

Silver and Plate / Tuesday, 16th March 2021 / Lot 450



LOT 450

A Victorian Elkington & Co electrotype Milton shield of oval form with ropetwist edge, the panels embossed with scenes from John Milton's Paradise Lost within gilt enriched borders with relief cabochon detail, the outer edge signed 'Morel Ladeuil Fecit 1866' and 'Elkington & Co', the reverse with applied oval plaque, detailed 'Department of Science & Art, Elkington' framing a crowned 'VR' cypher, length 85.5cm, width 64.8cm. Note: the original Milton shield was produced in silver and iron by the eminent French silver designer Leonard Morel-Ladeuil (circa 1820-1888). The renowned artist worked for Elkington & Co from 1859 and began work on the shield in 1864 with the express intention of exhibiting it at the Paris Exhibition of 1867. The shield received an enormously enthusiastic response where it was awarded the gold medal and the Art Journal declared it the best object exhibited that year. The Victoria and Albert Museum purchased the shield from the exhibition for the huge sum of 2000 francs, where it remains on display in room 122 of the British Galleries. Electrotypes samples, such as the present Lot, are kept in other important museum collections, such as the Met Museum in New York and The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney.

Estimate: £1,500 - £2,500

Condition Report

450. The shield is in good condition with no significant damage or repairs. Typical light surface wear with some signs of the copper coming through on some of the high points. Definition and detail of the decoration is still very good and crisp with no significant wear. Signatures have good clarity. Gilt border details is good and well defined. Very minor misshaping to rim but of little significance. Plaque to reverse in good order.

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