


Mother-of-pearl inlaid box

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	61.382.1-3 
Type:	object for daily use; lacquers; carving
Date of production:	19th century – first half of the 20th century
Place of production:	North-Vietnam, Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	wood, lacquer, mother-of-pearl, metal; inlaid
Dimensions:	height: 5.5 cm diameter: 17 cm

Round wooden box with five compartments. The rich mother-of-pearl decoration on both the sides and the lid depicts butterflies and flowers around and at the bottom of the box. In the centre of the lid we can admire a house under a tree, a boat gliding on water and two fishermen. The metal bands are an afterthought. The box was presumably used to store the ingredients of the betel, a popular pastime in Southeast Asia.

