
Subject: Caliber 615

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 15 Jan 2021 03:16:18 GMT

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Here's one I forgot I had—can't locate movement but stumbled up on old pics. I could never ID until Gary's post on the Cattin/mystery 8L thread.

Size: 7 3/4 ligne

Jewels: 16 (#s only)

Adjustments: 4 (#s only)

Configuration: hunter

Signed: Gruen W. Co. Suisse

Supplier: unknown (possibly Aegler by the markings)

Example date: ~1913-1915

Serial number(s): has two:

-bridges: 12?223 (perhaps 122223)

-front plate: 2223

Dial markings: unknown (didn't capture)

File Attachments

1) [48B6F547-4300-4A6E-95F8-DCCC9A367699.jpeg](#), downloaded 1414 times



2) [B0F39EC2-C7F2-4229-9F64-468518F0C427.jpeg](#), downloaded 1404 times



3) [2F0C0FDA-B830-42DF-AC91-364DC3CBB8EB.jpeg](#), downloaded 1321 times



Subject: Re: Caliber 615
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 15 Jan 2021 20:47:44 GMT
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Adding a few details about this caliber's origin. I think it involves two Biel companies: Aegler & Concord.

The movement is based on a flagship movement for Concord Watch Company (mikrolisk points to

Eugene Ducommun-Roulet, then Theodore Schaedeli). But it has unique features, including the bridges. As you will see, it is almost impossible to say who made vs. who finished this caliber, but I am pretty sure it started with Concord and finished at Aegler. This is the first Concord Watch Co base I know of in the Gruen arsenal. Perhaps that is why it is not an 8XX series like other Aeglers--it could also be an Aegler 615, or it could have come first, before caliber #s were shared.

Both makers seem to have been in this serial number range near 1913, when the regulatory marks changed to allow #s only for jewels & adjustments. It is certain that Rolex was sourcing Concord movements for its pocket & wrist watches in lesser sub-brands, but they were also using bespoke variants (presumably finished by Aegler) for the Rolex brand itself.

Here's a link to the base Concord caliber. A later serial number (186k, ca1915-1918), but you can see front plate & slightly different setting bits.

There are 4 features of the 615 I used to conclude Aegler supplied to Gruen:

- the Click - Concord didn't use; Rolex did (example)
- the Serial number - Aegler used a last 4 on front plate; Concord had full serial numbers (see above base caliber link)
- the Bridges - no exact match observed yet; multiple variants in Rolex, Concord always the same
- the Stud carrier - this screw carrier is characteristic on all Concorde of this time; Aegler did not use this on Rebergs movements, but here is a Rolex cased in 1919 with the Concord base, custom finger bridges, the screw carrier--and the hallmark Concord click.

Not totally conclusive, but wanted to share.

Subject: Re: Caliber 615
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 04 Feb 2021 14:08:06 GMT
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Well, surprise surprise I was wrong on Concord. Theirs is a stock Glycine 80.

Here's our 615 as used by Phillip Wolf at Vertex:
<https://www.ebay.com/itm/291847859683>

Subject: Re: Caliber 615
Posted by [Gary](#) on Thu, 04 Feb 2021 16:35:58 GMT
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Dan that is quite a tangled web. So if I get it both Vertex and Glycine were the ebauche and Aegler was the finisher?

Rolex = Glycine + Aegler
Gruen = Vertex + Aegler

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 04 Feb 2021 20:06:03 GMT

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Tangled is right, Gary—but it's my mind, piecing it together after 100 years. The chain sometimes involves a few steps, though, and all of these are variants of an FHF ebauche.

Aegler was finishing similar calibers in different sizes (see the Rolex cal 59). The second link above (small Rolex) is basically a stock Glycine 80. Too bad we can't see the setting bits!

Look at dial side of Dr. Ranfft's Glycine 80: you'll see this 615 has different milling for the bits--Glycine won't fit.

I was just shocked to see this unique bridge layout show up in Vertex. TBD.

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Thu, 04 Feb 2021 21:04:36 GMT

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Dan,

I am sorry, but in my personal opinion the caliber Gruen caliber 615 and the Concord movement you linked do not share more than the size. I can't see a match in any aspect, I think that is what you later meant by it being a Glycine 80 caliber.

The Vertex movement may be a later generation of the same ebauche used for Gruen 615 though. There are many similarities, too bad that we cannot see the dial side.

But for none of the movements I can see a relation to Aegler.

BTW, the ebauche of cal. 615 has some features which make me think of Lavina as source, but I may be wrong here.

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 05 Feb 2021 05:17:14 GMT

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Yes, Concord was irrelevant. As for the rest, perhaps we will learn more in the future.

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 05 Feb 2021 13:25:49 GMT

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I can exclude Lavina as source because they did not go below 13 ligne with their production portfolio at that time. 1917 they extended their product line to 9 ligne, 8 3/4 ligne in 1932. So it is impossible that they made this 7 3/4 ligne movement.

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Case](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2021 02:43:30 GMT

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Heading back to share two things:

First, I've been watching the Ph Wolf brands. I can say the front plate markings on my 615 (serial # in a rounded inset) do seem to fit with Aureole/Vertex as a source. Here is an Aureole match to another Gruen caliber (the 843). Can't say if it's a match to the 843 jewel mounts, as I've never seen one live, let alone the dial side. But the serial number format is a match for this 615: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/Aureole-17J-3-Adj-Watch-Movement-Repairs-Parts-1249-/255088944974>

Second, there actually IS one Gruen caliber family that has the Glycine click. It's the 137 138 139 & 1397. Just found one in Barney's old post.

<https://vintagegruen.org/vgforum/index.php?t=rview&th=922&rid=693>

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2021 07:01:44 GMT

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Hi Dan,

ups, sorry, I thought I shared this one already but looks like I did not. In March I finally ID'd Cal. 615 to be from Fabrique Aureole. Here it is:

This is a snip from a November 1921 ad which also shows the Carouche movement you referenced from ebay:

Barney

File Attachments

1) [Aureole Nov 1921.jpg](#), downloaded 1020 times



5 1/2, hauteur 3 m/m

Demandez notre
Catalogue illustré N° 150



7 3/4, haut. 3 m/m

FABRIQUE AURÉOLE S.A.

PAIX 133

LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

PAIX 133

Mouvements et Montres

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et prix très avantageux.



10010



rectangle 6 3/4

2) [Cal 615 Aureole.jpg](#), downloaded 1012 times



7 3/4, haut. 3 m/m

Subject: Re: Caliber 615

Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2021 08:37:36 GMT

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Nice jobs you two!