



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 powder. 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: 5 1/8 × 1 7/8 × 1 5/8 in. (13 × 4.8 × 4.1 cm) Lid: 2 1/8 × 1 5/8 × 1 5/8 in. (5.4 × 4.1 × 4.1 cm) Container: 3 1/2 × 1 7/8 × 1 5/8 in. (8.9 × 4.8 × 4.1 cm)