



GOLD PANEL AND VERNIS MARTIN WRITING CASE, LOUIS XV PERIOD

Era: 18th century, Louis XV.

Materials: vernis Martin, gold.

Dim: H 3.1 in / W 1.7 in.

Weight: 3 oz (86 gr).

Julien Alaterre 1768-1775.

K with crown, Paris 1773.

Rectangular case for holding writing utensils in colored gold and vernis Martin (a type of imitation lacquer). A button serves to open the hinged lid. Four panels made of vernis Martin, which imitates the iridescence of mother-of-pearl, form the body of the case. These panels are set in a gold cagework setting, presented as alternating bands. The lid features an intricately sculpted motto which reads "Souvenir d'amitié" (Souvenir of Friendship). The two main plates of the case are embellished with oval miniatures on ivory that are framed in a gold frieze of shells and laurel leaves. On one side, the

miniature is an image of cupids playing music, and on the other, cupids drinking wine together. Master goldsmith mark: illegible; "B" and small marks. Work from the Louis XV period.