


# Token boxes

## Metalwork Collection

**Accession Nr.:** 53.4421.1-5 

**Artist/Maker:** Mariaval, Le Jeune / workshop

**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.



