

19th century Austrian enamel art

In the second half of the 19th century, Vienna becomes an important centre for the production of silver and bronze, decorated with artistic enamel. Here worked two great masters, **Hermann Ratzersdorfer** and **Hermann Böhm**, who reproduced the tastes of the public who attended the **Ringstrasse**, the central street in the Austrian capital, and inspired the style of the entire production of arts and crafts in the country. The works in this article are by Ratzersdorfer, Böhm and the other Austrian enamellers and silversmiths of the last decades of the 19th century.

At the end of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, we can see the rise of the **Neo-Renaissance** and the **Neo-Classic** tastes with their architectonic style, *ronde-bosse*, bright enamel colours and large medallions with refined miniatures and mythological-allegorical subjects. In this aesthetic sense, the artists produced tableware and luxury objects, centrepieces and cups, table and fireplace clocks, room divider screens with miniatures, snuffboxes and many more, often decorated with enamelled silver frames, crystal elements and semi-precious stones. An important trait of this style is the use of forms borrowed from the previous styles, i.e. Classicism and Renaissance. The enamelled silver objects were very popular abroad and often given as **diplomatic gifts**.

Today, the best examples of the period belong in the collections of the most important museums of classic and applied arts or for auction by the greatest houses such as **Sotheby's** and **Christie's** (even the little objects may have a bidding of a few thousand euros).

























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<http://www.abitant.com/posts/venskaya-hudozhestvennaya-emal-xix-vek>
http://www.liveinternet.ru/users/lviza_neo/post359392567