

## David Cottier-Angeli

### Jeweller & metals conservator

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David's life is about curiosity and measuring risks. His childhood was shaped observing his mother restore archaeological ceramics and his grandfather manipulating an intricate watch automate with a singing bird. This inspired him to develop a fascination for chemical reactions. In 1983, David obtained a degree in jewellery-making and designing in Geneva. He then worked for three years at 'Piaget' making parures and restoring spring mechanisms of watch bodies such as the *Liberty Head \$20 USA* gold coin with a 'Piaget' slim calibre trapped inside the coin.

Loaded with an interest in chemical reactions and restoration, David joined the *Institute of Archaeology* at the University College London (UCL). This gave him access to the most prestigious tuition of archeometallurgy from Professor Ronald Tylecote. Then David worked as a trainee at the *British Museum*, moving on to the *Israel Museum of Jerusalem* both in the metal-conservation sections. Later, this gave him an opportunity to work with the excavation team at the 'Timna' site (38), in the Negev Desert, southern Israel, with another distinguished Professor, the archeometallurgist Beno Rothenberg. During the mapping of a copper mine along with two other engineers, David was in charge of conservation, preservation and parts of the investigations of artefacts. Those were mainly composed of datable woven textiles fragments as well as few Roman food remains.

David is also an entrepreneur in the field of metal conservation since 1990. This has led him to provide his expertise in legal affairs. In 2010, David was made an associated member of the *Swiss Chamber of Technical and Scientific Forensic Experts*.

David is subcontracted by famous museums as an external expert, such as in 2015, by the British Museum, London; the Zayed National Museum, Abu Dhabi as well as the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi.

The dynamic Swiss watch industry regularly calls David for his metallurgical expertise and to develop alloys, so that the patinas of those brands could meet the strict standards required by the trademarks.

Since 1993, David has been transmitting his technical know-how to Hungary through the *Swiss Secretariat of Economic Affairs* (SECO), in order to create a conservation laboratory which remains fully operational to date.

David gives lectures at the *Geneva School of Jewellery* and Fribourg University. He even gave a professional adjournment course to the conservators of the *Vatican Museum* on metal restoration linked to the ancient metallurgical techniques.

David is honoured with two prestigious distinctions: "*Prix Irène Meynieux*" given by the French Association for the Advancement of Sciences of Paris and the "*Pro Cultura Hungarica*", awarded by the Hungarian Minister of Culture.

In terms of inventions, David created a patent of a robotic controlled showcase for a stunning antique coin collection. He also applied this device for the prestigious Geneva watch manufacturer *Vacheron & Constantin* for their travelling calibre collection.