

Small Silver Cigarette Case with Niello Artwork and Gilded Interior, by Andrey Postnikov, Moscow, dated 1889.

Measures 86.5 mm in length, 48.3 mm in width (not including the pushbutton), 20.5 mm thick when closed; weighs 74.3 g. Features a beautiful Niello artwork throughout with the top panel having a round center medallion, possibly intended for the monogram of the owner (it is blank and never had an inscription). The interior is gilded; both sides show a clearly stamped "84" silver hallmark as well as the Cyrillic maker mark АП ("AP") of the Moscow jewelry factory of Andrey Mikhailovich Postnikov. Additionally, the lower panel has the St. George hallmark of the Moscow assay inspection as well as the assayer's hallmark with a clearly visible 1889 date of manufacture. There are also the Moscow St. George hallmark and maker mark "AP" stamped on the lip at the joining of the two halves of the case.

Outstanding, excellent condition. The case is completely free of dents or bumps. The exterior is essentially pristine; the niello artwork is perfect and free of noticeable wear of any kind. The pushbutton closure functions smoothly. The interior has only minimal scuffs but no significant scratches or dings; its gold plating is nicely preserved. A beautiful piece through and through!

Established in Moscow in 1868, Andrey Postnikov's jewelry factory produced a variety of gold, silver and bronze articles for the church as well as an assortment of luxury consumer goods. According to the Postnikova-Loseva catalog, within two years of its founding the factory already employed 87 workers and had a yearly revenue of 250,000 rubles - a very respectable sum at the time. A number of items by this manufacturer are currently in the collections of the GIM (State History Museum in Moscow) and Gosudarstvennaya Oruzheynaya Palata (State Armoury Chamber).

/ Postnikova-Loseva, Russian Gold and Silverwork from the 15th to 20th Century , fig. 2229/.

Please note, pen in our photo is for size reference.

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\$445.00



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