

Blue Steel SC Constellations

Flushed with triumph from having won numerous prestigious chronometer competitions in the 1930s and 40s, Omega produced the Centenary in 1948 to mark the company's 100th anniversary. The Centenary was a limited edition marque and it was never intended to continue with the production of Chronometer automatics once Centenary stocks were exhausted.

The world reaction to the Centenary, however, was enthusiastic, and watch aficionados snapped them up quickly, thus indicating a strong demand for high precision luxury timepieces. This set Omega on the course to produce one of the most memorable families of 'high-mech' chronometers the world has ever seen, the Constellation.

Un nouveau chronomètre « automatic »

avec mention spéciale pour
«résultats particulièrement bons»

Réglé par les maîtres horlogers
qui ont fait triompher Omega
aux Observatoires de Genève,
Neuchâtel et Kew-Teddington,
le mouvement automatique du
chronomètre Constellation est
devenu un nouveau symbole de
perfection. Sa précision est telle
que *chaque* Constellation est
accompagné d'un bulletin de
marche officiel avec mention
spéciale pour «résultats particu-
lièrement bons».

Réf. 2648 acier inoxydable Fr. 6 075.-
avec coiffe d'or 14 ct. Fr. 7 175.-
or massif 18 ct. Fr. 12 950.-

SEULEX OFFICIELS
CONTROL DE LA MARCHÉ DES MONTRES

Vous reconnaîtrez le chronomètre Constellation
à l'observatoire gravé sur le fond de son boîtier.

OMEGA Constellation

When introduced in 1952, the Constellation was at the cutting edge of horology, representing a convergence of brilliant architecture, robust construction, high precision and elegant design.

While still disputed by some, it is believed that the first Constellations produced appeared in Case 2648, powered by the calibre 28.10 RA SC – 352, known as calibre 352.

Calibre 352 did not feature the signature swan neck regulator that became standard on all in-house manufacture Constellation movements from calibre 354 onward.

Swan neck regulators had been used by Omega since at least 1933 - the famous world record chronometer that blitzed the competition at Kew Teddington being a notable example - but the calibre 352 was regulated by what is known as the

RG regulator. This is the same technology used by Omega on the first copper electroplated chronometer movements produced by the company: the hand wound 30T2 RG-262 and 281 calibres.

A further eccentricity incorporated into these early calibre 352 Constellations was the fitting of a blue steel centre seconds hand. There can be no debate about these early models having featured a blue steel centre sweep because it has been well documented in advertising material produced at the time. The French advertisement dating from 1952 appearing on the previous page, for example, shows an early domed dial with arrowhead markers and blue steel centre sweep.

Case 2648 calibre 352 models were not water resistant and this was corrected with the release of the screw-in case back, reinforced crystal, model 2652 in late 1952.

Many of the early calibre 352, case 2648 models have long since lost their original second sweeps, and it is a rare occurrence indeed to encounter an example in its original state – let alone two!

Below is a photo-essay of a remarkable pair blue steel SC Case 2648, calibre 352 RG Constellations in 18k gold belonging to collector Jeff Chiang of <http://www.oldwatch.club.tw>





