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Subject: Re: Oval Ribbon Wristlet  
Posted by [Case](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2021 16:00:25 GMT  
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:lol: --slippery, but can't get away!

Yours is not the first on the forum with these markings and a 1920ish movement. Rewind to Jack's post from 2013: swiss import sterling case #42. That's what first started me down this road. link may work; or search "not silver bells, but it is sterling"

I also find very few movement swaps among women's watches (unlike the heavily-swapped quadrons). The market has never been there to incentivize it. They were either scrapped or left unrepaired. So I would not first assume your case is 5 years earlier than your movement; I'd look at it first as "can this be original?"

Look back from the 1910-1917 watches previously shared, and the case numbers are high.

Separately, you'll see that other Gold swiss import case numbers from the early 1921/22 period are also around 1k or below. Liz's 849 is the most beautiful, so I'll share it.

Liz's 849

Markings same as yours & Jack's--but different material (14k). I propose that this is the start of the "Import" case number line, which grew only to about 7,000 by the late 1920s. Gruen was restructuring their portfolio; it would make sense case number sequence would be included. It now included both Sterling & Gold in the same Import case # line.

In between 1920 and the 1910-1917 watches, there is a transition. I find from 1918-1919 Gruen shifted all of its Sterling cases out of Swiss & into USA made (925/1000). I believe that is due to wartime restrictions, plus increased demand for trench watches from Gruen.

That's the short version, and I don't have time currently to put a full document of all the cases for each. Perhaps a different thread later.

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