Subject: Cartouche 260 - diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 18:17:24 GMT
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Model name: cartouche 260
Type: cartouche
Period/date: 1927/1928
Gender: ladies

Case Maker: gruen
Case Material: 14k white gold
Case Serial: 1146665
Case Style no: 66

Caliber: 107 (precision 17 jewels)
Movement Maker: gruen
Movement Serial: 618155

Bracelet: tbd

Other info: 6 diamonds and inlaid black enamel

File Attachments

1) 340D75A3-7A5D-42C6-A94D-14AB2C549553.jpeg, downloaded 3644 times


GRUEN
PRE SION

2) A741B296-7850-420B-B9BB-B4320A646AA4.jpeg, downloaded 3688 times



3) 510B4E18-EA08-47BE-B775-48B5DE9B0D39.jpeg, downloaded 3626 times



4) E45D6330-F2E2-4D97-A5F9-5CC5ABBF89BC.jpeg, downloaded 3605 times



Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 18:20:43 GMT
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Maybe one of the Mode du bijou models but cant find a match.

Haven’t cleaned it yet. It has enamel on the lug ends. Question is, was it on the other sides also inlaid. Any thoughts?

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Barney Green on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 18:57:48 GMT
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Hi Jennecke,

very niche score! I think this is a Carouche 260, isn't it?

Barney

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 21:10:21 GMT
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Overlooked this one but would say, a match! My case only 8 numbers lower. Same batch?

The picture of this watch is in my book very blurry and dark. Cant see where the enamel is. Anyone with a better picture?

And a score it was. Bought it without seeing the guts but recognised the back engraving as a 14k suspect. Was expecting a cal 155 but happy with a new caliber in my collection.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by afire on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 21:15:30 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Wed, 15 September 2021 13:20It has enamel on the lug ends. Question is, was it on the other sides also inlaid. Any thoughts?
I suspect the answer is "not exactly." There were several men's watches that had hard vitreous inlaid enamel champlevé on the lug ends, but not on the side "rails". Here are a couple I've owned.

Quadron 10 - the ends are real enamel, the sides are black paint added by me (also, so as to avoid any undue confusion, the movement/dial were temporarily borrowed from Quadron 7 [see below] while original was being worked on).

Tank 13 - I left this one plain. The engravings are too small and fine for flooding with black paint, and maybe it was never there.

However, my guess would be that your watch probably came from the factory with some sort of matte black painted shading in the side engravings. That's how my Quadron 7 is, and it was basically in NOS condition when I got it, so I don't have any doubt that this is the original treatment.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Ephemerald on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 21:52:27 GMT
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Gruen called that "antique finish", the not enamel type that's on yr quad 7.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 15 Sep 2021 22:00:36 GMT
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The last one is “antique finished engraving” in Gruen terminology. It does help to let the

Edit: Matthew beat me while i was searching and answering. Double answer it is.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by afire on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 16:08:35 GMT
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Right. What I'm getting at is that my guess is that many of these watches with true enamel on the lug and and engravings along the side rails of the bezel, likely had those engravings shaded with matte black, as in the "antique finished engraving".

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Case on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 17:40:23 GMT
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That's a stunner, even as is. It's also first I've seen stamped with a 107/66 pair. Every other 66 I've seen is 155/66, most holding a caliber 107. But this one's case shape (for the top) is also different from the usual 66 rectangle.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Thu, 16 Sep 2021 20:11:01 GMT
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afire wrote on Thu, 16 September 2021 18:08my guess is that many of these watches with true enamel on the lug and and engravings along the side rails of the bezel, likely had those engravings shaded with matte black
I think that is likely too. Without it the sides are a bit blunt. What kind of paint did you use?

My cartouche 255 has 107 marked inside the case, but contains a cal 155.

And I have a tonneau shaped case with a cal 106 inside. With enamel on the sides… Will put in on the list to make some pictures for the caliber database. They are sister movements with clear differences.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by afire on Fri, 17 Sep 2021 16:25:41 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Thu, 16 September 2021 15:11What kind of paint did you use?
Just Testors flat black. My technique is to sloppily paint over it, wait for it to get tacky, then scrape off the excess. There are probably better techniques and materials that would make it look a little more organic, but it's not something I've put a lot of effort into.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Ephemerald on Wed, 22 Sep 2021 19:15:34 GMT
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afire wrote on Wed, 15 September 2021 15:15

Tank 13 - I left this one plain. The engravings are too small and fine for flooding with black paint, and maybe it was never there.

It was there. Not black paint but the finish. The 1927 Stock Record Book shows a clear image of Tank 13 showing finish on the sides with the text "Engraved enameled and antique finished".
I think it looks fine as is. I have a Strap 88, one with the original antique finish and one where someone removed it. Looks like completely different models. I left it as is.
There are several YouTube vids showing how to do chemical oxidations and antique finishes on precious metals.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by afire on Wed, 22 Sep 2021 20:13:13 GMT
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[quote title=Ephemerald wrote on Wed, 22 September 2021 14:15]afire wrote on Wed, 15 September 2021 15:15There are several YouTube vids showing how to do chemical oxidations and antique finishes on precious metals.
Ooh, that sounds interesting. I'll have to look for one next time I'm doing that sort of thing. If you have one to recommend, I'll take it.

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 27 Oct 2021 15:51:13 GMT
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And here she is with the antique finished engraving on the sides. Little black acrylic paint did the job.

Also added a period correct filigree strap that has definitely lived her life. :)

File Attachments
1) D2A339C8-72E4-4316-9353-318FEDCF5E42.jpeg, downloaded 3011 times


GRUEN

2) 0065574E-2729-4FB0-A871-5F1AC37BAB3A.jpeg, downloaded 3042 times



Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Gary on Wed, 27 Oct 2021 15:59:32 GMT
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Very nice! :flash:

Subject: Re: Cartouche diamonds with enamel
Posted by Case on Thu, 28 Oct 2021 13:29:55 GMT
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Well done, Jenneke!