



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: $8 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \frac{7}{8} \times 3 \frac{1}{8}$ in. ($22.2 \times 7.3 \times 7.9$ cm) Lid: $3 \frac{7}{8} \times 2 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \frac{3}{4}$ in. ($9.8 \times 7 \times 7$ cm) Container: $6 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \frac{7}{8} \times 3 \frac{1}{8}$ in. ($17.1 \times 7.3 \times 7.9$ cm)