

## Using the Internet to Collect – A Case Study



Have one to sell? [Sell now](#)

**Art Nouveau Copper Bookends  
Thistle Design Signed AMV**

[bonitalaura2011\(1384\)](#)

100% positive  
Seller's other items  
[Contact seller](#)



In January, "Steve" noticed a pair of acid-etched copper bookends on eBay during an "Always Be Checking" session.

He's intrigued, but they're located in England and the signature is unfamiliar. But he does the Buy-It-Now for \$60.

Steve reaches out to RoycroftCopper and HammeredHewn via email but neither Dave nor Bryan knows the mark. Student work?



But Steve has the nagging thought that he's seen the a.m.v. mark before.

While pondering, it comes to him - it looks like a Rookwood mark he once saw in a book.

So he starts Googling and sure enough – Anna Marie Valentien!



More Googling and he finds numerous Valentien vases decorated with thistles and discovers that thistles were a favorite motif of hers.

The one pictured at right is in The Met.



More Googling and online research: Anna went to Europe with husband Albert; she studied pottery making, painting, sculpture, and casting bronzes under Rodin.

Back in San Diego 1914/15 she taught painting and crafts; The Valentien papers are at Scripps.