



Lime Container

Date

20th Century

Medium

Bronze

Description

This is a bronze lime container from Laos. Lime comes from grinding up burnt coral or limestone into a fine power. When mixed with ground betel nut, the compound releases alkaloids which have a narcotic effect when they enter the human bloodstream. These containers are usually paired with a stick which is used to serve the lime powder. The usage of the narcotic can have a religious function or be done recreationally. Due to the negative impacts of long-term usage, Laotian consumption has fallen drastically in recent years.

Dimensions

Container with lid: 3 3/8 × 1 1/4 × 1 1/8 in. (8.6 × 3.2 × 2.9 cm) Lid: 1 5/8 × 1 1/8 × 1 1/8 in. (4.1 × 2.9 × 2.9 cm) Container: 2 3/8 × 1 1/4 × 1 1/8 in. (6 × 3.2 × 2.9 cm)