
Subject: Gruen Barclay

Posted by [brtime](#) on Thu, 20 Jun 2013 17:48:45 GMT

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Been absent for a while persuing other watches. I don't believe we have a "Barclay" on the record yet, so here's one I acquired back in 2010 and am getting ready for sale on my website. Bruce

Model name : Barclay

Type : Precision/Veri Thin

Period/date : 1950

Gender : men's

Case Maker : Jonell Watch Case Company

Case Material : 10kt yellow gold filled front and back

Case Serial : M43722

Case Style no : 723

Caliber :

Movement Maker : Gruen (at the Norwood Ohio facility, presumably, since this is not marked SWITZERLAND on the dial)

Movement Serial: unable to locate

Bracelet : leather band.

Other info : The following are my observations/opinions only, and are not meant as gospel. The Barclay, which many dealers and collectors refer to as the "Spider," came out in the early 1950s (this one is circa 1950). It was an unusual watch, somewhat effeminate because of the delicate wire "cage" surrounding an otherwise round case. I love the engraving on this model. I'm guessing that "Sam" was an unusual guy in some way, hence the gift of Y.P. Ceebs of an unusual watch to an unusual guy! (The engraving states: "Sam. Just because you're you Y.P. Ceebs") The use of a tonneau-shaped movement inside a round case is also very intriguing, but one should remember that Gruen by this time was in financial straits and was probably using up stocks of existing movements in inventory any way they could. Today, the "Barclay" is one of Gruen's iconic watches, instantly recognizable by its distinctive shape. I think the copper color dial on this one is also unusual. Most of the other ones I have seen are either white or Butler (silvered) finish. This one is finished with a 16mm reddish-brown leather band.

File Attachments

1) [gruen5400.jpg](#) , downloaded 2333 times



2) [gruen5400insideback.jpg](#), downloaded 2294 times



3) [gruen5400movt.jpg](#), downloaded 2326 times



4) [gruen5400back.jpg](#), downloaded 2305 times



5) [gruen5400side.jpg](#), downloaded 2366 times

