

AN ART NOUVEAU PEWTER PIECE RENOVATED – HATCHING BIRD by Jan Garnier c1900



The hatching egg was in quite good condition good metal, so the black came off with 20 minutes hot alkali soak, and the pitting from the removed black worked down using just a tiny 3 inch by 4inch piece of 1000 grit wet and dry. i.e. did NOT have to grind away much metal, then finished with renaissance wax. Mind you it is not as simple as that in that the how much and how of this and that to do something that works is result of lots of experience. Resulted in something in much better condition and originality than the one in the textbook which had been rather heavily worn down.

Information extracted from websites -

In the late 19th century France was indisputably the artistic hub of the world. It attracted new and vibrant talent from all corners of the globe. The Belle Epoch captured the public's imagination and influenced all forms of fine and applied arts. Between 1898-1905 there were as many as 200 sculptors working in etain (French pewter). The artist J. Garnier was one of the main designers for Etain Garranti. Grotesque birds and sinuous maidens and dolphins climbing the sides of jugs and vases were typical subjects for this factory. It is thought that some of the designs were inspired by the English pottery, Martin Bros

Jean Garnier was a 19th-century French sculptor best known for his bronze figures and decorative vessels. Throughout his work, he often depicted allegorical and historical subjects like Pierrot clowns, Joan of Arc, and Salamambo, in addition to vernacular figures such as musicians, dancers, or farmers. In several instances, Garnier created vases or pitchers that merged with figural forms, where one or more characters appear to be emerging from the surface of the vessel. Born in 1853 in Mouzeuil, France, Garnier would go on to exhibit at the

This method has safety risks and is not recommended for those inexperienced with materials used.

Salon des Artiste Francaise, winning an honourable mention in 1892. The artist died in 1910 in Paris, France.

We should be careful; what we copy from extracts as in the second full paragraph above - ETAIN GARRANTI is not a business but the words used as meaning as follows in an email from a correspondent with linguistic skills! *This pitcher is marked underneath "ETAIN GARANTI PUR" which simply translates "GUARANTEED PURE PEWTER" i.e. does not have enough contaminants such a lead that would make it unsuitable for food use.*

Progress of renovation



ALKALI



ABOVE LEFT AS FOUND BEFORE RENOVATION



AFTER - Finished with Renaissance Wax altogether smoother and better preservation of details.