



Louis XVI Gold panel and vernis Martin writing case

Dim: H 3.54 in / W 1.9 in.

Head of monkey, 1775-1781.

O with crown, Paris 1777.

Master goldsmith: PDC for Pierre Denis Chaumont

Flat, rectangular case for holding writing utensils in gold and black vernis Martin (a type of imitation lacquer). A button serves to open the hinged lid. 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 roses. On one side, the miniature is an image of cupid near an altar, and on the other, cupids playing together. This inscription underscores the sentimental value that such a gift carried. On the inside of the case are two ivory plates and a pencil with gold mounting. Master goldsmith: PDC for Pierre Denis Chaumont. Circa 1777.