

MY BIRD HAS FLOWN



At Lyon and Turnbull in their Decorative Arts Sale of November 3 2020 the above was lot 446. They say attributed to Kayserzin a Jugendstil Pewter inkwell c1900

Cast as a grotesque bird with hinged lid enclosing ceramic inkwell made of green glazed earthenware. These are often seen with a red glass body/inkwell.

It was 11cm high. My bid of £420 failed and it sold for £550 or inclusive of premium £688 a buyer not in Edinburgh likely paid more than £700 to have this.

In “**20th Century Pewter by Paul Carter Robinson**” on page 176 this is said as likely designed by Jean Garnier in c 1905 in the style of the English ceramic firm Martin Bros. Said to be 10cm and has been attributed to the firm Reinneman en Lichtinger a German Company known for making beer steins.

From the renovator -

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 4 inch 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. Between 1858-1905 there were as many as 200 sculptors working in etain (French pewter). The artist J. Garnier was one of the main designers for Etain Garr anti. 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 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

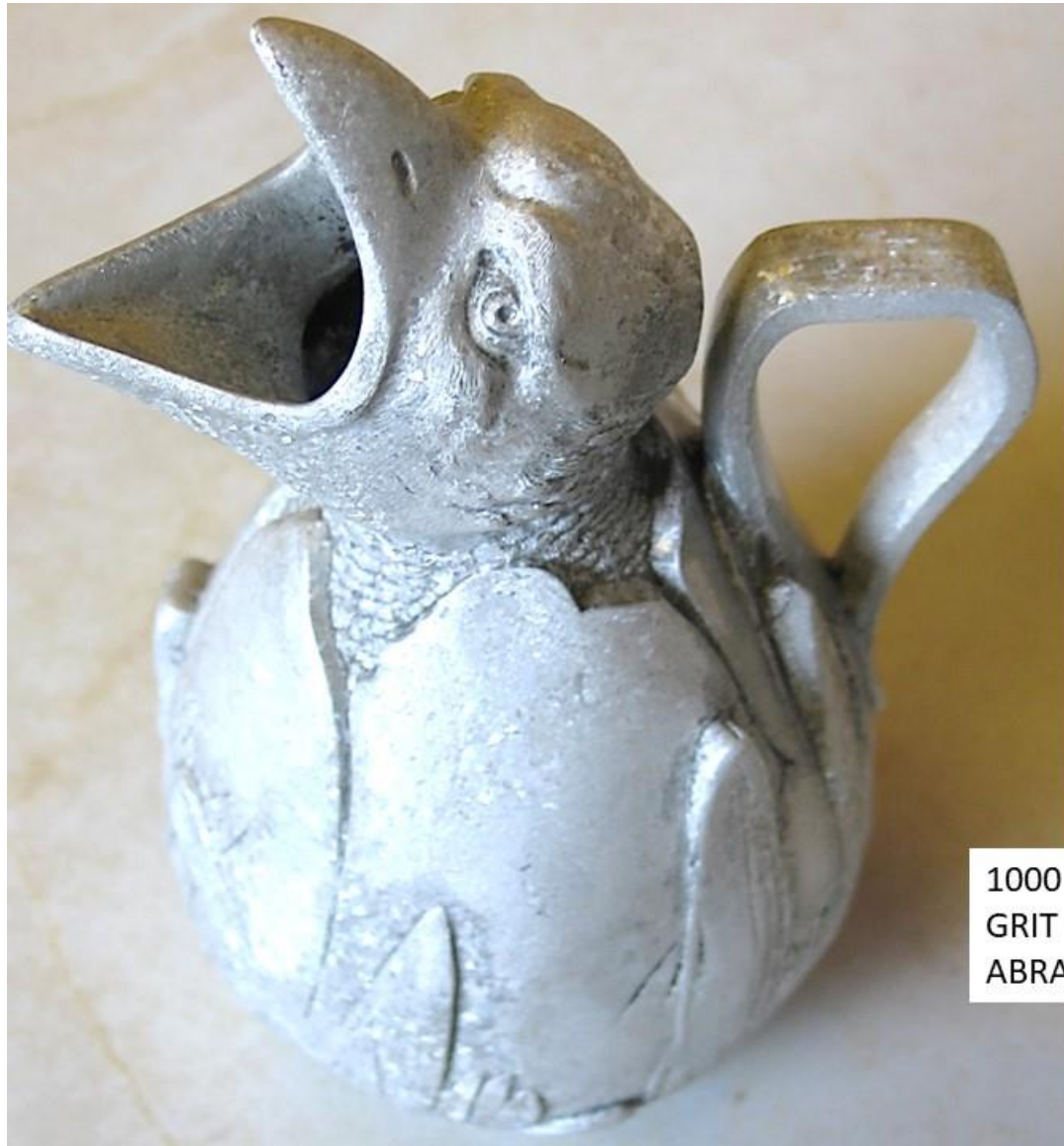


ALKALI





ALKALI TREATMENT



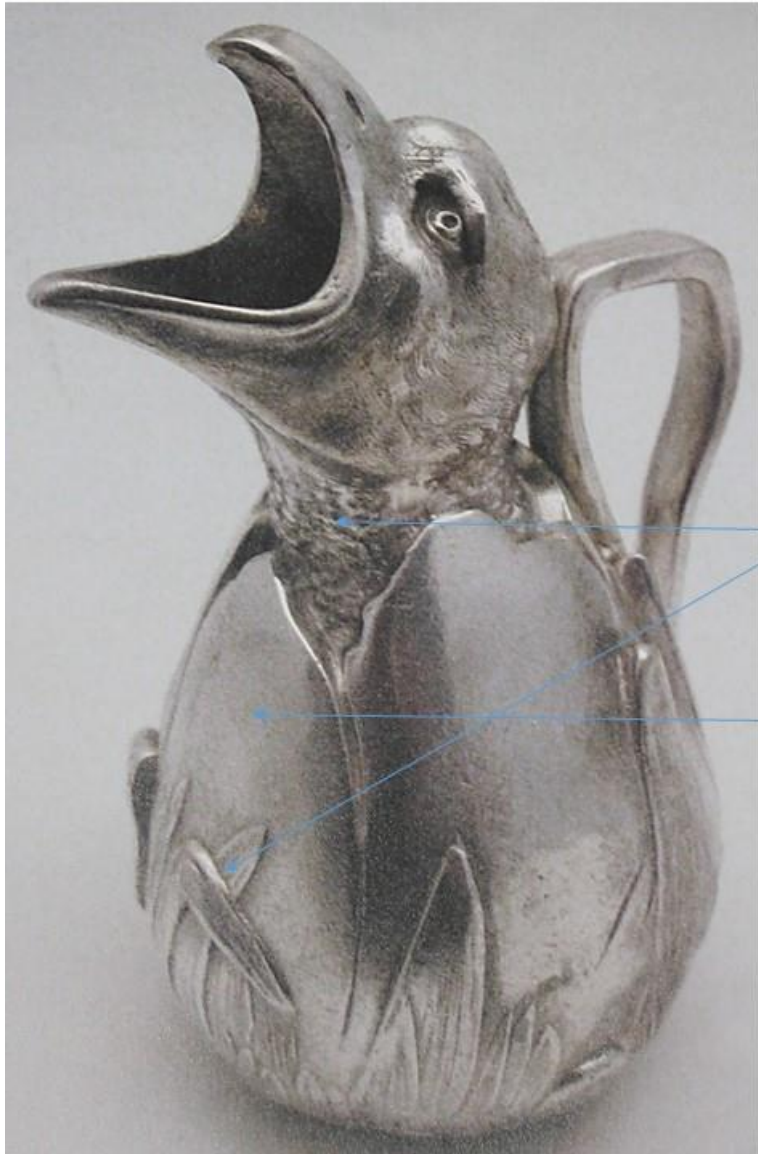
1000
GRIT
ABRASIVE





FINISH WITH
RENAISSANCE
WAX





TEXTBOOK

JOHN BANK'S

Better preservation of detail

altogether smoother





BEFORE



AFTER



TEXTBOOK



BEFORE

Also of interest might be this clock by Archibald Knox with Abalone inserts that sold for £26,000 including buyer's premium. (lot 388 - Decorative Arts Sale of November 3 Lyon and Turnbull in Edinburgh).

