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Subject: Gruen SemiThin

Posted by [shawntaylor](#) on Sun, 29 Dec 2013 22:21:23 GMT

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Model name :SemiThin

Type :

Period/date :1920

Gender :Gents

Case Maker :

Case Material :

Case Serial :

Case Style no :

Caliber :740

Movement Maker :Lavina

Movement Serial:

Bracelet :

Other info :

I am trying to figure out some information on this pocket watch. It was my dad's and I thought it was unique with the Masonic Symbol. I know that it is a DG&S Pocket Watch but I cannot find any with the symbol on it. If anyone has any information please let me know.

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#### File Attachments

1) [DSCF96877.jpg](#) , downloaded 2115 times

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2) [DSCF968999.jpg](#), downloaded 2079 times



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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [mikey](#) on Mon, 30 Dec 2013 13:49:08 GMT

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hi Shawn. Can u provide a photo of the movement and the inside of the case back?

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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [JackW](#) on Tue, 31 Dec 2013 02:58:32 GMT

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Hi,

With the Mason's symbol it is certainly two things - 1) it has been personalized and thus is an exceptional item 2) the mason symbol was likely done after it left the factory. There have been some discussions in the past about the connections between the Gruen Family and free-masonry. Though to what degree their involvement in FM contributed to their business practices can only be speculated over.

As Mikey said, when you get a chance, pictures of the movement and the inside of the case back will help to some degree in a) getting an approximate age b) telling you more about the "history" of the pocket watch (potentially the movement maker) and c) satisfy our own curiosity on the movement.

It is a nice piece and the connection to family I hope makes it sentimental. My first PW I bought was sold because the seller had forgotten to whom the watch belong in their family and thus wasn't interested in keeping it.

Happy New Year!

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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [shawntaylor](#) on Tue, 31 Dec 2013 18:47:13 GMT

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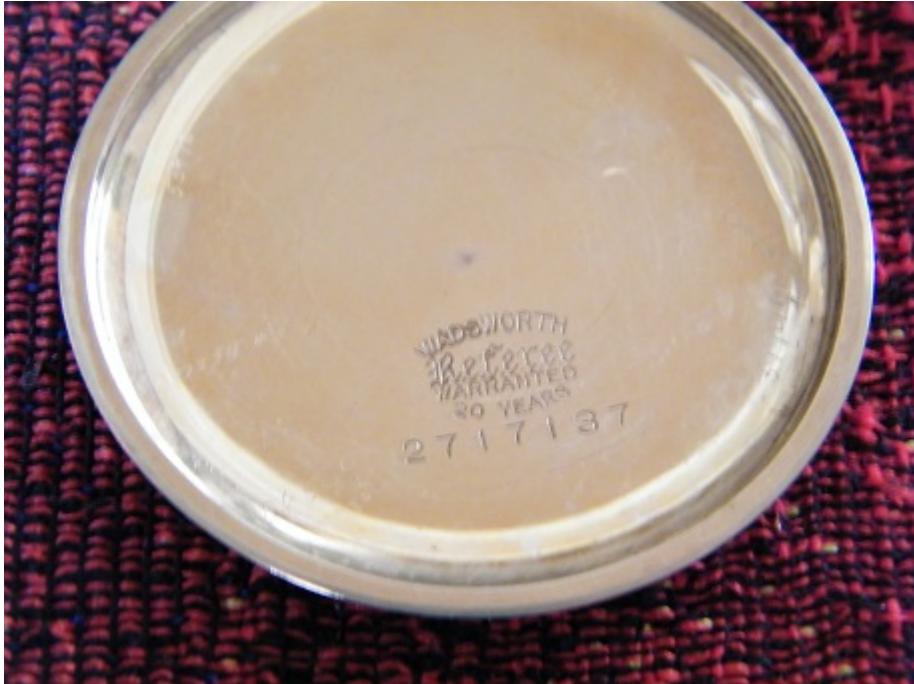
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File Attachments

1) [DSCF9698888888.jpg](#), downloaded 1810 times



2) [DSCF96998888888.jpg](#), downloaded 1766 times



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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [shawntaylor](#) on Tue, 31 Dec 2013 19:10:53 GMT

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You know what is really strange (at least to me) If you look at the back inside piece there are numbers really small engraved in it and a date at the top. Can you see it?

#### File Attachments

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1) [DSCF96955555555.jpg](#), downloaded 1810 times



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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [mikey](#) on Tue, 31 Dec 2013 19:59:08 GMT

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Quite likely they are service marks. I'll leave this one to the pocket watch experts here though...

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Subject: Re: Pocket Watch

Posted by [Thojil](#) on Wed, 01 Jan 2014 19:41:49 GMT

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What you have is a pocket watch from Gruen's "SemiThin" range, which was a thicker alternative to their "VeriThin" range. The earlier examples have sometimes dials signed like yours with DG&S (D. Gruen & Sons). Later ones will be signed Gruen only or with the addition of SemiThin.

The SemiThin range was positioned below the VeriThin PW's, but still featured high quality movements with 15, 17, 19 and even 21 jewels. Your movement is as far as I can see a 17 jewel Cal.740, 17 Ligne, which you should be able to confirm as this number is normally stamped in the pillar plate just below the crown wheel. Recent research information has confirmed that these movements were produced by "Lavina - Manufacture d'Horlogerie DUBOIS-PESEUX & Cie" in Villeret. Other similar calibers were the 756 (15j), 758 (17j) and the 16 size 720 available in 7, 15, 17 & 21 jewel grades.

I have once read that the SemiThin range was sold by Gruen to people that didn't like the very thin VeriThin watches and were looking for something chunkier in their pocket. However I have never seen any proof of this. Information I do have is that in the "1916 Blue Book" Gruen was advertising this range as "Made under D.G.S. guarantee mark, a good watch at a low price"

A production date is difficult to give as there are no records, but if I would have to make a guess I would say it is from around 1920. You can find another example of your watch in this post link.

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