

# Chinese box



This beautiful Chinese box was found in the collection of EVUG. It concerns a Chinoiserie object manufactured in the Netherlands, made of veneer rosewood in polished beeswax.

Its metal corner decorations and doors are made of gold coloured brass displaying floral elements.



A document (lithography) found in the lid of the box reveals that it was used to store cigars, originating from the Amsterdam based cigar factory of Justus Van Maurik.

The lithography in the lid displays a picture of the Emperor in four colours: yellow, blue, red and black. It concerns an authentic lithography, precursor of the 'offset' printing technique.



Inside the box, compartments are missing for storing cigars upright. Forty-two cigars with a maximum diameter of 11 mm can be stored inside the box.

The emperor displayed in the picture is 'ZM Swan Thong', the last emperor of the Manchu Qing dynasty and of China. 'Koen' is probably a corruption of his Mongolian name: KHevt Yos Khaan. Puyi became emperor in 1909 at the age of 3.

The cigar box probably dates back to the beginning of the previous century.