
Subject: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 15:00:36 GMT

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Has anyone ever come across a caliber 103 movement? This is the first time I have seen one. The 1926 Supplement B Parts Catalog shows it, it is 8 ligne (although actually I measure 7.85 ligne), the catalog says 15 and 16 jewels, but it actually is 17 jewels 4 Adjustments. Mike's book lists it as introduced 1917 which is well possible. Numbers only for jewels /adj, no jewel or adjustment count in words.

Marked Gruen W. Co., so it may be an in-house movement? It appears to be very light weight, almost as if it were made of aluminium.

File Attachments

1) [Cal 103.jpg](#), downloaded 2878 times



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 17:11:42 GMT

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I have a cal 103 also, movement with dial only, and have identified it as a FHF Robert. Mine is 16j. Can't find a photo but I must have researched it after I got it because I made a notation in my spreadsheet: "for 18K W case-Cartouche 39" .

Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 17:37:54 GMT

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Perfect, thanks a lot for the hint, Liz. Yes the dial of Cartouche 39 is a perfect fit to my dial as well. I purchased it together with about 20 movements, seem to have been from a gold scrapper. Mainly higher end movements, some Cartouches, but mainly 280, 290, 275, 2571 and 2753.

And yes, you are right, it is a FHF movement, not in-house. Just the engraving is like of an in house movement. The FHF movement was introduced in November 1916, so the 1917 movement introduction date could be correct.

File Attachments

1) [FHF369.jpg](#), downloaded 2527 times

N° 27509. 8 novembre 1916, 11 h. a. — Ouvert. — 1 modèle. — Calibre de montre. — Fabrique d'horlogerie de Fontainemelon, Fontainemelon (Suisse).

N° 369



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 19:56:24 GMT

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I never knew that round cartouche movements existed. Gruen is always good to surprise me every day.

Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 20:06:58 GMT

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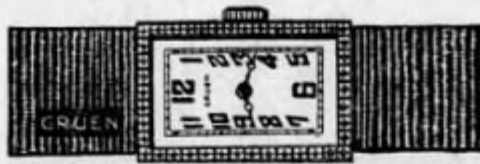
Huh. That is surprising.

I assumed that by definition a cartouche was "an oblong movement in a oblong case" bc of these from 22. The round movement seems to go against the design.

Interesting. I would love to see a pic of a round movement in a cartouche case.

File Attachments

1) [img \(71\).jpeg](#), downloaded 2518 times



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Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [timeliz](#) on Fri, 18 Oct 2019 20:14:47 GMT

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I think Gruen just threw them into the cartouche catagory for record keeping.
These were here and gone in the blink of an eye.

Update...

Just found my 103 and took pics

File Attachments

1) [Gruen cal 103 dial -crop.jpg](#), downloaded 2439 times



2) [Gruen cal 103 mov -crop.jpg](#), downloaded 2421 times



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2019 13:00:32 GMT

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Also the round calibers 100 and 101 wer used in Cartouches, I now figured out.

It loks like Gruen bought the ebauches from FHF and finished them in house, making these in house calibers. Calibers 100 and 101 have been slightly bigger and were used in the so called "Semi Cartouches". May be we would have to call the 103 based cartouches "Semi Cartouches" as well. There has also been the definition of "Short Cartouches" at that time and I assume they have had round movements as well.

Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2019 21:49:24 GMT

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This should be the "Short Cartouche" caliber 103 has been used in with that specific dial.

File Attachments

1) [Passaic_Daily_News_Mon__Dec_8__1924_.jpg](#), downloaded 2417 times



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2019 13:44:19 GMT

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edit: moved my post on the sister 101 caliber to a new thread, since it wasn't in the database yet.

Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 2020 19:30:58 GMT

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Hi Bernd, came across this "15 Jewels" 103 w dial & case. So we now have 17, 16, 15 Jewels variations.

File Attachments

1) [20200909_125315.jpg](#), downloaded 2302 times



2) [20200909_132306.jpg](#), downloaded 2344 times



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 2020 19:45:39 GMT

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Great, thank you very much for the addition!

Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Case](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 2020 19:53:40 GMT

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Cool find, Matt.

Very curious—Bernds early 17J & the 26 sup B both have a triangular stud. I've not noticed it from Gruen's known suppliers (all round), and I think the FHF base version studs were round, too. Hmmm.

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Wed, 09 Sep 2020 21:00:37 GMT
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Barney Green wrote on Wed, 09 September 2020 13:45: Great, thank you very much for the addition!.
Yeah no worries....but now I got questions! :lol:

Or at least one... is Cartouche 39 the only model in the Gruen Book that is showing Calibre 103 as it's movement?

I couldn't find another but maybe I missed one....

I can definitely add another model it was used in!

Hm, did Gruen make octagonal short/semi cartouches?!

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Thu, 10 Sep 2020 10:22:56 GMT
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Hi Mat,

yes. I think Car 39 is the only one shown in the book using caliber 103. So I assume it has been the last model introduced with this caliber but the movement has been used in the pro movement era.

The dial of your watch fits this model which has been available before the book and is therefore not included. In 1922 this platinum variant had the 17 jewel version, but may be lower priced versions came with 15 or 16 jewels?

The watch itself has been introduced 1919 and made its way through different ads until the early 1922 one above.

1921 (\$100):

1920 (price unknown):

1919 (\$275!!!):

So it has been too late to be included in the "worthy" book and too early for the "master" book.

File Attachments

1) [The_Enid_Daily_Eagle_Tue__Apr_11__1922_r.jpg](#), downloaded 2274 times



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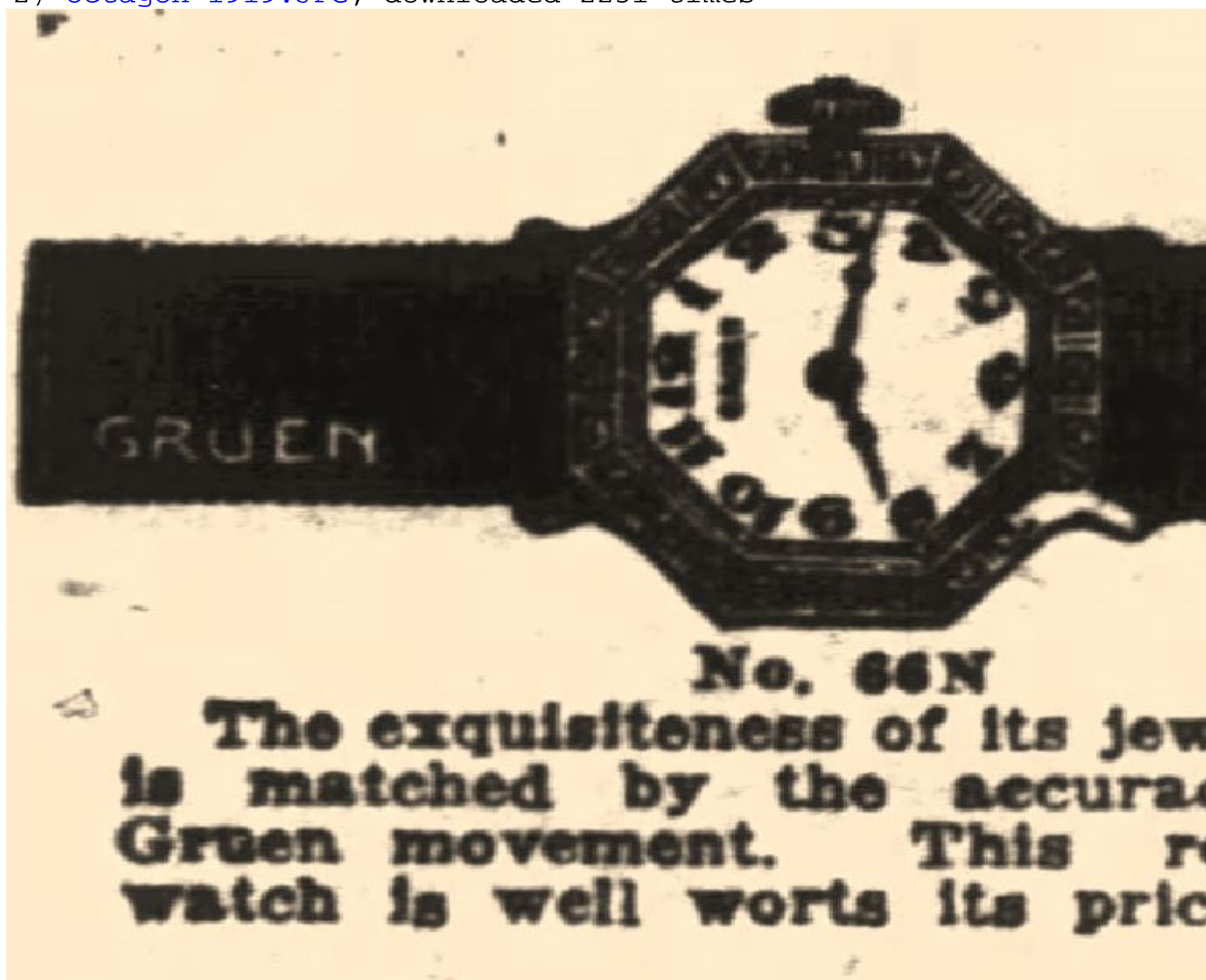
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2) [Octagon 1919.JPG](#), downloaded 2251 times



3) [Octagon 1920.JPG](#), downloaded 2270 times



4) [Octagon 1921.JPG](#), downloaded 2251 times



Subject: Re: Cal 103

Posted by [Ephemerald](#) on Thu, 10 Sep 2020 21:03:56 GMT

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Thanks Bernd, this is it, the ads you are showing or very close to it. I now feel confident enough to database it. It makes me happy that you can see a dial and come up with the closest model match. Pre 1922 indeed.

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 11 Sep 2020 04:06:07 GMT
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Barney—that looks like an evolution of the Diamond octagon Plate 25A in 1918 WCOW, but new lugs. It was \$355 in 1918. Wire lugs. No movement info on it, but... AA1 Diamonds all over, Platinum top, and it says 16k gold back. Anyone heard of 16k gold, or is that a typo (18k)?

So maybe these lugs were intro'd in 1919.

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Barney Green](#) on Fri, 11 Sep 2020 06:08:57 GMT
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Dan, Plate 25A with its round crystal coexisted with the octagon shaped crystal variant. Yes, the description sounds similar and I agree it may have evolved from the 25A. Both are true beauties and imagine the buying price back in 1918. You could almost have bought a new car for that amount of money...

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Case](#) on Fri, 11 Sep 2020 12:43:54 GMT
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The price is astonishing. And the delta to 1920 is mystifying—wartime costs? Makes me feel better about my recent purchases :p

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Case](#) on Sun, 05 Sep 2021 01:43:28 GMT
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Another Caliber 103 went today, a model A103 (AA1 Diamond series).

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Vintage-16k-White-Gold-Platinum-wit-h-Diamonds-Watch-not-scrap-/313656184205>

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [afire](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2021 16:39:58 GMT
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That's an interesting little specimen. It's crazy how little money nice ladies watches command.

Subject: Re: Cal 103
Posted by [Jenneke](#) on Tue, 07 Sep 2021 22:39:42 GMT
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