

RENOVATION OF ART NOUVEAU PEWTER



ABOVE

1902 DAVID
VEASEY LOVING
CUP CLEANED
WITH NO LOSS
OF DETAIL

Featuring the honesty plant.



The renovator – Jon Burge, a private individual and not a business – writes about this as follows -

The black Veasey cup certainly wanted cleaning, while not damaging its fine relief cast decoration.

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

I completely submerged it in boiling hot water and poured in some caustic soda flakes. After a half hour the black encrustations were completely softened and scrubbed off easily with a kitchen plastic mesh washing pad.

The cup was now grey covered with tiny corrosion pits. I worked over each flat surface with fine 1000 wet and dry sandpaper, being very careful not to rub over the relief decoration. Hard work with small pieces of folded wet sandpaper.

I then worked over it with brasso on fine knit cotton, again focusing on the flat surfaces but trying not to rub over the fine decoration. I then scrubbed away the black brasso deposits by jabbing the surface with a stiff bristle paint brush soaked with almost pure ordinary dishwashing (fairy) liquid.

This rinses the black out of the remaining scratches and pits. Rinsing that away and drying, I worked over the item with renaissance wax.

The item is still covered with tiny dents, scratches and fine corrosion pitting but filled with the white wax; is overall about as bright as new and the decoration remains crisp. It should stay that way for another hundred years only needing an occasional dusting and rinsing.



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS IF A LAZY PERSON SIMPLY GRINDS OVER THE PIECE WITH BUFFING MACHINES