
PAGODA RED



JAPANESE GILT HIRAMAKI-E TABAKO-BON

\$880

c. 1930 • Japan • Wood, Gold, Copper, Lacquer • Collection #CANT011

W: 8.5" D: 5.0" H: 9.5"

This box with many drawers is a Japanese tabako-bon, or 'tobacco tray,' used to store tobacco and smoking accessories. Believed to have evolved from the traditional accessories of Japanese incense ceremony, tabako-bons first came into use in the 17th century and were often beautifully decorated to display one's wealth and status.

This elegant tabako-bon dates to the late 19th century and is finished with black lacquer and delicate gilt decoration. The drawers and sides are painted and gilt in the hiramaki-e style with leafy foliage dotted with red fruit. The upper portion of the box supports two removable copper containers etched with the same botanical motif. Continued...



1740 W. Webster Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 • 773-235-1188 • info@pagodared.com

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The left container is a small hibachi (hi-ire) that was used to light a tobacco pipe. Insulated by a layer of ash, lit charcoal was placed into the hibachi and accessed via the cut-out in the domed lid. On the right is a matching container (haifuki) used to hold ash and waste. Hook-shaped cut-outs on the sides were used to hold long bamboo smoking pipes (kiseru) and the lower drawers were used to hold shredded tobacco, tongs, and cleaning tools. A classic example of a fine Japanese lacquerware, this smoking set lives on as a beautiful keepsake of the past.

Additional Dimensions:

Box: 8.5"W x 5"D x 7.25"H

With Handle Upright: 10.25"H

Left Drawers: 5"W x 4.5"D x 1"H

Right Drawer: 2"W x 4.5"D x 2."

