

Jennifer's Guide to Sourcing Antqie Locket for Hairwork

When searching for antique lockets for use with hairwork, there are some important things to keep in mind:

Your locket must contain frames, or housing, to allow for holding glass for hairwork and photographs. Hairwork needs to be covered with glass to decrease risk of damage. A photograph does not need to be covered with glass, but can be covered with thin plastic for protection if the locket is too shallow on one side. For lockets missing these components I can add them to certain lockets, but it is not guaranteed.

Here are some examples of lockets that are suitable for hairwork and some that do not work.

When looking for lockets, the most fool proof thing to do is look for lockets that already have hair in them. Then you know it checks all the boxes.

Example 1: This locket is ideal, because although it is dirty, all the components are there. It has an internal frame closing mechanism which means one of the sides has an additional wall that extends past the outside wall. That lip is what keeps the covers closed. This locket has frames and glasses on both sides, contains hairwork and closes flush.



Blown up example of Internal Frame Closing Mechanism.

Example 2: This locket has the same internal frame closing mechanism as the one above, however it is missing both glasses, and one of the frames. However, this locket is still suitable for hairwork. In order for it to be servicable, I would have to remake one frame, and cut glass for it.

NOTE: It is important to know, that because of how the closing mechanism works for these types of lockets, the side with the extra wall will be deeper than the side that does not have it. Therefore, usually the shallow side can not accommodate glass, but will house the photo with a plastic covering. I do have ultra thin glass that could be used for standard shapes, like ovals and rectangles, instead of the plastic. However, the ultra thin glass can not be cut into odd shapes, like this shield or a heart.



Example 3: This locket has the same internal frame closing mechanism as Example 1 & 2, however it is missing both glasses and both of the frames. This locket is still suitable for hairwork. In order for it to be servicable, I would have to remake two frames, and cut glass for it. Because the shape is such that the glass can be ground instead of hand cut, it could be filled with the ultra-thin glass, allowing for the use of glass on both sides instead of plastic on the photograph side.



Example 4: This locket has an external closing mechanism. As it is, it has both frames intact and one glass intact. The top is missing the glass but we can see that it used to have it at one point because of the lip that is included in the frame to hold it. Yes, this locket will hold hairwork.



Example 4: This locket also has an external closing mechanism, but it is missing one glass and frame. In lockets that close flush like this, usually the frames hold the glass up flush to the center of the locket. In order to do that, I would have to create a bezel/frame that extends both out and down. It is possible but would increase the cost of repair. The other alternative would be to create a flat frame that holds the glass in place down in the pocket but it would not sit flush with the middle of the locket.



Example of Locket Not Suitable for Hairwork:

Most modern lockets are not deep enough to allow for glass, frames, and hairwork. They are designed to have a photograph glued or taped in only. I would recommend you stay away from lockets that look like this.



This locket may be deep enough, but because of the lip on this locket, it is designed to have a photograph bent and inserted into the pocket. In order to make it suitable, I would have to fabricate frames that sit inside the pockets that extend both out and down, to house the glass and hairwork. It would be better to invest in a locket more suitable for hairwork right out of the gate, unless you are absolutely in love with it.



Things to keep in mind:

The smaller the locket, the smaller the photo and the amount of hairwork you will be able to see.

Locket that are supplied by owners must be approved by me before shipping to me for hairwork. I cannot guarantee lockets are suitable for hairwork until I inspect it in person. I reserve the right to decline working on a locket I deem unsuitable. Quotes for repair and additions needed will not be given until I can physically inspect the locket.

Feel free to send me an email or message with a picture before you purchase and I can give you my opinion based on photos. It may take up to 24 hours to return your message.

Jennifer Metesh
540-621-5186
info@jennifermeteshstudios.com