 3 6 2
10 1/2 LIGNE
VV

2) Gruen cal 640 mov&dial back (2).jpg, downloaded 3047 times


SUISSE

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Jenneke on Tue, 25 Aug 2020 17:08:47 GMT
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And this is mine after a search under the bridge for a maker a few years ago. :lol:

And this is my mums factory R :d
http://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=msg&th=99&am p;goto=389&#msg_389

File Attachments

1) E068580A-8F7D-49AA-9549-A94FD028A3BB.jpeg, downloaded 3028 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Tue, 25 Aug 2020 17:52:39 GMT
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Cool! Never seen one in a case before!! And already here on forum, too.

Subject: Re: Caliber 641 (640) - Factory R Gruen Guild
Posted by Case on Fri, 11 Jun 2021 16:15:30 GMT
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Well, turns out that Record did use this movement. Here it is under their “ODA” brand.

File Attachments

1) 0B1545D7-F998-43A5-9FC5-E86B1B7EE2B4.jpeg, downloaded 2927 times

