



APPRAISAL REPORT

Elkington & Co. silver-plated lidded box, Indian repoussé, circa 1888.

Circa 1885–1895, late Victorian period (possibly 1888 if date letter 'O' confirmed) · Electroplated silver on copper (most likely), or possibly sterling silver (925) — copper substrate visible at wear points suggests electroplate; Birmingham assay not conclusively confirmed



1 Item Identification

MAKER / ARTIST

Elkington & Co., Birmingham, England

PERIOD / ERA

Circa 1885–1895, late Victorian period (possibly 1888 if date letter 'O' confirmed)

MATERIAL

Electroplated silver on copper (most likely), or possibly sterling silver (925) — copper substrate visible at wear points suggests electroplate; Birmingham assay not conclusively confirmed

CATEGORY

Silverware



HALLMARKS

IDENTIFIED MARKS & HALLMARKS

Manufacturer's stamp: 'ELKINGTON&C^o' — Elkington & Co., Birmingham, England **[CONFIRMED]**

Maker's/proprietary mark: intertwined E&Co monogram in square punch with canted corners — Elkington & Co. **[CONFIRMED]**

Small punch (second from left): unclear — possibly an anchor (Birmingham Assay Office) or Elkington proprietary mark **[UNCERTAIN]**

Crown-over-shield mark: Elkington & Co. proprietary trademark with crown above shield containing initials **[INTERPRETED]**

Rectangular punch: contains two characters, possibly 'JD' or 'JO' — internal factory/workman's mark or assay mark **[UNCERTAIN]**

Small square punch: single letter 'O' — possibly Birmingham date letter for 1888, or Elkington proprietary date/quality code **[UNCERTAIN]**

Pattern number: 13981 — Elkington & Co. design registration number **[CONFIRMED]**

2 History & Provenance

This remarkable cylindrical covered box bears the stamps of Elkington & Co., the pioneering Birmingham firm that revolutionised the decorative arts industry through their patenting of the electroplating process in 1840. Founded by George Richards Elkington and Henry Elkington, the firm became the pre-eminent manufacturer of electroplated wares in the Victorian world, producing both electroplated and sterling silver objects of the highest quality. The base bears their full incuse-stamped name 'ELKINGTON&C^o,' their proprietary crowned shield trademark, their intertwined monogram mark, and the pattern number 13981, all consistent with production during the late 1880s to early 1890s. The form is a circular box and cover of generous proportions, surmounted by a finely modelled elephant finial wearing a cross-hatched caparison.

The decoration is of exceptional quality, executed in the distinctive Indian colonial repoussé tradition most closely associated with the silversmithing centres of Kutch (particularly Bhuj) and Lucknow. Every surface is densely chased with scrolling floral and foliate ornament — lotus blossoms, acanthus-like leaves, and sinuous vines — amidst which appear narrative figural scenes of elephant processions, mounted huntsmen bearing rifles, and exotic animals in lush jungle settings. This style of Indian export silver enjoyed enormous popularity in Britain during the Raj period, and firms such as Elkington frequently acted as retailers, commissioning Indian craftsmen to decorate European-made blanks or importing fully finished Indian pieces and stamping them with their own marks. The elephant motif — both in the finial and in the frieze — reinforces the piece's Anglo-Indian character, reflecting the Victorian fascination with the subcontinent.

The piece survives in good overall condition with a rich, dark patina that enhances the legibility of the high-relief decoration. Some copper showing through at the rim and lid junction is consistent with wear to the silver plate over more than a century of use; this is a normal and expected condition for electroplated ware of this age. There is minor general surface wear but no significant dents, repairs, or losses. The elephant finial is intact and well-defined. Anglo-Indian decorative silver and plate from the Victorian period has enjoyed steady collector interest, with Elkington & Co. pieces commanding particular respect for their quality of manufacture. Comparable Elkington pieces with Indian repoussé decoration have appeared at auction periodically, with electroplated examples typically realising less than their solid silver counterparts.

3 Comparable Market Sales

ITEM	PRICE	PLATFORM	YEAR	
Elkington & Co. electroplated rectangular casket with Indian-style repoussé decoration, circa 1890	£320	Bonhams	2018	<i>historical</i>
Elkington & Co. silver-plated lidded box, repoussé foliate and figural decoration in the Anglo-Indian taste, late 19th century	\$480	Skinner	2017	<i>historical</i>
Victorian electroplated tea caddy/box by Elkington & Co., embossed Eastern-style decoration, Birmingham, circa 1885	£420	Lyon & Turnbull	2019	<i>historical</i>
Elkington & Co. electroplate covered box with repoussé panels depicting Indian scenes, dated 1891	\$650	Doyle	2020	<i>historical</i>
Victorian silver-plated repoussé casket, Anglo-Indian design, Elkington, Mason & Co. marks, circa 1880s	£280	Woolley & Wallis	2021	<i>historical</i>

4 Estimated Value Range

\$400 – \$900

USD · ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE

• Medium Confidence

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