

Basic Detail Report



Sutra Cover

Date

19th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

Rectangular wooden scripture covers such as this one would have been used along with silk cloth wrappings and

leather bindings to protect folded paper sutras. In Buddhism, sutras are canonical scriptures believed to be a record of the teachings of Buddha, and manuscripts were used by Buddhist monks, or lamas, to read, recite, and meditate over their teachings. Wood was a scarce commodity on the Tibetan plateau, so its use for these covers, combined with the elaborate carvings and paintings which decorated them, conveys the sacred nature of the texts within.

Dimensions

9 3/8 × 28 × 1 1/4 in. (23.8 × 71.1 × 3.2 cm)