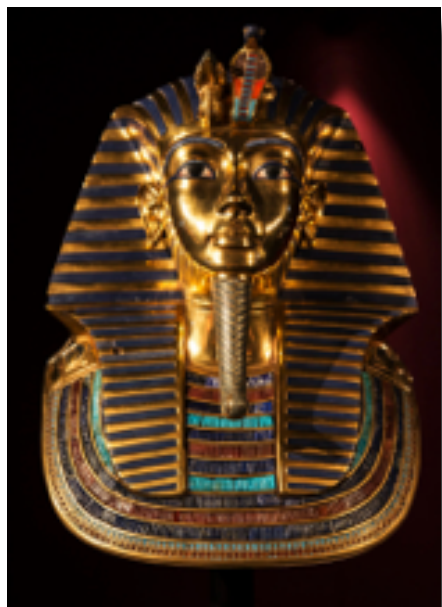




a journey through the history of enameling



Artist:
Jackie
Truty



Tutankhamun's funeral mask.
Pixabay.com

4000 BC

Cloisonné techniques, though not thought to be true enameling, were developed by the ancient Egyptians. Semiprecious stones were cold-cemented into jewelry, as seen in Tutankhamun's golden mask.

13th Century BC

The earliest known enameled objects are six gold rings found in a Mycenaean tomb in Kouklia, Cyprus. These rings are chased gold with twisted square cloisonné wires inlaid with glass.



5th Century BC

Enamel techniques spread to the Greeks and then on to the rest of Europe.

55 BC

The Celts were already using enamels when Caesar conquered Britain. Examples of their champlevé work survive on swords, shields and brooches.



10th Century

Cloisonné enameling peaks in Byzantine Constantinople. The Holy Crown of Hungary, with detailed enameled plaques of emperors, is believed to have been made in Constantinople in the 11th Century.

Cloisonné enamel techniques spread to Russia.



The Royal Crown of Hungary.
Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

11th Century

Champlevé techniques flourish in Europe, in the Rhine, Meuse and Limoges areas.

13th Century

Basse-taille techniques, in which transparent enamels are applied over a low relief design, flourish in Italy and France.



13th Century champlevé eucharistic dove.
Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

14-15th Century

Enamel techniques increase in complexity. The Mérode Cup, made in the 15th Century in France, showcases plique-à-jour methods in which transparent enamels fill window-like areas without a backing.

Cloisonné flourishes during China's Ming Dynasty.

In France's Limoges region, artisans develop the technique of painting enamel onto metal without the use of divisions or indentations.



The Mérode Cup. Wikimedia Commons,
Author: VAwebteam at English Wikipedia

18th Century

Enameling expands beyond the realm of religious artifacts.



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Enameled Jewelry Using Art Clay with Jackie Truty