Subject: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Case on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 17:59:08 GMT
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Model name: Gruen Superior Verithin
Type: Pocket Watch
Period/date: 1900-1910, perhaps 1906-1907
Gender: Men's

Case Maker: Wadsworth
Case Material: 25 yr Gold Filled Amer. Made
Case Serial: 308892
Case Style no: n/a

Caliber: LV2, 16j, with swan neck regulator
Movement Maker: Gruen (unsigned)
Movement Serial: 330600 ?

Other info: I am not usually a pocket watch guy, but the Superior Verithin movement is an odd bird. Looking back, I've seen exactly 6. None captured on the forum so far (I think), and only a few oblique references. I'm hoping folks may have seen more & have more info. Only seller pics for now (with permission).

File Attachments

1) IMG_1472.jpg, downloaded 4077 times



2) IMG_1468.jpg, downloaded 4069 times



3) IMG_1469.jpg, downloaded 4031 times



4) IMG_1470.jpg, downloaded 3970 times



5) IMG_1471.jpg, downloaded 4185 times


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Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Ephemerald on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 18:20:52 GMT
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Even though I bid on this one there's something I'm noticing now that I didn't before. The dial. Is that a "ATCH" for "WATCH"? I'm not normally a pocket watch guy either & making this comment without any cross referencing, so could be way wrong but...but seems to me that's a rare thing for a dial...What are your thoughts Case?

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Barney Green on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 18:23:12 GMT
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Yes, I noticed the same thing. I expect that there was even a "SUPERIOR WATCH" written on the dial.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Ephemerald on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 18:37:17 GMT
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I was thinking "GRUEN WATCH" but your theory makes more sense and would properly fit the space on dial.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Case on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 18:54:57 GMT
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Here's another look, with a filter. Perhaps Verithin Watch? I'm particularly interested in what's in the banner below.

File Attachments
1) Capturert.jpg, downloaded 3497 times



Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by thesnark17 on Tue, 19 Jul 2022 19:56:30 GMT
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It's 'Verithin Watch'. I can make out V.RI..IN from a different photo. There was text below, but I could not make it out. I suspect a jeweler's name, myself, but there's space for Superior or Gruen.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by afire on Wed, 20 Jul 2022 16:38:45 GMT
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I don't recall ever noticing the word "watch" engraved on a movement either. Department of redundancy department. I could have told you I wasn't looking at a Superior Verithin shoe.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by thesnark17 on Wed, 20 Jul 2022 18:16:38 GMT
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Ah, yes, the LV2 "Superior Verithin Watch" movements... Not all LV2s are superior, though most are; the cutoff for the marking is 332,500. After that, they are merely Verithin.

LV1s can also be marked "Verithin Watch", and usually are between 328k and 338k.

Some late LV2s carry an even more redundant mark: Gruen Watch Co. Verithin Verithin. It's a result of adding the normal V4 Verithin stamp to a movement that already has Verithin in script.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)

Posted by Case on Thu, 21 Jul 2022 02:36:28 GMT
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The watch arrived today. Hope to get better pics soon. “Verithin Watch” is the top dial banner; alas, the bottom banner is totally illegible. Perhaps the forensic lighting kit will need to come out!

One oddity you’ll notice in the pics above: the 3 etched Roman numerals on the cuvette do not match the last 3 of the box or caseback (which match each other). A first for me. And yet the hinge is pristine, with perfect matching hue to all the case exterior. Head scratcher! What gives?

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Jenneke on Thu, 21 Jul 2022 20:14:09 GMT
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Factory error or some issue when assembling it together?

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Ephemerald on Tue, 02 Aug 2022 22:16:54 GMT
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Hey, I really really don't wanna distract from the main subject here of "SUPERIOR" but I came across a rare dial that has 'PRECISON WATCH' on it, thought it was interesting. lmk if u want to see movement & thanks for letting me go on this tangent. :)

File Attachments
1) 20220802_160710.jpg, downloaded 3254 times


D. GRUEN & SONS
PRECISION WATCH

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by thesnark17 on Tue, 02 Aug 2022 23:47:04 GMT
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Definitely interested in seeing it! I believe it will be a Fortschritt movement, based in the dial signature.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Ephemerald on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 00:41:49 GMT
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Haha! Can't pull the wool over your eyes. It is.

Been awhile since I reminded myself of the "Progress" movement, worth sharing again, very special movements. And yes! I was surprised to be reminded of all the "WATCH" font you see on the dials.

https://www.glashuetteuhren.de/die-uhrenfabriken/j-assmann-g
lashuette-i-sa-deutsche-anker-uhren-fabrik-1/gruenschen-uhre nfabrikation-gruen-und-assmann/

And some interesting tidbits here for those that haven't read.

https://www.thenakedwatchmaker.com/blog/2020/8/13/a-gruen-am
p-sons-precision-pocket-watch-movement

File Attachments

1) 20220802_181823.jpg, downloaded 3232 times


GRUEN 37 15 JEWELS
SAFETY ZIMON

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Case on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 15:52:32 GMT
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Tangents always most welcome! Esp of the Assman varietal

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by thesnark17 on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 17:44:59 GMT
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One day, I will own one of those. I really admire Progress, even if sometimes it doesn't seem to go anywhere.

Gruen used the escapement design on the V1/2/3 Verithin, so it didn't completely dead-end. But I have never seen it anywhere else. I have wondered why, since it does seem to have advantages.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Case on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 18:06:14 GMT
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“The only perfect escapement” 8)

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Ephemerald on Wed, 03 Aug 2022 20:23:58 GMT
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So steering this back on track.....at about what serial does the 'Verithin' font change? I'm looking at this Verithin sn 340691, non Superior, but the placement and script are a big change.

File Attachments
1) 20220802_214808.jpg, downloaded 3297 times


GRUEN WATCH CO
SIXTEEN JEWELS

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by thesnark17 on Thu, 04 Aug 2022 02:31:20 GMT
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It never changes. Some late movements have partial or complete markings of the V4, but they all have the old marking as well. My suspicion is that some of the later movements were re-marked.

Subject: Re: Gruen Superior Verithin (LV)
Posted by Case on Fri, 05 Aug 2022 04:49:08 GMT
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Yes, the “Superior Verithin” logo markings on the movement were completely different than regular LV2 Verithins in styling & location/orientation, but they ran concurrently. Even the balance cock markings are different. Makes it nigh impossible to rebuild one.

I think all data supports what Alex was saying: these ones with 340k sn look to have been partial movements finished later... near the end, for the LV. Perhaps earmarked for a Superior run that never happened, they are not Superior Verithins IMO. They have swan neck regulators (curious about the different balance cock engraving), but they all have the regular Verithin bridge marks and are only adjusted to 4 positions. That’s an oddly low number for a Gruen watch with such a regulator.

Are these transitional ones the only LVs actually signed “Gruen” on the movement?

Btw, update on my watch. Different lighting seems to show the bottom banner on my dial may have said “Superior”. So “Verithin Watch” “Superior”. Basically, a non-stylized version of what’s seen on the ceramic dial ones...

This Superior Verithin logo looks to me like the genesis of the Gruen Precision and standard Verithin logo used shortly after. What are thoughts on the evolution?

File Attachments
1) F55389CA-5F48-44CD-8D3A-64285DFE931B.jpeg, downloaded 3278 times


SUPERIOR
Verithin
WATCH