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Green Glass Box: 4.5”h x 5.5”d

CONDITION REPORT

The box is in overall fair condition. The hinge to the box has broken and the lid is detached. Both bezels of the box are seated with plaster and tarnished. The lid has a raised floral motif of enamel and gold. The rear of the box has a large loss in glass to the back, approximately 5” wide by 2” tall. The decorative elements of the lid show wear that is consistent with the age and use of the piece. The box has grime on the interior and exterior.



Front of box, before treatment.



Rear of box, before treatment, showing damage.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

The floral design should be tested for solvent sensitivity. The bezel should be removed from the lid of the box. Both the top and bottom of the box should be cleaned. It is recommended that molds be taken of the interior and exterior shape of the box to create a dam. Tinted epoxy to match the color and translucency of the glass would be poured into the mold and allowed to cure. The fabrication would be refined and polished to match the surrounding areas. Because glass is translucent, the repair will be obvious upon inspection. Once the fabrication was completed, the bezel would be resealed with plaster. Due to the age and delicate nature of the brass bezel, it is not recommended that the hinge or bezel be repaired at this time.

TREATMENT REPORT

The plaster of the lid bezel was severely deteriorated, and the bezel was able to be removed intact. The remaining plaster was removed from the bezel and the edge of the box lid with a scalpel. The box was cleaned with ammonia-based cleaners and paper towels.

Liquid latex¹ was poured into the interior of an intact area of the lid and tilted back and forth until the coverage of the latex was larger than the area of the loss. As the latex dried, approximately five more layers were painted onto the first layer. A layer of medical cloth tape was added to the top of the latex, followed by approximately five more coats to add strength to the mold. The same process was repeated for the exterior of the lid.

Both molds were placed around the loss and secured with more latex and covered with cloth tape to hold it in place. Approximately 10g of Hxtal NYL-1² epoxy was prepared. The epoxy was chosen for its water-clear appearance and UV resistance. The epoxy was tinted using Smooth-on So Strong Colorants³ in green and yellow. Once the bubbles settled, the mixture was poured into the mold. Excesses were dammed with cellophane tape and more epoxy added. The epoxy was allowed to cure for three days. The mold was removed, but the profile of the edge was not correct. New molds were made, this time with a single mold that covered the interior, edge, and exterior, and the process was repeated. After three days, more tinted epoxy was inserted into the mold by use of syringe.



Lid in mold with epoxy.



Lid after mold and extra coat of tinted epoxy.

Every attempt was made to keep the color in the lid fabrication consistent. However, differing thicknesses in the wall of the glass and several different pourings made irregularities in the shape and color of the fabrication.

¹ *Latex*: A viscous, milky sap produced from numerous plants such as rubber trees. Latex rubber is hardened into a usable product by vulcanization.

² *Hxtal NYL-1*: A slow curing (approximately 7 days), low viscosity, water-white two-part epoxy with a refractive index (1.5201) closely matching that of modern glass.

³ *Smooth-On Colorants*: A proprietary blend of colors used in the tinting of epoxy and polyurethane.

More layers of tinted epoxy were added and then polished with Micro-Mesh⁴ sheets grits 1800 – 12000. A layer of Acrysol WS-24⁵ mixed with more of the Smooth-on colorants was added to the interior layer of the fabrication to even out the color as much as possible. A sealant layer of tinted Hxtal NYL-1 was placed over the Acrysol WS-24 and the exterior and allowed to cure. The fabrication was polished with Micro-Mesh again with a final polish completed with 120,000 grit diamond polish on a cloth disk and applied at high speeds by Freedom Drill. The remaining polish residue was removed with cotton swabs dipped in acetone. Three coats of Acrysol WS-24 were brushed onto the surface of the fabrication to match the gloss of the surrounding glass. The lid was reseated in the bezel with plaster⁶ and excesses were removed with cotton swabs dipped in distilled water.

Because the box is in two separate pieces, it is recommended that the box halves be stored separately while not on display. While on display, it is recommended that the box lid be held in place with the use of wax or some other fixative to prevent the lid from sliding off of the bottom half.

BEFORE



AFTER



⁴ *Micro-mesh*: A cloth-backed abrasive in grades 1500 through 12,000. Grades 1500 to 6000 are silicon carbide crystals on a cloth backing, while grades 8,000 and 12,000 are aluminum oxide crystals on a cloth backing. Micro-Surface Finishing Products, Inc., 1217 West Third Street, P.O. Box 818, Wilton, Iowa 52778.

⁵ *Primal/Acrysol WS-24*: Acrylic dispersion of polyacrylic acid mixed with acrylic copolymers or sodium polyacrylate in water. Glass transition temperature: 46 C/114 F.

⁶ *Plaster*: A fine white powder composed a calcium sulfate hemihydrate mixed with water.

BEFORE



AFTER

