Subject: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Case on Tue, 11 Feb 2020 04:31:00 GMT
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Caliber 650
Maker: edit: Record Dreadnought
Size: 17L
Jewels: 17 (#s only, pre-1922 tariff)
Adjustments: 4 at introduction, reduced to 3 by end of 1921
Dial release: side screws
Dial feet: 10 & 5

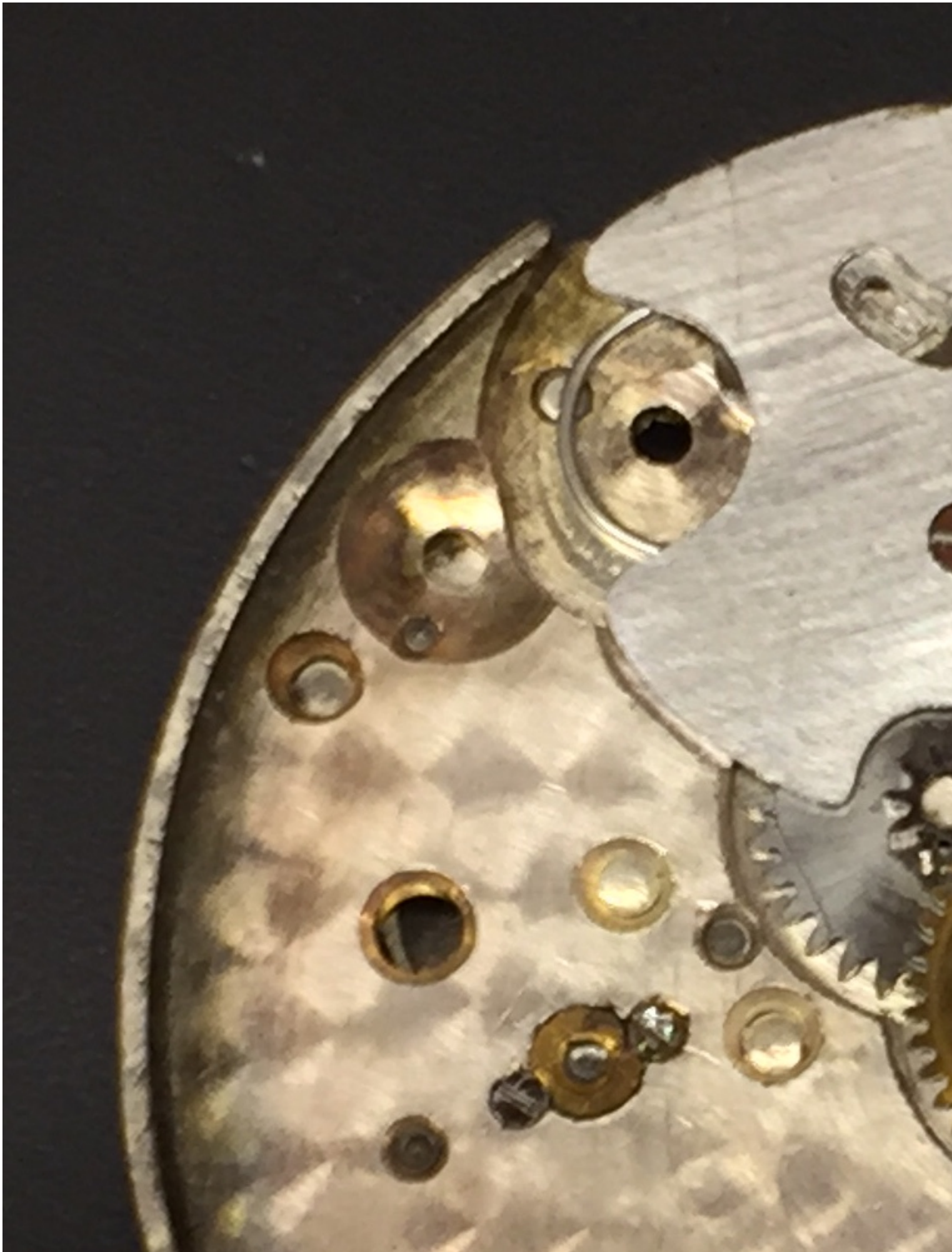
Some mentions of this caliber recently, so wanted to share 2 examples in hopes of learning more about it. This caliber appears to have been introduced at the end of 1920/beginning of 1921. When first introduced, it had 4 adjustments, and the serial number stamped on the bridges, in addition to identical sn on the front plate. The earliest Gruen version I've seen is sn 101874 that recently sold on the bay—this may have been a first run for Gruen. The earliest cased version I've seen is sn 103037 (still w/4 adj & bridge sn), in Gruen/Wadsworth-signed Ultra Qual case # 360419. That puts it at mid-1921, which along with the caliber # stamp on all examples I've seen is why i say it may have gone into use in 1921, with first production maybe at the end of 1920. The serial numbers accelerate quickly, seemingly far beyond Gruens usage, so likely it was the common maker's sn series, not exclusive to Gruen. Hoping others can share any similar examples.

Seemingly still in 1921, this movement was redesigned to 3 adjustments and no sn on the bridges, possibly only a few months after introduction.

Here's an early example, circa early 1921. Sn 102809, 4 adj. Silver dial stamped "650". There is an obscured mark between bridges next the "650" stamp that resembles the overlapped "HC" Russbach Hanni logo shown on mikrolisk, but TBD if there is any relationship.

File Attachments

1) A070233D-BF35-4A4D-BE64-18C66FA7F286.jpeg, downloaded 3088 times



2) 03A017C7-8A5C-4AC2-A290-BA83C60B5F8F.jpeg, downloaded 3006 times



3) AF392042-A7B0-4E13-810D-A0BF8E1EC68E.jpeg, downloaded 3090 times


ADJ

4) 3BCBC9A9-6B9E-4A73-9A82-6D96E2671561.jpeg, downloaded 3105 times



5) E9FA52F0-F07A-443E-88AF-EE98096DCDD3.jpeg, downloaded 3144 times



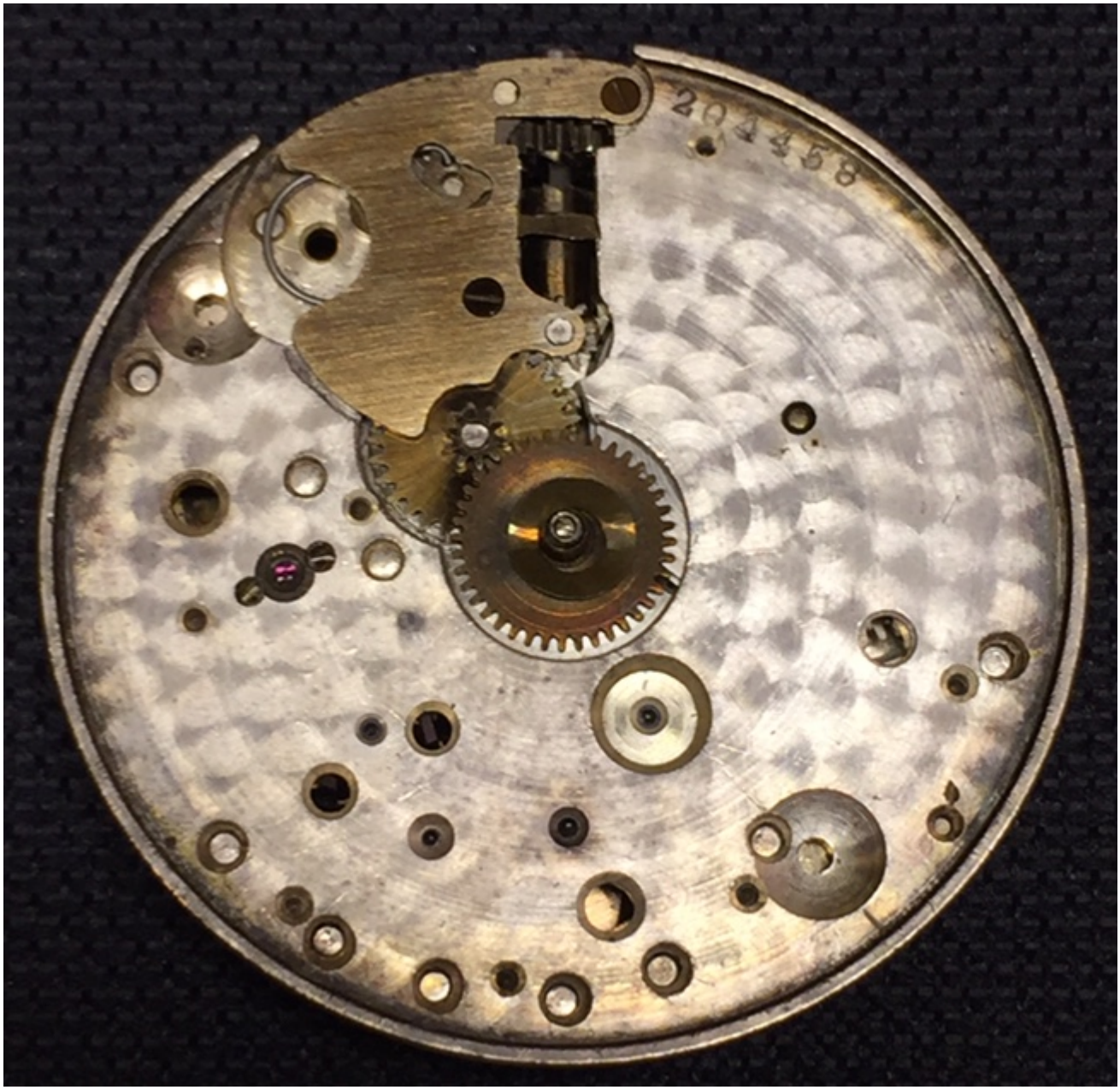
Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Case on Tue, 11 Feb 2020 04:53:47 GMT
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Here’s a later version, circa 1922. 3 adjustments, sn already up to 204458. Still pre-1922 tariff markings. Now a gold color dial. This is where Factory R comes into the light. (edit: this is a Record movement; TBD if the Singer dial is indicative of any Russbach relationship)

-Dial back stamped “Singer 107” and etched “650”, same stamps and writing style as Factory R-stamped 641s I shared
-Font & size for caliber stamp between bridges is same as 641
-SN font and size on front plate is identical to the early 641s (you’ll see they had to hold the stamp sideways on the 641 to fit 5 digits, leaving the “2” to the side then off completely)

File Attachments

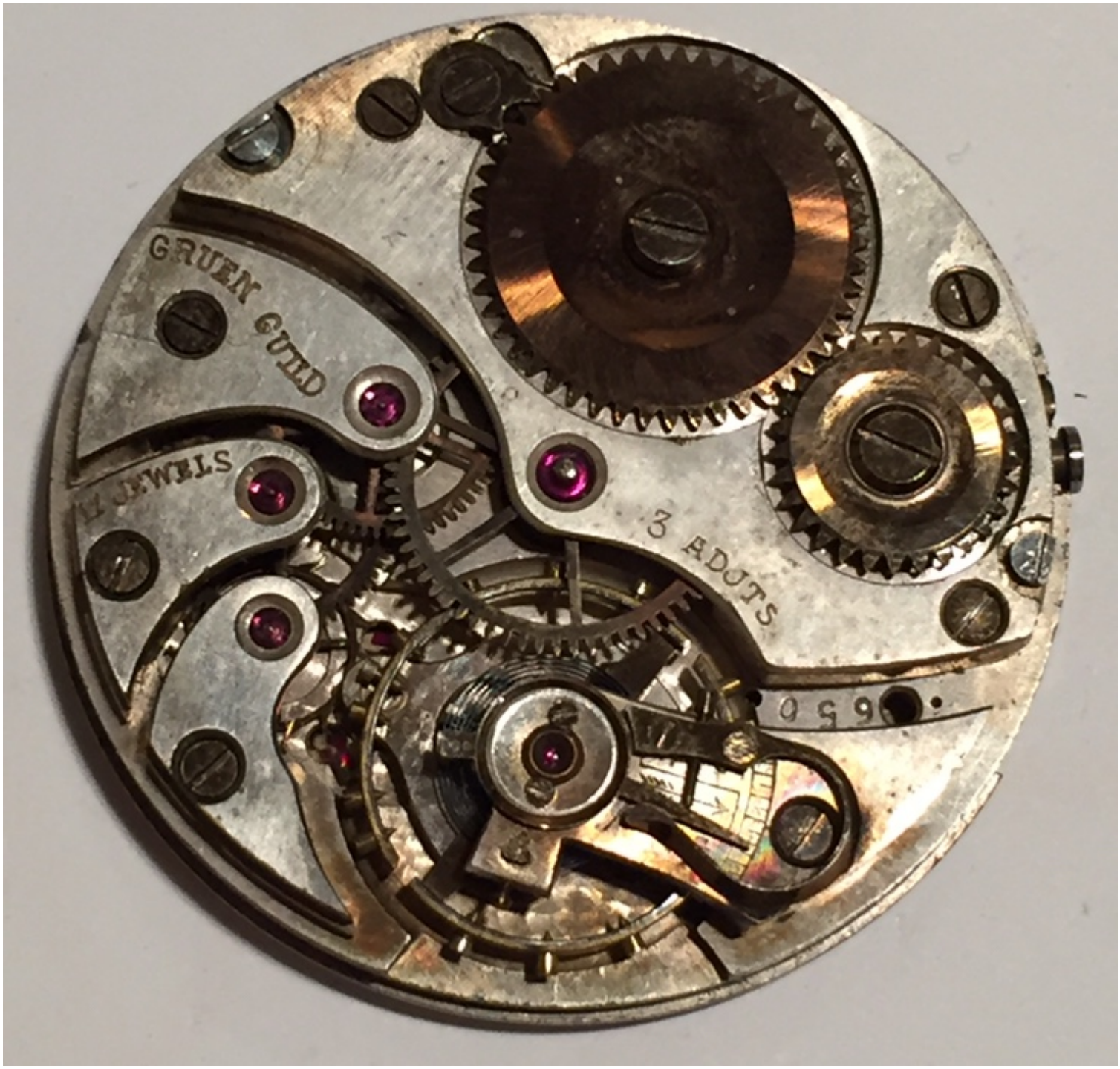
1) 6828119A-D4B4-4EB9-A979-39AC668009C0.jpeg, downloaded 2674 times



2) 7A98FE91-382D-4A0B-9E70-6464D8BA7B91.jpeg, downloaded 2638 times



3) 51390AC2-CF37-4477-B688-9240D41E6FB5.jpeg, downloaded 2675 times



4) F1BC035B-A71F-4E4E-88C9-10ACF8783E8F.jpeg, downloaded 2611 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 11 Feb 2020 20:49:03 GMT
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I am not convinced that caliber 650 was made by Russbach Hänni & Cie.

I am of the opinion that caliber 650 was made by another company starting with R, this is correct, but it has not been Russbach but the Record Dreadnought Watch Co in Tramelan. Caliber 650 matches perfectly their design which has been protected in May 1920 as No. 14. Should have become known as Recod caliber 51 later.

Here is the design protection notice:

And turned 180° as a side by side view with your movement:

No relation between Russbach and Record is known and I have never heard of a caliber 650 marked "Factory R".

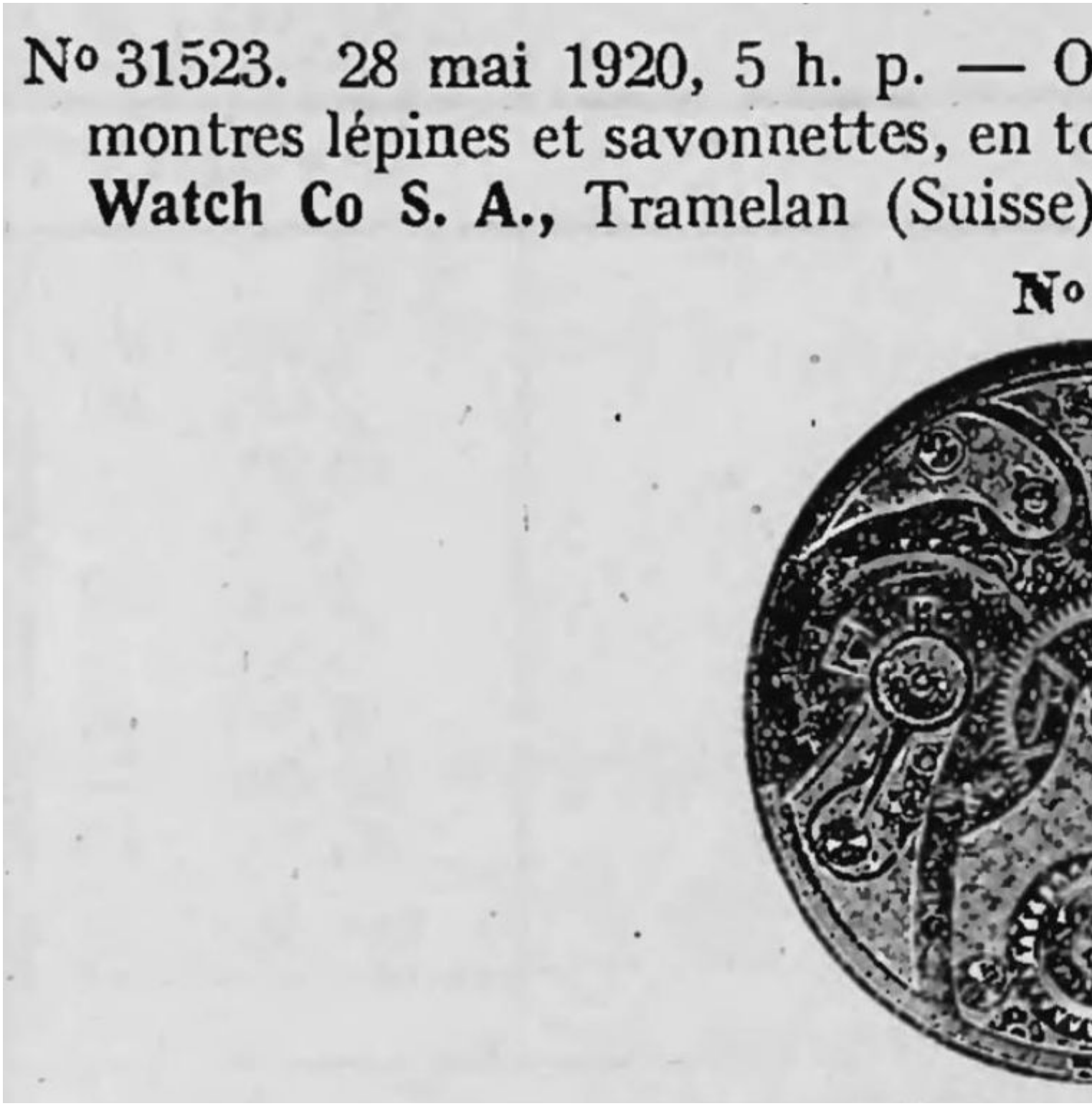
Barney

File Attachments

1) Side by Side Recod 14 Gruen 650.jpg, downloaded 2596 times



2) Record 14.jpg, downloaded 2622 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Case on Tue, 02 Jun 2020 13:28:41 GMT
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Been busy, Barney, as of course you are correct and wanted to correct the OP.

I'd not been able to find a Record example to match--but since this post there've been a plethora on auction, both of the early and later variants I posted above. SN sequence is a match to Record's own (at least on this line), and the fonts/stamps all match with those on the Gruen 650.

Currently, item #s 232925633145 & 192886523378 are examples of the early version--note the matching text locations, fonts and SN sequence.

I cannot immediately locate an example of the later version (3 ADJ), but I have seen at least 1 exact match in the past few months.

Regarding the Record caliber #, I cannot confirm that it is the 51. The 51 shares parts, I understand, but it is specifically a 17.5L caliber with a different bridge design, while we know Record produced the exact size & layout as the 650. The 650 may be an exact match to a different Record caliber (perhaps 48, 49, or 50).

Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by afire on Tue, 02 Jun 2020 16:46:15 GMT
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Case wrote on Tue, 02 June 2020 08:28The 650 may be an exact match to a different Record caliber (perhaps 48, 49, or 50).

I'm perhaps noticing a numerical pattern. Gruen's 647 was also a Record caliber, the 022k.

Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 02 Jun 2020 17:55:19 GMT
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Yes, there have been number clusters given to certain suppliers...

Subject: Re: Caliber 650 (Guild)
Posted by Case on Tue, 02 Jun 2020 18:14:07 GMT
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Methinks you're right, afire. Seems we've seen grouping of assigned numbers earlier (Favre, Frey, FHF, Aegler) and later (like 675-678 all Peseux variants). Would love to know if any have theories on how these were assigned, or even if there is a pattern of number of calibers in a "block" for each manufacturer.

edit: there's also the question of ebauche maker vs. supplier to Gruen. The Gruen caliber 673

matches FHF caliber 59--but Record was also working with these ebauches. Possibly their caliber 70? (see auction item 153957721244) It's a decade later than the 650, but just illustrating the point.