



Silver Cigarette Case with Niello Artwork and Golden Monogram, by I.P. Prokofyev, Moscow, 1899-1908

Measures approx. 103 mm in length, 72.5 mm in width (not including the pushbutton), 17 mm thick when closed, not including the superimposed monogram; weighs 155.0 g. Features a very attractive and tasteful Niello floral motif on both sides. The center medallion has a superimposed solid-gold monogram ИД ("ID"), executed in stylized Art Nouveau manner. The interior is gilded.

The inside of both panels carries two hallmarks: the 84-silver hallmark with "Kokoshnik" facing left and Cyrillic initials ИЛ ("IL") of the Moscow assay inspector Ivan Lebyodkin; and maker mark ИП ("IP") of I. P. Prokofyev, the owner of a silver goods workshop in the Danilovskaya Sloboda district of Moscow.

The cigarette case is in excellent condition. It is completely free of dents or bumps. The exterior is perfect, its niello artwork showing none of the typical wear or damage. The pushbutton closure works smoothly; the alignment of the panels is perfect. There are some minor scratches and scuffs to the interior, not visually detractive; the gold plating is pale but fully present throughout. The rivets holding the golden monogram are tight. The elastic bands for holding the cigarettes are not included, but the original brackets are intact, so it would be an easy replacement if desired.

The case comes with an original specification tag of a Soviet state second-hand jewelry retail trust, filled-out and signed by a certified appraiser on 30 October 1978, attached by a string and secured with the official seal. Interestingly, beside the requisite weight and size data, the Russian-language evaluation on the tag states that due to a "deformation" of the latch, the cigarette case does not close tightly - something that is clearly not the case now. We can only assume that the lock has been repaired by a new owner after the 1978 evaluation.

/Postinkova-Loseva, Russian Gold and Silverwork from the 15th to 20th Century . fig. 2511, 2512/.

Item# 44761

\$750.00

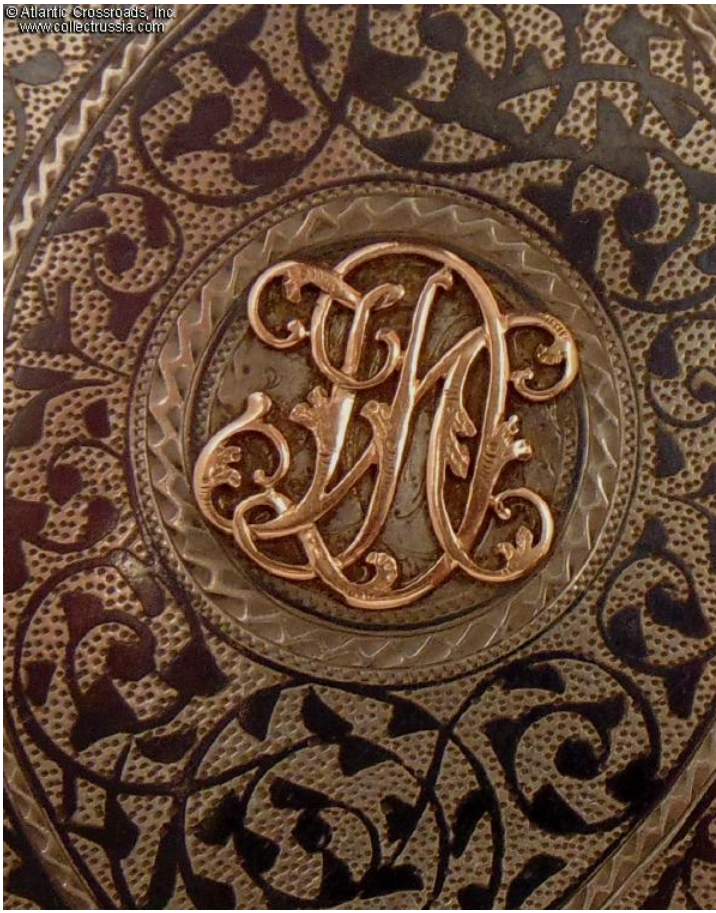
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