

SA1056008

Stunning Japanese Edo (early to mid-19thC) Gold Lacquer Box (Kobako) with Insert Tray

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1056008****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 11.6 cm (4.6")

Depth = 10.8 cm (4.3")

Description

Striking Japanese Edo (early to mid-19thC) gold lacquer small box (kobako) with insert tray in the shape of Daikoku's wish-granting mallet, with the mallet shown on the lid. The sides are profusely decorated, illustrating Daikoku's precious objects. The kobako was probably used to store incense for the tea ceremony and has an inner tray (featuring two rice bags and a bag of precious things) and silver rims. The execution of the maki-e decoration and interior (in nashiji/pear skin) is exquisite and the work of a master craftsman. The box measures 11.6cm x 10.8cm x 5cm high (ca 4.5 x 4.25 x 2 inches). Superb original condition. In Japanese mythology, Daikoku – one the Seven Lucky Gods (Shichi-fuku-jin) – is the the God of Eealth and guardian of farmers. He's usually depicted as dark-skinned, stout, carrying a wish-granting mallet in his right hand, with a bag of precious things slung over his back, and sitting on two rice bags. Rats are sometimes shown nibbling at the rice, further emphasizing the theme of prosperity.

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