Subject: Gruen Barclay
Posted by brtime on Thu, 20 Jun 2013 17:48:45 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Been absent for a while persuing other watches. I don't believe we have a "Barclay" on the record yet, so here's one I acquired back in 2010 and am getting ready for sale on my website. Bruce

Model name : Barclay
Type : Precision/Veri Thin
Period/date : 1950
Gender : men's

Case Maker : Jonell Watch Case Company
Case Material : 10kt yellow gold filled front and back
Case Serial : M43722
Case Style no : 723

Caliber :
Movement Maker : Gruen (at the Norwood Ohio facility, presumably, since this is not marked SWITZERLAND on the dial)
Movement Serial: unable to locate

Bracelet : leather band.

Other info : The following are my observtions/opinions only, and are not meant as gospel. The Barclay, which many dealers and collectors refer to as the "Spider," came out in the early 1950s (this one is circa 1950). It was an unsual watch, somewhat effeminate because of the delicate wire "cage" surrounding an otherwise round case. I love the engraving on this model. I'm guessing that "Sam" was an unusual guy in some way, hence the gift of Y.P Ceebs of an unsusual watch to an unusual guy! (The engraving states: "Sam. Just because you're you Y.P. Ceebs") The use of a tonneau-shaped movement inside a round case is also very intriguing, but one should remember that Gruen by this time was in financial straits and was probably using up stocks of existing movements in inventory any way they could. Today, the "Barclay" is one of Gruen's iconic watches, instantly recognizable by its distinictive shape. I think the copper color dial on this one is also unusual. Most of the other ones I have seen are either white or Butler (silvered) finish. This one is finished with a 16mm reddish-brown leather band.

File Attachments

1) gruen5400.jpg, downloaded 3835 times



2) gruen5400insideback.jpg, downloaded 3711 times



3) gruen5400movt.jpg, downloaded 3738 times



4) gruen5400back.jpg, downloaded 3663 times



5) gruen5400side.jpg, downloaded 3769 times



Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by Bazzab on Thu, 20 Jun 2013 19:52:41 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Nice watch. I have also seen it with a Black dial
B

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by Gary on Thu, 20 Jun 2013 22:41:42 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Yes Bruce. The 335 movement has no Swiss markings so that makes it a full blooded American. Good luck with the sale!

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by JackW on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 01:53:53 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Bruce,

Beautiful watch! The case maker associated with that trade mark isn't "Jeanneret" but was ID'd sometime ago by Cary as the "Jonell Watch Case Company" of NYC.

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by brtime on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 02:10:10 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Thanks. I made the change to correct the case manufacturer.

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by C. Hurt on Sat, 29 Jun 2013 03:49:55 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

But have you ever seen the ladies version?

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by JackW on Sat, 29 Jun 2013 03:58:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

C. Hurt wrote on Sat, 29 June 2013 03:49But have you ever seen the ladies version?

That is pretty cool! Did not know that there was a lady's edition.

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by Jenneke on Sat, 29 Jun 2013 09:04:28 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Nice looking pair!

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by timeliz on Sat, 29 Jun 2013 16:42:21 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

I've tried to snag the ladies a couple of times to no avail. Nice pair Cary!

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by C. Hurt on Sat, 29 Jun 2013 17:58:23 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Just for fun, here is an unknown (to me) 14K model with 17 diamond dial. I've had two of these over the years, and seen only one other.

Same dimensions as the Barclay, and the case is by Jonell as well.

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by timeliz on Sun, 30 Jun 2013 00:27:03 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Cary,

This model is pictured in Ehrhardts MB, page 82, bottom right corner. Listed as Strap 765 with a caliber 3351 (I think that means 21 jewels?) in 14k yg. I haven't checked the ladies models for it yet.

I like this one too!

Subject: Re: Gruen Barclay
Posted by C. Hurt on Sun, 30 Jun 2013 01:16:37 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

timeliz wrote on Sat, 29 June 2013 19:27Cary,

This model is pictured in Ehrhardts MB, page 82, bottom right corner. Listed as Strap 765 with a caliber 3351 (I think that means 21 jewels?) in 14k yg. I haven't checked the ladies models for it yet.

I like this one too!

Thanks Liz,

I had seen it in the Erhardt book, and conveniently forgotten that. I have never seen an ad for it, and don't know a model name, if it ever had one. Some of the 335 models were known as numbers in a series. It is 21 jewels, (there was a Swiss 17 jewel version of the 335, as well as a 23 jewel version produced in the US) and has the USA produced 335.

This one is a lot of fun to wear, and it does get noticed.

Regards,

Cary
