



Lime Container

Date

19th Century

Medium

Brass

Description

This is a brass 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

A - Base : 2 5/8 × 3 3/4 × 3 3/4 in. (6.7 × 9.5 × 9.5 cm) B - Middle section: 1 × 3 1/8 × 3 1/8 in. (2.5 × 7.9 × 7.9 cm) C - Lid: 2 × 3 7/8 × 3 7/8 in. (5.1 × 9.8 × 9.8 cm)