

Basic Detail Report



1981.02515.01a-d

Title

Mexico Chest

Date

1981

Medium

Wood (cherrywood), Metal (silver), Ivory, Fabric (suede, velvet)

Description

A cherrywood chest (.01a) with silver hardware and ivory bas-reliefs depicting the seal of the US and Mexico. The chest has two hinged doors on the front with white plaques, each depicting a side portrait of a male. The chest has ornate silver detailing overall, starting with four hinges on the sides of the doors that wrap around the box and a locking hinge of silver in the center front. The top of the box has an engraved silver plaque and two white relief carved seals, one of the United States and one of Mexico. The top of the box has a three-sided border made of silver. There are two large handles on the side of the chest. The chest stands on four silver feet. The inside of the box is divided into two sections and lined with suede. Also inside is a separate small silver box (.01b) lined with suede containing the silver key for the chest (.01c). The silver box is kept inside a small red velvet bag (.01d)

Dimensions

3 1/4 x 2 1/4 x 5/8 in. (8.3 x 5.7 x 1.6 cm)

Historical Note

Given during a visit by Jose Lopez Portillo 1981-06-07 to 1981-06-09. Only wooden chest (.01a) , key box (.01b), one key (.01c), pouch for key box (.01d). Second key is missing. No eggs. No leather case. Original disposition GSA; GSA Notice Of Award #198871, Dated 3/9/88. Chest only to NLRR. Note on pink sheet "Ostrich eggs not in case. Shipped separately? 5/93 M. Morrison." (PLEASE LOOK AT HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM WHITE HOUSE FOR COLOR PHOTO OF EGGS. (2), EACH 8' X 6', ENCASED IN SILVER OPENWORKDESIGNS, SILVER STAND MOUNTS; EACH PIECE 11' HIGH; DISPLAYED IN LINED CHERRY. ONE EGG HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL AT CENTER FRONT WITH BEARS HOLDING UP EGG ON PEDESTAL, SECOND EGG HAS THE MEXICAN COAT OF ARMS/SEAL AT CENTER FRONT WITH DRAGON LIKE FIGURES HOLDING UP THE EGG.) Eggs were purchased by the Reagans, and sold at the Christie's auction in 2016 after the passing of Nancy Reagan. The two eggs were originally in the chest were sold at Christies auction for \$22,500.00 PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN A PAIR OF MEXICAN SILVER-MOUNTED OSTRICH EGGS CIRCA 1980 Each egg enclosed within hinged scrolling silver mounts, centered by medallions of the seals of either the United States of America or Mexico, each on three supports of bears or feathered Quetzalcoatli, marked on base 10 1/2 in. (26.6 cm.) high Provenance A gift to President Ronald Reagan from President Jose

Lopez Portillo of Mexico, June 7-9, 1981. Formerly in The Family Residence, the White House, Washington D. C.

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