



ROLEX REF. 3835
SERIAL NUMBER 57'493
18K GOLD
MOVEMENT CAL. VALJOUX VZ
YEAR 1941



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January 23, 2026

ARCHIVE REGISTRATION *No. 91*

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 CHRYSLER CHRONOGRAPH'

Rolex, Ref. 3835, Serial 57'493



Dossier

At the turn of the 1940s, the Rolex chronograph incorporates the third register: alongside the continuous seconds and the minute recorder, a twelve-hour totaliser appears at six o'clock, inherited from the earlier references 3330 and 3335. Reference 3835, produced between 1941 and 1942, belongs to this period and stands out for representing one of its most eccentric designs. Instantly recognisable for its triple-stepped lugs, a nod to the distinctive Art Deco style, it further displays a non-Oyster three-counter layout. Crafted only in precious metals, yellow or pink gold, and produced in roughly fifty pieces. The yellow-gold version, like the present watch, is the rarest one: our research indicates that only 20 examples are known to have been made.

The warm champagne-coloured dial discloses a detail of great interest.

“Monetti Napoli” appears printed under “Rolex”: the signature of the historic Neapolitan jeweller that became a Rolex retailer in 1904 and for whom the dial was personalised.

Although today double-signed dials draw much attention, at the time

Rolex granted this practice to its retailers as long as it remained a restricted practice; as the brand grew, this bespoke service was set aside, since a second signature meant competing for ‘space’.

Two scales run along the dial’s rim: the tachymeter, which measures average speed over a known distance, and the telemeter, which estimates the distance to an event based on the delay between seeing it and hearing it.



Crafted in 18-carat yellow gold and made by the craftsman Gunther & Co. of La Chaux-de-Fonds for Rolex, the case measures 34 millimetres and is built in three parts, featuring polished and satin surfaces. This example exhibits stepped profiles and connected surfaces in an elaborate construction that is visually striking.



The most distinguishing feature of the reference 3835 is represented by its lugs, built in a three-descending stepped design. Broad and sculptured, they visually enlarge the watch far more than its 34 millimetres. The bezel is deliberately squared and reduced to a slender frame: its small shape leaves almost all the space to the dial under the crystal, further enhancing its perspective. The right flank is equipped with the winding crown and the two squared pushers: the upper one activates the start and stop, whilst the lower operates the reset. Their crisp geometry perfectly matches with the case shape.



Interestingly, given the productiveness between 1937 and 1942, it is surprising the ability of Rolex to create a variety of chronograph references, each with different forms and sizes, matching the many types of dials, full of inventive elements, all combined with rare aesthetic balance. This reference 3835 is a clear example: its case, enclosed by progressive recessed levels shaping the lugs, recalling the bold Art Deco signatures of some architectures of the period, such as the celebrated Chrysler Building, with its renowned crowning outlined by a succession of diminishing circular forms and rising lines.





The case sports a domed snap pressure-fit case back. Externally, it displays the engraved reference 3835 and serial 57493 numbers, placing its production in 1941. Internally, it carries the Rolex institutional markings, together with the gold-fineness hallmarks and the Poinçon de Maître 117, attributable to the master casemaker Gunther & Co., who supplied the case.



The timepiece is powered by a Valjoux calibre VZ, featuring thirteen lignes and seventeen jewels. However, in this case, it is a VZ version modified by Rolex, in order to incorporate a third register, the twelve-hour totaliser, positioned on the dial at six o'clock. For nearly all its hand-wound chronographs the Geneva watch manufacturer relied on a Valjoux base, one of the most refined and reliable ones at the time.





Dossier 3835/57493.
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