

## **Specification of Auguste Audigier : embalming.**

### **Contributors**

Audigier, Auguste.

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A.D. 1864, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL. N<sup>o</sup> 926.

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

AUGUSTE AUDIGIER.

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EMBALMING.

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LONDON:

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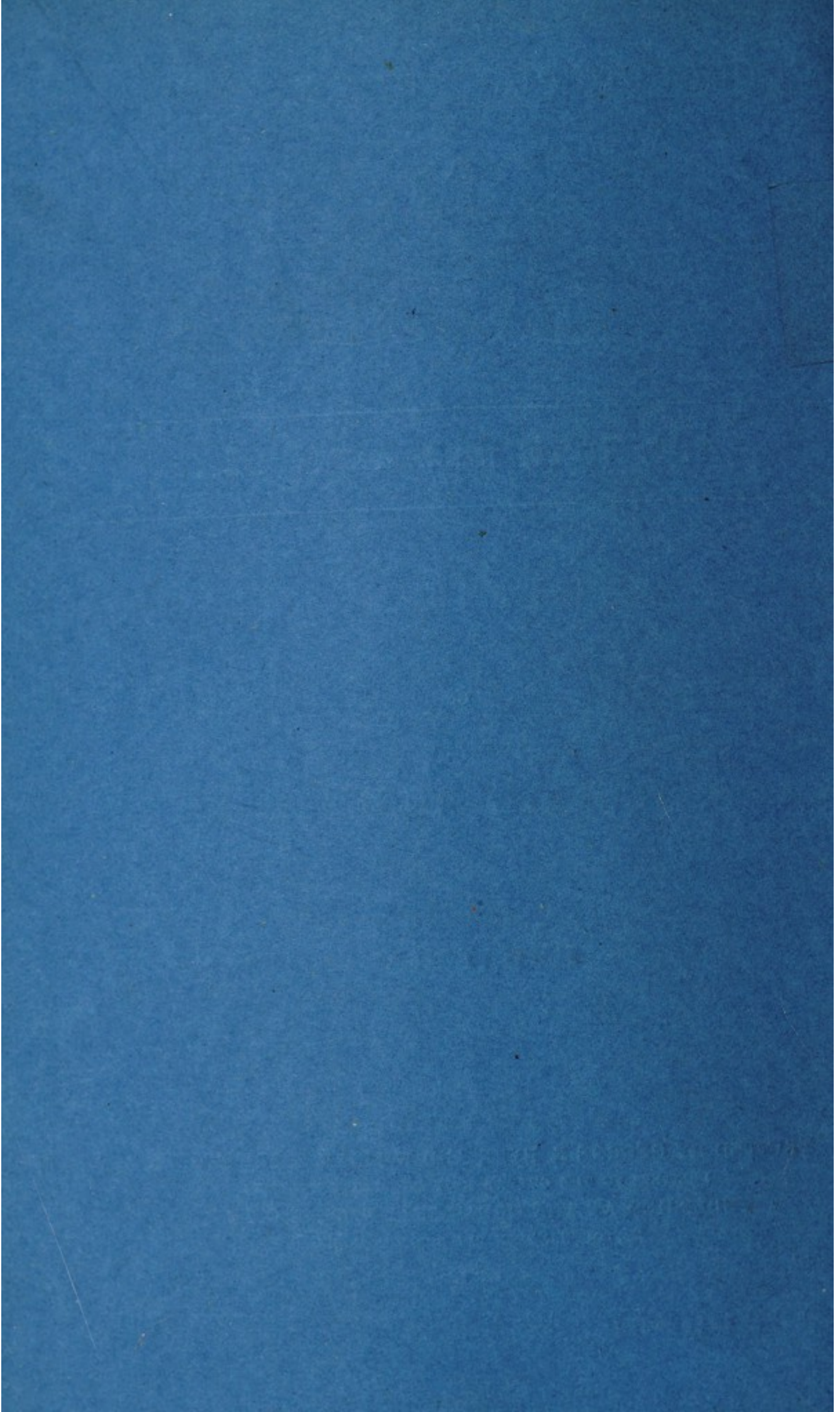
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A.D. 1864, 13th *APRIL*. N° 926.

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**Embalming.**

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**LETTERS PATENT** to Auguste Audigier, Chymist, living at No. 63, Rue Grignan, Marseilles, in the Empire of France, for the Invention of "**EMBALMING AND MUMMYFYING DEAD BODIES.**"

Sealed the 7th October 1864, and dated the 13th April 1864.

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**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by the said Auguste Audigier at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 13th April 1864.

I, **AUGUSTE AUDIGIER**, Chymist, living at No. 63, Rue Grignan, Marseilles, in the Empire of France, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**EMBALMING AND MUMMYFYING DEAD BODIES,**" to be as follows :—

My embalming process consists, firstly, in the preparation and application of a product composed of wood in powder, nitric acid, marine or bay salt, and of essence of two qualities. Secondly, in the preparation and application of a special liquid for the mouth, composed of nitric acid saturated with bay salt and crystallized sulphate of zinc. The body may be embalmed with its



*Audigier's Method of Embalming and Mummyfying Dead Bodies.*

clothing, and the mummyfication takes place in less than twelve months. The coffin should be leaded ; the mummyfication may, nevertheless, be obtained without the aid of a leaden coffin. All movements or shocks likely to separate the product of the body should be avoided, and the coffin be as little exposed to humidity as possible.

5

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said Auguste Audigier in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 13th October 1864.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, AUGUSTE AUDIGIER, Chymist, living at Number 63, Rue Grignan, Marseilles, in the 10 Empire of France, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, in the twenty-seventh year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant 15 unto me, the said Auguste Audigier, Her special licence that I, the said Auguste Audigier, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said Auguste Audigier, my executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the time therein expressed, should and lawfully 20 might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands; and Isle of Man, an Invention for "EMBALMING AND MUMMYFYING DEAD BODIES," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said Auguste Audigier, my executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their 25 hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

30

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Auguste Audigier, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement :—



*Audigier's Method of Embalming and Mummifying Dead Bodies.*

The product which I use for embalming is composed as follows :—

1. Wood dust or powder - - - 2 lbs. 2 ounces.
2. Nitric acid at 36°/° by "Baumé's" areometer 2 lbs. 11 ounces.
3. Marine or bay salt - - - 10½ ounces.
- 5 4. Essences of two qualities (say essence of lavender and essence of thyme) - - 5½ drachms.

The wood powder, the nitric acid, and the marine salt are placed together in a receiver or very wide or bell-mouthed vase, and kept in motion until cooled ; the essence is then added, and it may be used. I further use a liquid

10 composed of,—

1. Nitric acid at 40 degrees "Baumé," saturated with marine salt 24½ ounces,
2. Crystallized sulphate of zinc - - - 7 ounces,

placed together in a vial, and well mixed by shaking. I would here observe, that I do not confine myself to the precise weights and proportions above  
15 given, as such may be varied according to circumstances and the quality of the materials.

And having now set forth the composition of my products, I will describe my method of effecting the embalment.

For a large body, I take about 44 lbs. weight of the powder above  
20 described, and spread it as well as possible all about the body ; then by means of an instrument analogous to that used for feeding insane people, and which I introduce into the mouth of the deceased under the root of the tongue, I pour the 31½ ounces of the liquid which I have prepared as above stated. There then remains but several supplementary details, namely, I place a little  
25 rose colour prepared with essence and vermilion on the face and hands ; I introduce into the nostrils a plug of cotton soaked with essence to preserve the shape of the nose ; then, lastly, I place a handkerchief around the head, passing under the chin to keep the mouth and the eyes closed, and I hide the face with a white napkin several times folded, on which I spread a little of  
30 the powder of which I have already spoken. The coffin is then hermetically closed by the operation of soldering, care being taken, as the operation goes on, to cool the soldered parts with a wet rag, in order to produce the least possible heat.

The body may be embalmed naked or with its clothing. In certain diseases  
35 care should be taken to place a plug in the anus to prevent the escape of the liquid. The leaden coffin is not indispensable, but is preferable to wood. In every case care should be taken to shake as little as possible, in order that the powder should not come off from the body. Place the coffin in as dry a vault



*Audigier's Method of Embalming and Mummyfying Dead Bodies.*

as possible. The embalment having been effected, made by the conditions I have above set forth, the mummyfication of the body will take place in less than a year.

In conclusion, I claim the exclusive preparation of the products which I use, and of which I have given the composition, as well as my method of 5 operating, as above set forth.

In witness whereof, I, the said Auguste Audigier, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

A. AUDIGIER. (L.S.) 10

## LONDON:

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