



## Snuff Bottle

### Date

1644-1911

### Medium

Porcelain, enamel, cork and bone

### Description

Snuff bottles were introduced to China by Jesuit Missionaries during the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The solution inside is made by grinding dried tobacco leaves into a fine powder and mixing it with spices, herbs and aromatics. When inhaled through the nose it gives the user a nicotine rush. Though modern science suggests that long term use of snuff can lead to chronic health issues, during the Qing dynasty it was used medically to cure headaches, stomach ailments, coughing and other maladies. The Kangxi Emperor (r. 1661-1722) is credited with the development of handheld snuff bottles around the end of the 17th century. These small, airtight

containers solved the issue of snuff being ruined by China's high humidity. The bottles took many forms and could be made from glass, various minerals, metals, porcelain, and internally painted glass. Porcelain snuff bottle with many-colored enamel scene of a boy riding an ox. The bottle is two-sided with unique scenes on each side. Very decorative and elaborate. Has stopper with attached spatula.

### Dimensions

with stopper: 3 × 1 3/4 × 1 1/4 in. (7.6 × 4.4 × 3.2 cm)