

Beata & Wladimir Herman's Collection of

Visiting Card Cases

Udstilling med visitkortæsker fra Beata & Wladimir Hermans samling på Designmuseum Danmark



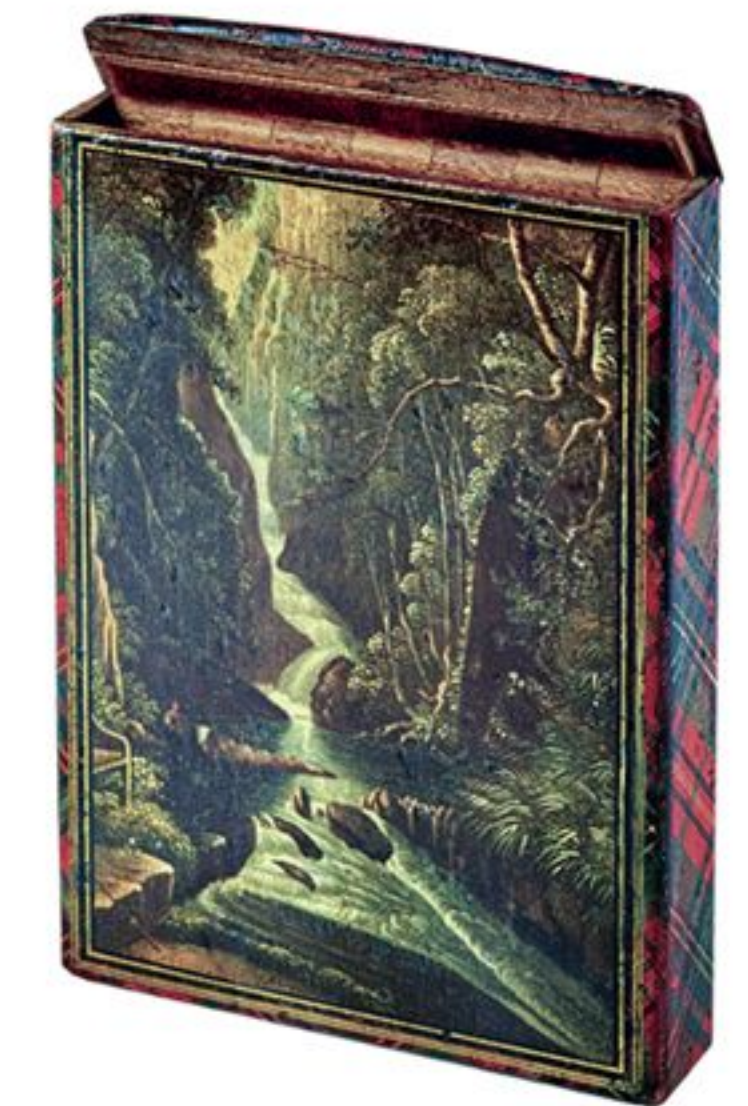
Chinese ivory carving



Japanese Ivory Shibayama

**Exhibition at
Designmuseum
Danmark**

**September
—November
2026**



The first visiting card cases were produced in Great Britain just after 1810. Production developed in the 1830s, primarily in Birmingham. Britain was the world centre of the production of the most attractive card cases. China was renowned for its finely carved ivory cases, known as Cantonese carvings, whereas Japan excelled in producing exceptionally beautiful cases in the Shibayama and Hiramakie styles.

made in different sizes, primarily 7-12 cm high, 5-8 cm wide and 0.5-1 cm deep. The cases were made of silver, ivory, leather, snakeskin, lacquer, tortoiseshell, wood, bark, bamboo, papier-mâché, gutta-percha, seashells, porcupine quills, bakelite, celluloid and even of dried flowers, straw, and hair. All this diversity is presented in our collection.

Visiting card cases from top left:
British silver "castle top", Chinese hand-painted porcelain, and British hand-painted on wood, 1825-30.

The 19th century was the golden age for visiting card cases. They are



For those wishing to explore the subject in greater depth, please look at:
Copilot/AI:
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All photos by Jtfoadk