

A small tribute to Sheikh Nasser

Many years ago I indirectly met Sheikh Nasser when I was asked to help in setting up a collection of ancient glass for him to view at Christie's. Since then on occasion I have been asked to look at mostly silver objects that he was thinking of acquiring for his collection; as I am an antiquities restorer who specializes in ancient metal work.

Most recently I was asked to clean and restore a very fine 8th century Islamic Bronze ewer inlaid with copper and silver. This was one of his favourite objects and I was lucky enough to be asked to work on it. It was a difficult and time consuming project as the silver inlays were very fragile and a large number of them had to be reset into their grooves. The time and effort spent was rewarding as the ewer transformed in appearance.

The Sheikh was following the restoration with interest during his illness, but unfortunately he did not quite see the finished results due to his death just before it was finished.

He will be much missed as a collector and also as a person.

Martin Foster.

