

Basic Detail Report



Title Gem-Inset Enamelled Gold Octagonal Lidded Box and Finial with Floral and Bird Motifs

Date 19th century

Medium Enameled gold, gemstones

Description This octagonal box is likely a pandan, a container used to store betel nut. Thin slices of betel nut were mixed with lime paste and spices to create paan, a mild intoxicant enjoyed at the Mughal court. The box is decorated with translucent green and red enamel and topped with a finial set with diamonds. The sides of the box display alternating patterns with bird motifs and floral designs inlaid with diamonds. The bottom of the box reveals the exposed gold and is decorated with a central rosette and a border of leaves and lotuses.

Dimensions Overall: 2 x 2 1/8 in. (5.1 x 5.4cm)