

# TIMELINE OF ENAMEL ART

This timeline comprising the main events in the history of enamel, together with a few historical events only partially related to enamel history.

5000 BC	MESOPOTAMIA	Earliest enamelled ceramics.
3000 BC	EGYPT	Enamelled glass and ceramics.
1500 BC	MYCENAE	Lion Hunt Dagger, first example of niello decoration (black ground mixture of copper, sulphur and silver, applied with technologies similar to enamelling).
1425 BC	MYCENAE	Earliest blue glass paste.
1300 BC	CYPRUS	Rings of Kouklia, earliest true cloisonné enamels without the aid of fixing cements.
1194 BC	TURKEY	Traditional date for the Trojan Wars.
1100 BC	CYPRUS	Sceptre of Kourion with cloisonné enamels.
753 BC	ITALY	Traditional date of the Foundation of Rome.
600 BC	FRANCE	Monochrome red enamel in Celtic Gaul.
500 BC	SPAIN	Gadir Collar (Cadiz, ex Phoenician colony), from the El Carambolo Treasure (Seville).
450 BC	GREECE	Earliest filigree enamels in Greece.
400 BC	SWITZERLAND	Celtic enamel in the La Tène culture.
350 BC	CRIMEA	Cloisonné enamel in the Kul-Oba treasure.
325 BC	NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST	Apogee of Alexander the Great.
30 BC	SUDAN	In ancient Nubia, Treasure of Queen Amanishakheto, late Egyptian period.
6-2 BC	PALESTINE	Birth of Jesus of Nazareth. BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA.
69-96 AD	GERMANY	Findings from the Flavian dynasty.
240	FRANCE	During his period in Rome, Greek historian Philostratus of Lemnos writes that the Barbarians melt colours on hot bronze.
300	FRANCE	In Vaison La Romaine, finding of an enamelled bronze Roman fibula.
313	ITALY	Edict of Milan: Constantine declares that Christians can freely practice their religion. End of the persecutions. Christianity will gradually become the official religion of the Roman Empire.
476	WESTERN EUROPE	Fall of the Western Roman Empire.
500	ITALY	Theodoric the Great gains possession of Constantine's diadem and had 24 cloisonné enamel plates added to it. It is the famous Iron Crown of Monza.
600	ENGLAND	Treasure of Sutton Hoo, a burial ship. Many objects decorated with cloisonné enamel.
632	SAUDI ARABIA	Death of Muhammad in Medina.
730	GREECE	First iconoclasm: Emperor Leo III banishes iconography. Decline of Byzantine enamel.
787	TURKEY	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Council of Nicaea reinstates the use of icons in worship.

<b>800</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	In Rome, on December 25, crowning of Charlemagne, the first sovereign of the Holy Roman Empire, wearing the Iron Crown. For that occasion, he had 21 of the original 21 plates replaced with new enamels.
<b>814</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	Second iconoclasm: Emperor Leo V forbids the use of images.
<b>843</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	Empress Theodora of Constantinople reinstates definitively the use of icons in worship. Beginning of the Golden Age of Byzantine cloisonné enamel.
<b>850</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	In Milan, German goldsmith Volvinius produces the Altar of St. Ambrose with cloisonné enamel icons.
	<b>GEORGIA</b>	Triptychs of Martvili and Khakhuli with enamelled icons.
<b>976</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	In Venice, the doge Pietro Orseolo commissions the creation of an antependium for the new altar in St. Mark Cathedral, with enamels produced by Byzantine goldsmiths. It's the first step towards the completion of the Golden Altarpiece (Pala d'Oro).
<b>1000-1050</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	Creation of the Holy Crown of Hungary for St. Stephen and his successors, with enamels in the technique known as "mixed or sunk enamel".
<b>1080</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	In Conques, transition from gold to copper as base for enamelling.
<b>1099</b>	<b>PALESTINE</b>	First Crusade in the Holy Land.
<b>1105</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	In Venice, under the reign of doge Ordelafo Falier, creation of the Pala d'Oro with new Byzantine enamels and the addition of the little enamel icons from the altar of St. Mark.
<b>1120</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	In Conques, earliest champlevé on gilded copper, the Casket of Abbot Boniface de Saint Foy.
<b>1125</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	Theophilus Presbyter writes his handbook <i>De diversis artibus</i> on goldsmith's art, glassmaking and enamelling.
<b>1130</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	Casket-reliquary of Bellac: earliest champlevé on gilded copper produced in Limoges.
<b>1145</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	The abbot of Stavelot orders the production of champlevé enamels on gold. The work is a witness of the Mosan school.
<b>1160</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	Completion of the portable altar of Stavelot, probably a work of Godefroy de Claire.
<b>1170</b>	<b>SPAIN</b>	Completion of the Urn of St. Dominic, the highest expression of the school of Silos.
<b>1173</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	Death of Godefroy de Claire.
<b>1181</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Nicholas de Verdun, a disciple of Godefroy de Claire, produces the Altar of Klosterneuburg with 45 enamel plates, champlevé on gilded copper.
<b>1200</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	Completion of the Reliquary of the Three Kings in Cologne.
<b>1204</b>	<b>GREECE</b>	Siege of Constantinople.

1209	ITALY	In Venice, Pietro Ziani acquires enamel icons sacked from the Constantinople and has them embedded in the Pala d'Oro.
1215	ITALY	In Rome, the 4 <sup>th</sup> Lateran Council enforces the use of special vessels for the custody of the Eucharist under the pressure of Pope Innocent III.
1229	ENGLAND	Synod of Winchester: the Eucharistic doves from the Limoges declared a valid form of tabernacle according to the principles established in 1215. This decree will determine the fortune of the Opus Lemovicense.
1290	ITALY	In Siena, goldsmith Guccio di Mannaia creates his Chalice of Pope Nicholas IV, the first known example of <i>champlevé basse-taille</i> .
1295	ITALY	In Rome, an inventory of liturgical objects of Pope Boniface VIII makes a first probable mention of the <i>plique à jour</i> technique, called <i>smalta clara</i> .
1339	ITALY	In Siena, Ugolino di Vieri completes his wonderful Reliquary of the Corporal of Bolsena, <i>champlevé basse-taille</i> , in the Orvieto Cathedral.
1342	ITALY	In Venice, the doge Andrea Dandolo decrees a new modification to the Pala d'Oro with a restauration and rearrangement of the enamels by Giovanni Paolo Boninsegna.
1370	FRANCE	The Massacre of Limoges during the Hundred Years' War, determines the end of the first Golden Age of Limoges. Many artists flee to Paris, where they find refuge under John duke of Berry in Paris.
1380	FRANCE	In Paris, a goldsmith (possibly from Limoges) produces the earliest known <i>ronde bosse</i> enamel, the Reliquary of the Holy Thorn.
1388	CHINA	The book <i>Ge Gu Yao Lun</i> describes a production of Chinese enamel inspired to the Iranian art of <i>minakari</i> , under the name "Islamic ware".
1400	BELGIUM	Mérode Cup with <i>plique à jour</i> enamels. It is the most ancient work with this difficult technique that has survived to our days.
1450	CHINA	Chinese Emperor Jingtai diffuses the <i>cloisonné</i> technique in his country. Due to the prevalence of blue colours, the technique is known as <i>jingtai blue</i> .
1453	GREECE	Fall of Constantinople. End of the Byzantine era.
1454	FRANCE	Jean Fouquet learns the art of enamelling of Filarete. Returning from France, he produces a <i>camaïeu en or</i> , similar to painted enamel and <i>grisaille</i> .
1490	FRANCE	In Limoges, period of activity of an anonymous enamellist or an atelier nicknamed Pseudo-Monvaerni. This is one of the first consistent uses of painted enamel.
1492	AMERICA	Christopher Columbus lands on the island of San Salvador on October 12: this is the discovery of

		America, the date ending the Middle Ages and starting the Renaissance period.
<b>1503</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	Martin Luther hangs the 95 Thesis against Catholicism on the Church of Wittemberg.
		BEGINNING OF THE PROTESTANT REFORM.
<b>1517</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	The great painter and scientist Leonardo da Vinci dies on May 2 in Amboise. A few years later, his disciple Francesco Melzi collects the writings of his master and publishes them under the title Treatise on Painting. In this book, Leonardo praises enamelling because, unlike the other forms of paintings, "it surpasses sculpture in durability".
<b>1519</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	The artist Léonard Limosin becomes the Valet of the King's chamber" and painter at the court of Paris.
<b>1530</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	First grisaille enamels produced in Limoges.
<b>1543</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	During his activity in Fontainebleau (the same school of Léonard Limosin), Italian goldsmith Benvenuto Cellini produces his famous Salt Cellar of Francis I.
<b>1559</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	Pierre Courteys produced the 12 largest medallions in Limoges enamel technique.
<b>1563</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	The 25th decree of the Council of Trent reiterates against Luther and the other protestant theologians that the traditional use of iconography and the figurative arts must be observed, thus influencing the artistic production in the Catholic countries (Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Austria).
<b>1567</b>	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	Jean De Court, enamellist, becomes the official painter of the queen of Scotland, Mary Stuart.
<b>1568</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Benvenuto Cellini writes his Treatises on goldsmithing and sculpture
<b>1590</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	Susanne De Court, daughter of Jean De Court, is the first woman enamellist whose name has come down to us. The artist creates his painted enamels with the typical Limoges style.
<b>1620</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>	Activity of the Hirata School, important for the production of katana hilts with traditional Japanese decoration motifs.
<b>1632</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	The brothers Jean and Henri Toutin develop the first enamel portrait miniatures.
<b>1633</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	A young Swiss artist, Jean Petitot, learns the technique of heir masters, the Toutin brothers.
<b>1637</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	Jean Petitot works at the court of Charles I of England, reproducing the portraits of Sir Anton Van Dyck with the medium of enamel.
<b>1690</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Activity of the Huaud dynasty of enamel portraitists in Geneva.
<b>1697</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	Peter the Great, tsar of Russia, meets enamellist Charles Bois and is so fascinated by the enamel miniature technique that over the next few years,

		he invited many enamellists to come to work in St. Petersburg.
<b>1710</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	In St. Petersburg, activity of Gregory Semenovitch Musikiysky, the first Russian enamel portraitist.
<b>1753</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	S. Jansenn opens the first factory of transfer printing enamel in Battersea for luxury objects.
<b>1760</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	The Archbishop of Rostov founds a laboratory for the production of enamelled icons with the technique called finift.
<b>1761</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	J. G. Justi: earliest industrial enamelling of cast iron containers.
<b>1786</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	The great painter and portraitist Jean Etienne Liotard begins his production of rococo-style enamels
<b>1834</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	Death of Henry Bones, famous for his production of miniature copies of works of Rubens, Raphael, Titian etc.
<b>1838</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>	Former samurai Kaji Tsunekichi analyses a piece of Chinese enamel to reproduce the technique.
<b>1845</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	The national porcelain manufacture in Sèvres starts to produce enamel objects.
<b>1850</b>	<b>JAPAN</b>	Kaji Tsunekichi opens his manufacture in Nagoya with official endorsements from the local authorities in Owari.
<b>1885</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	First Fabergé Egg produced for the empress Maria Fëdorovna, guilloché technique.
<b>1891</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Vincenzo Miranda, a goldsmith from Naples, receives a praise for his enamelled jewels by the Reale Istituto d'Incoraggiamento di Napoli.
<b>1896</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	Mass production of 400.000 cups with enamel decals to celebrate the crowning with tsar Nicholas II and his consort Alexandra Fëdorovna. During the celebrations, the cups will inadvertently the cause of the Khodynka tragedy.
<b>1897</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	Queen Victoria of England, grandmother of Alexandra Fëdorovna, celebrates her 60th year of reign with the production of enamel decal cups.
<b>1900</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Vincenzo Miranda presents his jewels at the Universal Exposition in Paris.
<b>1902</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	Edward VII of England has enamel decal cups made for his crowning.
<b>1907</b>	<b>RUSSIA</b>	In St. Petersburg, completion of the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, dedicated to the tsar Alexander II, victim of an attack in 1881. The Holy Doors of the iconostasis have enamel icons and decorations that will be raided by the Soviets a few years later.
<b>1914-1918</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>	World War.
<b>1931</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Death of Giuseppe Guidi, the enamellist of poet Gabriele D'Annunzio.
<b>1934</b>	<b>USA</b>	H. Edward Winter starts his career as an enamellist.
<b>1939-1945</b>	<b>-</b>	World War II.

<b>1945</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	After the World War, the Monastery of Ligugé starts the production of enamels reproducing works of great artists such as Picasso or Chagall.
<b>1951</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	Egino Weinert opens his first atelier. He is probably the most important German enamellist in the 20th century.
<b>1952</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	The Art Institute F. Mengaroni of Pesaro becomes a forge of new talents in enamel art.
<b>1956</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Virgilio Bari, Lidia Lanfranconi, Bianca Tuninetto and Euclide Chiambretti found the "Studio Del Campo" after their experience in the Artistic Community of Turin.
	<b>USA</b>	The enamellist Fred Uhl Ball begins to exhibit his works and give enamelling demonstrations at the age of 11.
<b>1959</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Giuseppe Maretto publishes "Qualche smalto", a booklet with a few of his works.
<b>1979</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	In Deidesheim, the Atelier Gabriele, founded in 1966, becomes a no profit association called CREATIV-KREIS-INTERNATIONAL (C.K.I.).
<b>1980</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Eugenio Pieraccini, enamellist in Viareggio.
<b>1981</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	Mario Marè (1921-1993) publishes his handbook "Lo smalto a fuoco su metalli".