

Burnishers

Haematite (a high grade iron ore) is the ideal burnisher. Unfortunately they are not easily obtained and are expensive. Haematite looks black but is actually red and commonly called a 'bloodstone'. It remains dry even in humid conditions and skates over the gold while creating a brilliant polish. It disperses static so gold does not readily stick to it.

Psilomelanite is widely used because it has comparatively few flaws and is less wasteful in manufacture than haematite. Its colour is essentially black. They must be kept scrupulously clear of grease, no touching with your fingers !

Agate (a semi-precious stone) is cheaply and widely available as a polishing stone but it has the disadvantage of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere. Pencil and dog-tooth burnishers made of agate are perfectly adequate.

A dog-tooth burnisher (No 21 is a reasonable size) is sufficient to start with and perhaps a pencil burnisher (No 12). The psilomelanite burnisher (No 99) is a very versatile tool particularly for raised gilding.

9XB12 Agate Pencil Burnisher £15.00

9XB21 Agate Dog tooth Burnisher . . .£15.00

9XB99 Psilomelanite Burnisher £48.00

9XB01 Felt bag for burnisher £ 1.00

Tips: Always replace the burnisher in its felt pouch and never put it in your pen box or leave it lying on the desk – the smallest of scratches will gradually build up and cause the burnisher to 'pull'. Cleanliness is vital – nearly everyone wants to feel the smooth stone and leave an invisible layer of grease -don't let them touch it. Before working breathe on the burnisher and polish with a piece of silk.

Glassine (Crystal Parchment) is a non-stick paper which comes in 20"x30" sheets and is used to press down the gold after its initial application and before burnishing. It is also useful for covering your stored calligraphy. Like a photograph album it prevents sticking and offset.

9X2CP Glassine Paper 40p per sheet (posted folded)

Other sizes of burnishers to order.

