CROWN & CURIOSITY

ART METAL WORKS

Elephant Table Lighter

Marked AMW © 1935 · Fashioned by Ronson

In the 1930s, a table lighter was as much a small sculpture as a useful thing. Art Metal Works, the firm behind the Ronson name, became known for stylish lighters made for the desk and the bar.

This figural elephant is marked AMW © 1935 ART METAL WORKS INC. A label on the green felt base reads “Fashioned by Ronson,” and a matching wand rests in the slot at the top.

Chrome catches the light along the raised trunk and the rounded back. The elephant stands on a stepped black Bakelite base, a compact sculpture in the Touch-Tip style of the 1930s.

A small, gleaming companion for a desk or a bar, carrying the date it was marked: 1935.