

# *Beyer Chronométrie and its Enduring Partnership with Patek Philippe*

Beyer Chronométrie is widely regarded as Patek Philippe's most historic and arguably most prestigious retail partner, with an unbroken relationship dating back to the 1840s. This longevity, combined with deep technical expertise and a dedicated Patek Philippe boutique, underpins its reputation for excellence as a retailer of the brand.

- Beyer Chronométrie was founded in 1760 and is considered the world's oldest continuously operating watch retailer.
- It began selling Patek Philippe around 1842, just a few years after the manufacture's founding in 1839, making it Patek's oldest retail partner worldwide.
- The relationship became highly personal over generations, with members of the Beyer and Stern families interning at each other's companies and maintaining close ties.

## Role as Patek Philippe Retailer

- Beyer has been an authorized Patek Philippe retailer in Zurich for more than 180 years, continuously representing the brand on Bahnhofstrasse.
- In 2011, Beyer opened the first and still only dealer-run Patek Philippe Boutique in Switzerland, located directly next to its main store.
- The boutique offers a broad selection of current Patek Philippe collections along with expert guidance on purchasing and long-term care.

## Signs of Excellence

- Patek Philippe has repeatedly chosen Beyer for highly significant launches, such as creating a pre-series of 25 ref. 3940 perpetual calendars in 1985 exclusively for Beyer's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary—a key step in Patek's mechanical renaissance during the quartz crisis.
- The two firms have collaborated on multiple limited editions, including the "Beyer 2016" annual calendar in white gold for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Patek Philippe Boutique by Beyer.
- Numerous "double-signed" dials bearing both Patek Philippe and Beyer names are highly sought after by collectors, reflecting the retailer's status.

## Museum, Vintage, and Expertise

- Beyer operates an important horological museum beneath its Bahnhofstrasse store, displaying historic Patek Philippe pieces among other masterpieces and marking 50 years in 2021.
- It has run a dedicated vintage/"pre-loved" department for many years, allowing collectors to find both new and vintage Patek Philippe under one roof, which reinforces trust in authenticity and after-sales support.
- A large in-house workshop with multiple watchmakers underpins Beyer's reputation for reliability in service and restoration, a key factor for high-end Patek Philippe clients.



# *Patek Philippe "Gübelin", Ref. 1579*

## Watches Presented in This Section

All of the watches featured in this section were originally sold by Beyer Chronométrie to the owner. Their provenance not only underlines Beyer's central role in the history of Patek Philippe retailing but also highlights the enduring trust that

collectors and enthusiasts have placed in this legendary Zurich retailer. Each timepiece serves as a testament to the longstanding partnership and shared heritage between Beyer and Patek Philippe.



414

## PATEK PHILIPPE

Retailed by “Gübelin”, Ref. 1579  
No. 868528/679665, circa 1953

A 18k yellow gold manual winding chronograph wristwatch with tachometer scale

**Case:** round with so called “spider lugs”, snap-on case back, case key maker “1”, signed

**Dial:** silvered with applied pyramidal indexes, feuille hands, two registers for the constant seconds and 30 minutes indication, outer 1/5<sup>th</sup> minute track, outer tachometer scale, signed

**Movement:** manual winding, cal. 13-130, Côtes de Genève decoration, cut bimetallic balance spring, 23 jewels, 8 adjustments, micrometer regulator on the balance bridge, signed

**Buckle/Clasp:** 18k yellow gold buckle, stamped “PP & Co”

**Dimensions:** 36 mm

**Weight:** 51,4 g

**Accessories:** original invoice from Beyer Chronometrie and Patek Philippe service presentation box

The reference 1579 represents one of the most extraordinary achievements in Patek Philippe’s chronograph heritage and stands as a true grail among vintage chronograph watches.

The “spider lugs” - this distinctive case design feature gives the reference 1579 its unmistakable character. These elongated, curved lugs extend gracefully from the case, creating an almost sculptural quality that earned the watch its arachnid nickname. The lugs’ elegant sweep perfectly complements the watch’s proportions and creates a distinctive silhouette that’s instantly recognizable to collectors.

Produced in the 1940s and early 1950s, the reference 1579 was equipped with the legendary caliber 13 lines, one of the finest chronograph movements ever created. This movement, based on a Valjoux ebauche but finished to Patek Philippe’s exacting standards, delivered exceptional precision and reliability while maintaining the thin profile essential for elegant chronographs.

What makes the 1579 particularly significant is how it embodies Patek Philippe’s mastery of sports complications during an era when such pieces were relatively rare. The watch typically featured a clean, legible dial design with applied markers and elegant hands, creating perfect harmony between sporting functionality and dress watch refinement.

The reference 1579 has achieved legendary status among collectors, representing the pinnacle of vintage chronograph design. Its combination of distinctive case architecture, exceptional movement, and historical significance makes it one of the most coveted timepieces in the vintage market.

According to the Patek Philippe scholar John Reardon, *Collectability*, today only 5 examples of a reference 1579 are known back to the market with Gübelin double signature on the dial. It makes the present example rarer and even more desirable for avid collectors of Patek Philippe vintage wristwatches.

100 000 - 150 000 CHF





BASE

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PATEK PHILIPPE  
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