

Star of the Month
Omega Calibre 504 Deluxe



Calibre 504 was the first date model to appear in the Omega Constellation range. Believed to have been released just after, or concurrently with, the calibre 502 non-chronometer date model, only 25,000 calibre 504 movements were produced across the entire life of the collection.

The series was produced only for two years before it gave way to the 'ultra-thin' calibre 561 launched in 1959. Because this calibre was released in limited numbers, it often has a special place in the collections of Constellation aficionados.

The Omega database shows in its index a total of four model numbers having been produced in 1957 and 1958. These models were on the market for a total of two years. Model 2943 was also produced in 14K yellow and pink gold cap on stainless steel, 14K solid gold and 18K solid gold. Model 16995 came in solid yellow gold and, possibly white gold, with integrated bracelet, while model 2988 was available with leather strap. Model 2954 was also exclusively solid gold.



OT 16995 Grand Luxe with onyx inlaid baguette markers

CK 2943	Constellation	Calendar	Stainless steel	1957
OT 16995	Constellation	Calendar Grand Luxe	18K solid gold	1958
OT 2954	Constellation	Calendar De Luxe	18K solid gold	1957
OT 2988	Constellation	Calendar Grand Luxe	18K solid gold	1958

The calibre 504 family sported a number of attractive dials, perhaps the most common of which were domed dials with baguette markers. Less common were dials with either large or medium sized arrowhead markers.

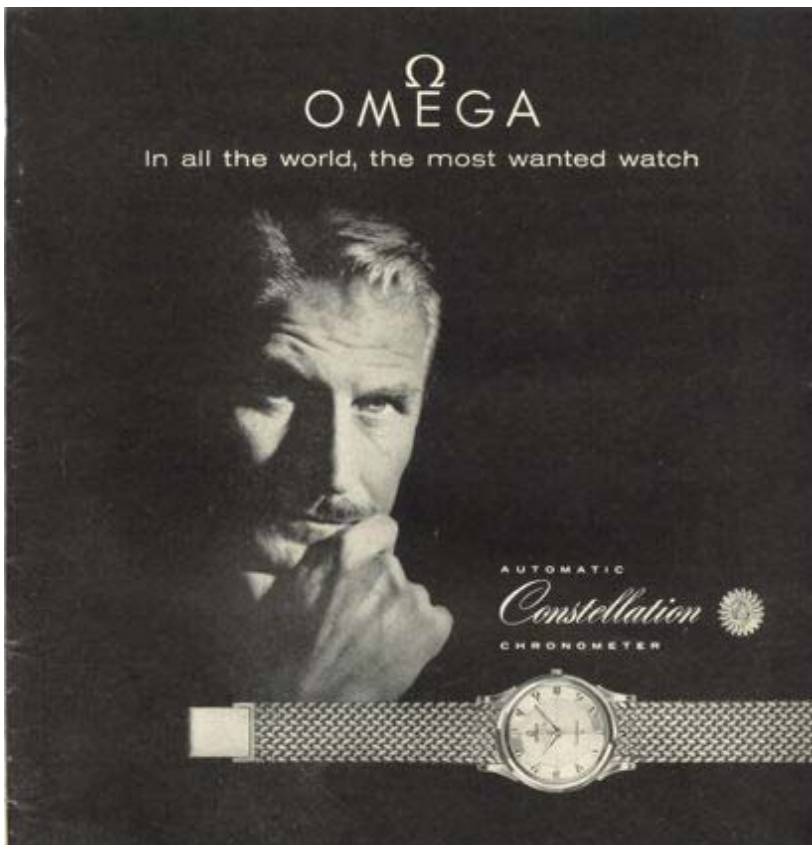
The first dated version of the Grand Luxe was also powered by a calibre 504 and the solid gold dial with gold and onyx baguette markers is a feast for the eyes.

Given that around eight to nine variants of the calibre 504 series were released, it is not difficult to do the sums and arrive at the conclusion that any 504 model is rare when compared with the production output of other Constellation calibres.

When you add attrition, such as removal of movements to collect gold scrap (This happened a lot during the demonetisation of gold and the floating of the gold price in the late 1960s to early 1970s, where the price rose from US\$40 an ounce to US\$180.00 in 1974 and its happening now with the current overly-inflated gold price); neglect and wear; loss ; abandonment during the quartz fad in the later 1970s, etc., it is not fanciful to describe any member of the calibre 504 family as uncommon bordering on rare, particularly the less common arrowhead markers dials.



Rose Gold Capped 503 with uncommon original dial, waiting for the sourcing of a correct crown. My collection.



Our **Star of the Month**, a model 2954 solid 18k gold calibre 504, is one such example. A number of variables come together to make it a rare piece. It has a solid gold deluxe dial (produced in limited quantities); the dial features the rarer large arrowhead markers; the piece is in near mint condition (the hands having being replaced at some time during its history with correct faceted hands) but the sharpness of the case and condition of the dial are remarkable.

The watch is accessorised by an original heavy-mesh Milanese bracelet that came with the watch. The advertisement opposite confirms that non-branded Milanese bracelets accessorised early 500 calibre watches, such as the calibre 501 shown in the ad.

Collector 'CR' recently acquired this watch and has provided the following photo-essay.





