

PEWTER – CARE

Having been puzzled for a number of years just how best to look after my collection, it was good to come across a really simple answer from a very experienced collector.

The answer is – to apply *Renaissance Wax* every two years or so. It requires very little and just a lint free soft cloth to apply it and polish it gently into the surface.

This website has had no encouragement or any inducement or contact with makers or suppliers of this product.

To quote my contact, whom I thank for this information –

It's made by Picreator Enterprises Ltd of London. I get it from Tiranti in Warren Street, London. I put it on all my pewter. It goes a long way because you use it sparingly and you only need to re-do it every few years. Although its prime purpose is protection, it does also lift the surface brightness a little.

Tiranti have it on their website. The makers do have a direct mail order service for the 3 ltr and 200ml sizes (by cheque) details from –

Order Direct: Goods are dispatched, within 48hrs of receipt of payment, by overnight courier (UK) or by UPS/ Business Post (exports). For total costs including VAT/carriage (UK) or details of our distributing Agents in other countries contact our office on: Tel: +44 (0) 20 8202 8972 Fax: +44 (0) 8202 3435 or e-mail us on info@picreator.co.uk

(Picreator Enterprises Ltd -44 Park View Gardens Hendon London NW4 2PN UK)



(The following is taken from the maker's publicity)

Renaissance wax polish was originally formulated in the British Museum research laboratories in the early 1950's, in response to a discussion amongst museum technicians at an international conference on fine-art conservation.

In accelerated ageing tests, the British Museum scientist found that all current commercial waxes based on the usual natural waxes (beeswax and carnauba wax) contained acids which, in time, could spoil original finishes on national historic collections of furniture. He rejected them all and investigated the new so-called 'fossil' or microcrystalline waxes being refined out of crude oil. With their distinct characteristics depending on their geographical origins, the new 'man-made' waxes could be accurately blended to meet the needs of many industries, from cosmetics and pharmaceuticals to heavy engineering. Thus, the waxes combined Nature's best qualities with the advantages of modern technology.

The blend which emerged from that research was 'designed' for long term protection of all classes of museum exhibits. At last museum technicians and others caring for important collections could use wax polish that neither caused future conservation problems nor detracted from the intrinsic values of their treasures.

Commercial production and distribution of the polish was ultimately undertaken in 1968 by the London-based company Picreator Enterprises Ltd. under its trade name 'Renaissance'. The product was quickly accepted in the international museum world and has become a universally respected standard conservation material - probably the most widely specified - because of its almost unlimited uses.

Renaissance wax polish is manufactured in three sizes 3 litre, 200ml and 65 ml..

Picreator tell me that many of the finest bronze statues and sculptures in London are protected using Renaissance Wax.

Other ways I have tried –

Chrome Car Polish – well that really is to clean and makes preservation another job.

Bees Wax – the above comments regarding the mildly acidic properties of the best bees waxes show that it will not help pewter long term.

WD 40 – I came across people preserving and cleaning thier pewter with a simple spray of WD40 and a soft cloth or applied on the finest wire wool. This I am told will attract dust if left on the surface. If used to lightly clean then it needs to be washed off afterwards and the Renaissance Wax then applied.

I am open to any other readers' ideas or methods especially if tried and tested over a long number of years.

Please email johnstephenbank@btinternet.com