



ROLEX REF. 3830
SERIAL NUMBER 57'339
18K GOLD
MOVEMENT CAL. VALJOUX 69
YEAR 1941



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January 22, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION *No. 88*

The watch accepted into the Archive is photographed in each of its individual parts, thus establishing its reference identity within the Archive. Acceptance into the Archive does not, however, certify that the watch was originally produced in this configuration.

PUCCI'S OPINION

This example combines its rare historical interest with a remarkable state of preservation. These features led us to register it in our Archive.



ARCHIVIO PUCCI PAPALEO
Recording *Excellent* Timepieces.



'THE GRAND SQUARE'
Rolex, Ref. 3830, Serial 57'339



Dossier

In the late 1930s, the Swiss manufacturer set alongside its more classical chronographs small series displaying uncommon shapes – fancy, stepped, tiered or square lugs – yet, always made in just a few dozen pieces, through which Rolex explored the taste of the time. The 3830 stems from this design concept and represents its extreme case. Our research indicates that it was made in 1941 as a unique piece in 18-carat yellow gold with the serial 57339. This is not an extreme rarity, yet a one-off singularity. Rolex designed a one-of-a-kind case with an equally unusual dial, and assigned to one single example its own reference. Completing the profile is the signature printed on the dial of the Milanese retailer Romolo Verga.

Its graphic layout is seemingly ahead of its time, especially when compared to the dial of the only squared-design chronograph already realised, the 3529, where the minute track follows the shape of the case and graphically encloses every other element. Here, it is the opposite. Registers, minute track and scales are all arranged into a central disc, whereas the outer space displays only the applied indexes. The result is a concentric ensemble, a circle within a square. Further enhancing its allure is the colour scheme given by the golden yellow background featuring silvery white gold applied indexes. A clear choice: two shades of gold on one single dial.



Exhibiting a remarkable size, the case features a sophisticated stepped construction and its multi-level architecture provides a pronounced sense of depth and shape definition. A complex structure suitable to an example that even though never intended for serial production, is however of exceptional importance to the history of Rolex watchmaking.

Here Geneva's horological excellence meets the finest craftsmanship of the Swiss master casemaker Alcide Guyot.



The winding crown – displaying the embossed Rolex coronet – sits slightly recessed, discreetly integrated into the profile of the case and further enhancing the unusual and well-balanced proportions of the 3830. Furthermore, the right flank is outlined by the two chronograph pushers: one at two o'clock activating the start and stop, and the other at four o'clock for the reset function. Their squared shape, the sharpest one amongst the forms adopted by Rolex in these years, structurally engages with the crisp edges of the square case.



The reference 3830 seems to evoke one of the most fascinating design transitions of the early 1940s, from the decorative geometry and intricate patterns of Art Deco to the structural geometry of Modernism, stripped of any needless ornament. The square case, defined by overlapping profiles and clean linear elements, centrally encloses the circular complexity of the chronograph scale, as if creating a tiny architecture on the wrist, built on the encounter between line, circle and square.

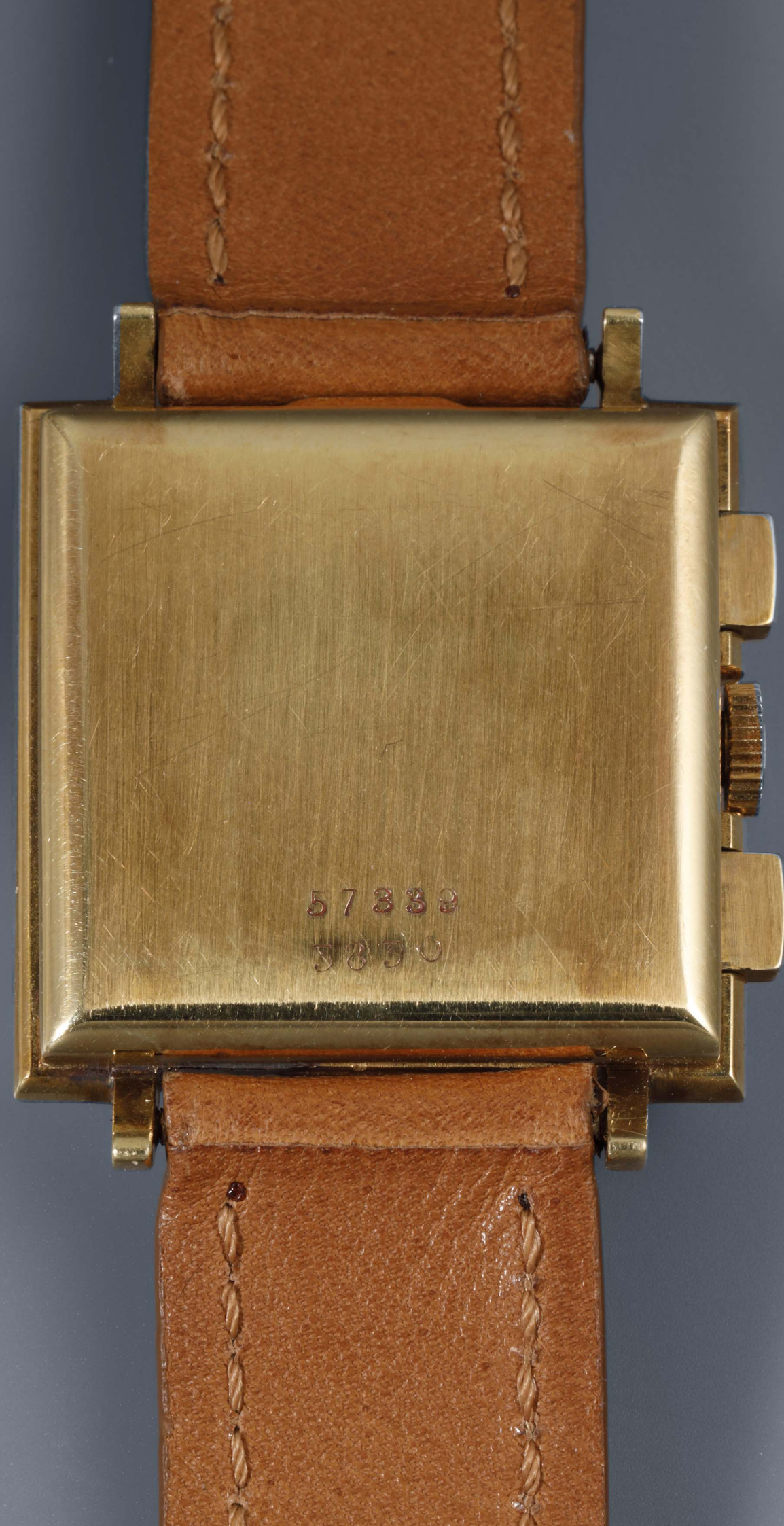


The movement inside is a Valjoux, the ébauche adopted by the Geneva-based manufacturer for its manually-wound chronographs, chosen for its precision, reliability and finished to its customary standards. This example is powered by a Valjoux 69 calibre, featuring ten and a half lignes, seventeen jewels and a bimetallic compensation balance; the same calibre used on other chronographs of those years. Yet, this timepiece discloses a peculiarity: as the illustrated movement shows, the round calibre is joined to the case by means of a metal support. Incredibly enough, for one single watch example, Rolex designed an avant-garde case and even arranged the very housing of the mechanism.





The raised bezel surrounds the dial, tracing a stepped, crisp and geometric frame. Its basic simplicity further enhances the play of levels that provides the case with its appeal. Externally, the snap-on pressure-fit case back displays a lightly satin-finished surface, bearing the engraved serial and reference numbers. Internally, it carries the punched Rolex logos, the hallmarks with the gold's fineness, and the Poinçon de Maître 122 – set inside a hammer-head – attributable to the craftsman Alcide Guyot & Cie of La-Chaux-de-Fonds.





Dossier 3830/57339.
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