OUAISS ANTIQUITÉS
Galerie des Arts



Tabatiere niellé Russian with view of St Petersburg Palace

Era: 19th century

Materials: silver, enamel

Dim: W 9,4 cm / D 4,7 cm / H 3,7 cm

Weight: 144 g (5.07 oz)

Hallmark 84 Zolotniki, Moscow

HA: Assay Nikolai Lukich Dubrovin

AP for Alexander Palmen

Silver snuffbox nielloed with foliate motifs, with a lid decorated with an enamel miniature in a gold frame depicting a view of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg along the Neva River, built for the Tsars and now the Hermitage Museum. Date circa 1840.

City hallmark: Moscow, 84 Zolotniki.

AP hallmark: Alexander Palmen in Tammisaari, where Erik Kollin was apprenticed and later became Fabergé's head silversmith.

HA hallmark: Assay master Nikolai Lukich Dubrovin.

Niello is a silversmithing technique that involves applying niello, a black metallic sulfide including copper, silver and often even lead or borax, filling the recessed patterns of chisel-engraved metal with this molten alloy; the nielloed surface is then polished to remove the excess added metal.