Token boxes

Metalwork Collection

Accession Nr.:	53.4421.1-5
Artist/Maker:	Mariaval, Le Jeune / worshop
Date of production:	first half of the 18th century
Place of production:	Paris
Inscription:	a fedelek belsejében: Mariaval le Jeune a Paris fecit
Materials:	ivory
Techniques:	coloured; engraved decoration; mother-of-pearl inlay
Dimensions:	height: 1,7 cm width: 8,5 cm length: 6 cm

The shape of the boxes of four different colours — red, white, green and yellow — is identical; they have a similar chinoiserie decoration. The rims of the bottom and the covers of the flat, square boxes are slightly protruding. The folding covers open on copper hinges. There is a round disc, depicting a dolphin, in the middle of the cover; when the disc is switched, Roman numerals I—X appear in a heart-shaped slot, a figure from the Commedia dell' Arte stands or dances on the two sides of the disc. The bottoms of the boxes show genre scenes: a Chinaman holding a bird, sitting, smoking a pipe or stretching a tray towards a duck. The inside of the covers depict animal figures sitting on colourful, flowery boughs: a butterfly, a bird, a snail and a duck. The mark can be found below the decoration, on the frame: mariaual le Jeune a Paris fecit. The boxes contain long, square and round tokens with cut corners; bon mot inscriptions appear on several of the round and long ones, with a corresponding illustration. Mrs. Koroknay, in her study cited below, found that the boxes were used for a game of cards called reversi. A marked, similar set by the same master is exhibited under Cat. No. 6.193.

Literature

- Szerk.: Szilágyi András, Péter Márta: *Barokk és rokokó. Az európai iparművészet stíluskorszakai*. Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, 1990. - Nr. 6.194. (Maros Donka Szilvia)
- Koroknay Éva: Mariaual le Jeune munkái és "reversi" játékok az Iparművészeti Múzeumban. *Az Iparművészeti Múzeum Évkönyvei*, 1. (1954). 1954. - 149-156.

© 2012-2026, All rights reserved Museum of Applied Arts

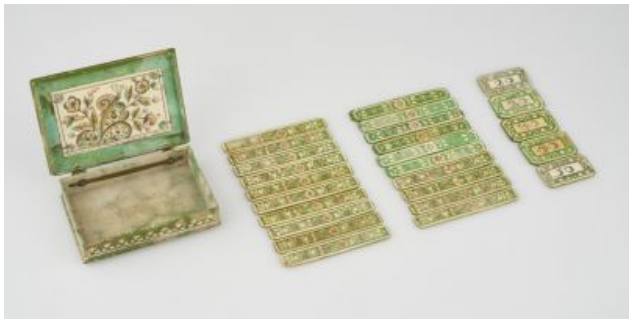




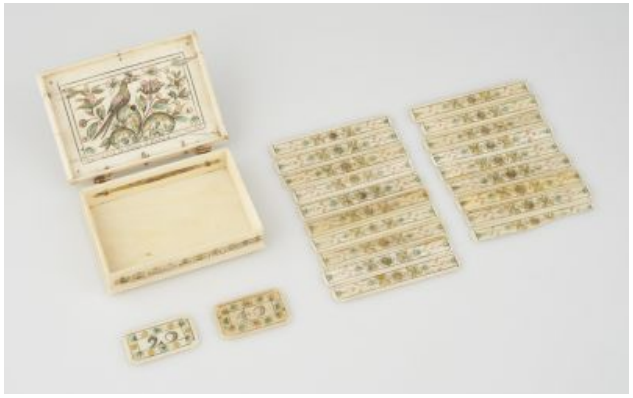




© 2012-2026, All rights reserved Museum of Applied Arts







© 2012-2026, All rights reserved Museum of Applied Arts