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## **Jack J. and Therese G. Katz Chinese snuff bottles11.MWalB02670**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brandeis University

415 South St.

Main Library, Goldfarb Level 2

Waltham, MA 02454-9110

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URL: <https://findingaids.brandeis.edu/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Brandeis University
<b>Title:</b>	Jack J. and Therese G. Katz Chinese snuff bottles
<b>ID:</b>	11.MWalB02670
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	circa 1700-1900
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	18th and 19th centuries
<b>Date:</b>	Date acquired: 19640000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	47.00 Items
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 boxes (varied sizes) other_unmapped
<b>Physical Description:</b>	47.00 Items
<b>Text [other]:</b>	47 items
<b>Abstract:</b>	Arranged individually in numbered boxes.

### Preferred Citation

Jack J. and Therese G. Katz Chinese snuff bottles, ca. 1700-1900, Robert D. Farber University Archives and Special Collections Department, Brandeis University

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection of 47 Chinese snuff bottles was a gift given to Brandeis University by Jack J. Katz, a lawyer from New York City, and his wife, Therese G. Katz, in 1964. The bottles range in date from the 18th to 19th centuries and illustrate the wide range of materials used in Chinese snuff bottles: jade, beryl, agate, crystal, amethyst, nephrite, malachite, steatite, chalcedony, turquoise, mother of pearl, cinnabar, coral, ivory, bamboo, porcelain, glass, cloisonné, and burguate lacquer.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Conditions Governing Access

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more information.

### Conditions Governing Use

Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

### Source of Acquisition

Donated by Jack J. Katz and Therese G. Katz.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Snuff boxes and bottles
- Snuff boxes and bottles -- China
- Art objects, Chinese

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## Other Descriptive Information

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Addenda to this collection may not be listed in the finding aid, but may be available for research use. Please contact us for more information.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Yellow porcelain snuff bottle, late 18th century <u>Date</u> : late 18th century <b>Scope and Contents</b>  Porcelain flattened cylindrical form snuff bottle, on oval foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck. Decorated in high relief with a dragon and clouds. Coated in yellow glaze; green jade stopper. Height 2-5/8 in.	
Pale grey translucent agate snuff bottle with interior painting, 19th century <u>Date</u> : 19th century <b>Scope and Contents</b>  Flattened globular body, ovalized foot ring, tapering shoulders, broad tubular neck, two ogre masks in relief on side. Decorated inside with painted scenes. Scholar and helper on landscape. Painted in polychrome. Coral stopper. Height 2-3/4 in.	
Crystal snuff bottle with interior painting, early 19th century <u>Date</u> : early 19th century <b>Scope and Contents</b>  Crystal flattened bottle vase-form snuff bottle, on high ovalized foot ring, straight tubular neck, decorated inside with two figures: a scholar in a blue robe admiring a chrysanthemum spray in bloom in an oblong jardinière and his attendant filling a red basket; above a short poem and signature of the artist Ma Shao-Hsuan, at the end of the long poem on the back: "It is not so that I love the chrysanthemum more than the other flowers; But I believe that there will be no more flowers after this one has bloomed." Dear brother Pao T'ing – Made for your refined amusement by Ma Shao-hsuan	

at Peking. "Poets' ease it is to write nature poems in the spring,  
But if they look for a brocade-like flower garden in the fall  
When willow's green is half-turned to gold; All they will be  
are ill-successful flower seekers." Amethyst stopper. Wooden  
stand. Height 2-7/8 in.

---

Glass snuff bottle with interior painting, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened cylindrical form on oval foot ring, tapering shoulder,  
tubular neck. Decorated inside with a fine mountain and  
lakeshore landscape, painted in ink wash and light colors.  
Green jade stopper on a black rondelle. Height 3 in.

---

Peking glass snuff bottle , 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid body, on oval foot ring, tapering shoulder,  
tubular neck. Peking cut glass with blue decorations in relief  
depicting the precious antique vessels, on a translucent  
bubbling ground. Height 2-5/8 in.

---

Glass snuff bottle in black frame with interior painting, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Oblong square form, on oval foot rim, front and back in black  
frame enclosing inside painted scenes: An old scholar and his  
helper on one side and a hilly landscape on the other, painted  
in polychrome. Inscribed and seal. Two black masks on each  
end. Agate stopper with rondelle. Height 3-1/4 in.

---

Glass snuff bottle in blue frame with interior painting, early 19th  
century

Date: early 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Squat flattened globular bottle with tubular neck, oval foot  
rim. Decorated with two stylized bat handles and front and  
back painted from inside with bird, flowers, and rockery,  
painted in polychrome in a blue raised frame; short neck,  
green glass stopper. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Crystal snuff bottle with interior painting, early 19th century

Date: early 19th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened globular body, tapering shoulder, tubular broad neck. Decorated and painted inside with chicks under a cliff and inscription; on one side a white horse on a lakeshore; painted in polychrome. Cherry red glass stopper with green rondelle. Height 2-5/8 in.

---

Carved honey agate snuff bottle, early 19th century

Date: early 19th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened globular form, on oval foot ring; tapering shoulder, tubular broad neck. Decorated in relief, depicting an old bearded scholar with an escort bearing flags and an umbrella, golden honey color, reddish tourmaline stopper. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Jade cicada snuff bottle, Sung period: 960-1279 C.E.

Date: Sung period: 960-1279 C.E.

## Scope and Contents

Form of a large cicada with greenish underbelly and reddish-brown wings and head with black spots, finely carved. Sung period. Symbol of reincarnation. Hollowed later for a snuff bottle. Green glass stopper. Height 3 in.

---

Carved brown and yellow jade snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened cylindrical form on oval foot ring, flat shoulder, tubular neck. Decorated on the front with an immortal receiving a toggle from a flying bat under a pine tree in a brownish-on-yellow jade background; on the back, two cloud banks with flying bat in brown and yellowish. Coral red stopper.

---

Cloisonné snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened ovoid form, tapering tubular neck, elliptical foot ring. Decorated with "mille fleurs" pattern in polychrome. Floral stopper. Height 3-1/8 in.

---

Moss agate snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened body on ovalized foot ring, tubular neck, moss agate in polychrome on translucent ground. Pink tourmaline stopper. Height 2 ¾ in.

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Carved cinnabar lacquer snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened globular body, on small ovalized foot, short neck; decorated with landscapes, bat masks holding tassel. Carved red cinnabar on back meander ground. Agate stopper. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Bamboo root snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

In the form of three flattened peaches, stems and foliage on brownish buff colors. Green jade stopper on silver mounting. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Crystal double twin vases, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened body on oval foot ring, tubular neck, translucent clear crystal, one with green jade stopper, the other with a coral red stopper. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Glass snuff bottle with interior painting of Manchu, 19th century

Date: 19th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened tubular form, tapering shoulder, short neck. Decorated inside with a Manchu wearing winter coat and round hat. Calligraphy on the other side. Coral red stopper with green rondelle. Height 2-1/2 inches.

---

Porcelain pebble form snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Ovoid body, decorated with a lohan crossing a bridge in a mountainous landscape, painted in polychrome. Inscribed. Green jade stopper. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Beryl snuff bottle, 19th century



Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened cylindrical form, tapering shoulder, tubular neck, oval foot ring, bluish translucent beryl. Pink tourmaline stopper. Height 2-1/4 in.

---

Smoky crystal snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Truncated ovoid flattened form, tapering shoulder, short tubular neck, flat oval form foot base, light fei t'sui green jade stopper.

---

Jade white nephrite snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened bottle form, tapering tall neck, everted lip rim, ovalized high foot ring, two bat masks handles holding mock rings. White Nephrite. Pink quartz stopper. Wooden stand. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Glass snuff bottle with interior painting of actor, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened cylindrical body on ovalized foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck; decorated with an actor playing general with flags and a long white beard. Calligraphy on the back. Green glass stopper. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Chinese mother-of-pearl snuff bottle, circa 18th century

Date: circa 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Of flattened ovoid flask form with rounded shoulders and attenuated short tubular neck surmounted by a pearl, ivory, and red stopper attached to a long ivory spoon. The two broad surfaces are formed of large shells, while the sides are composed of shell segments to enable them to follow the contour of the bottle. The underfoot is of oval form slightly recessed. The two broad surfaces are delicately incised with garden scenes set with rockeries, blossoming trees, and plants; poised amidst them on one side is a venerable bearded scholar carrying a long gnarled staff. The other side is occupied by a tall, slender, graceful beauty holding a fan in her left hand. The narrow sides are pattered with scattered leaves, all delineated with black lacquer serving as a background for the softly polished nacre. The two broad surfaces are framed by a

meander band enclosed by two linear bands. Height without stopper 3-9/16. Overall height 4 in.

---

Coral snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

In the form of a beggar: Li T'ieh-kuah crossing a river on his gourd, containing the elixir of longevity, tumultuous waves, and a bat ornating his gourd. Wooden stand. Height 3-1/8 in.

---

Carved turquoise snuff bottle with chained cover, Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735-1796

Date: Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735-1796

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened bronze-form vase carved with two dragon-head handles from which depend loose rings, one attached by a chain of links to a Fu lion surmounting the domed cover. The obverse shows a mother and her two small children at a table before a window. The reverse shows a flowering shrub and hovering butterfly above a garden trellis. Height 3 in.

---

Eggplant-shaped deep purple amethyst snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

In the form of an aubergine with a long stem and foliage with two luggs in high relief. Height 2 in.

---

Crystal with rutile needles snuff bottle, late 18th century

Date: late 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid body, tapering shoulder, tubular neck, oval high foot ring. Mother-of-pearl stopper with coral red ring. Wooden stand. Height 2-1/4 in.

---

Steatite square snuff bottle, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

On flat base, ornated with four panels, two with archaic inscription, two plain; flat shoulder, tubular short neck. Agate stopper. Yellowish ground with brownish red splashes. Height 2 in.

---

Painted porcelain snuff bottle, 19th century

Date: 19th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened cylindrical snuff bottle, on ovalized foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck. Two mask handles on side, holding mock rings. Decorated with painted crabs on aquatic plantains, painted in famille rose enamels on brilliant white ground. Four-character mark under foot. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Banded agate snuff bottle with agate stopper, circa 18th century

Date: circa 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened ovoidal flask with rounded shoulders. In the immediate foreground carved in relief from a brown zone is a boatsman rowing a sampan under an overhead orb. The orb is carved in relief against the gray striped ground. The bottle is finely polished. The interior is artfully hollowed. The flask has a short cylindrical neck and an oval pedestal foot. The banding of stripes on this bottle is most unusual. Since the pattern of stripes encircles the bottle, it would seem to indicate that this was fashioned from a small mass formed as a pebble and was not a piece cut from a large block of agate. Height with cover 2-3/4 in.

---

Burgaute lacquer snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened ovoid body on elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck. Decorated around foot, sides, and neck with stylized floral diaper pattern, framing two large foliated panels enclosing on the front a man and two women on a terrace and on the other side a pheasant on a blooming prunus in polychrome mother-of-pearl on black ground. Green jade stopper. Height 3 in.

---

Lavender jade snuff bottle, Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

Date: Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

## Scope and Contents

Plain ovoid flask, in fluctuating lavender delicately suffused with white and sporadic green accents, worked to a bright luster. Amethyst stopper. Height 2 3/4 in.

---

Smoked crystal snuff bottle incised with gilt, 18th century

Date: 18th century

## Scope and Contents

Flattened cylindrical bottle form snuff bottle on elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck. Decorated with incised and gilt inlaid. Man in garden under a pine tree and, on

the other side, a dragon on dark smoked crystal. Tourmaline stopper. Height 2 ¾ in.

---

Porcelain decorated snuff bottle, undated

Date: undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid form on elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck, decorated in high relief with large curled dragon looking for the pear in stylized clouds. Creamy greenish gray glaze. Four-character mark of Yung Cheng underfoot. Amethyst stopper in a silver ring.

---

Yellow Peking glass snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened globular body on elliptical foot ring, tubular neck, plain yellow Peking glass with an amethyst stopper. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Gourd form agate snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

On flat foot base. Decorated on the lower bulge with the carp in the waves changing into a dragon and exhaling a cloud, with a seated white Buddha on the other side. Grayish white striations on a translucent dark brown body. Green glass stopper. Gourds were symbolic of medicine and used as bottles for containing medicine. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Golden honey amber snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid form body on elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular body. Cloudy golden honey colored body. Coral red stopper on a brown rondelle. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Chalcedony snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid form, on oval foot ring, tapering shoulder, short tubular neck, two high relief masks on sides holding mock rings. Grayish agate with reddish splashes and grainy clouds on the back. Tourmaline stopper in bronze ring. Height 2-1/2 in.

"Blue" and russet jade snuff bottle, Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

Date: Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

### **Scope and Contents**

From the Martin Schoen Collection. Almond shaped bottle of brightly polished jade suffused with blue. The obverse is tintured with a rich russet tone upon which has been carved in low relief the haloed figure of Kuan Yin seated upon a lotus which emerges from rippling water, and holding in her crossed hands the vase of healing. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Imperial Ku Yueh Hsuan snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened globular body, tapering shoulder, short tubular neck, slightly everted lip rim, on an elliptical foot ring. Decorated in fine famille rose enamels, depicting two birds singing on a tree amongst bamboo, poppies, daisies, roses, and rockery. On the neck, a foliated band painted on brilliant white Peking glass background. Four-character mark of Ch'ien Lung Nien Chih underfoot in raised blue enamels. Red glass and pearl stopper. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

White nephrite diamond form striated snuff bottle, 18th century

Date: 18th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened cylindrical body on an elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, short tubular neck. Decorated with an allover field of elongated diamond form striations deeply carved in white nephrite, also known as the rice pattern. Green jadeite stopper. Height 3 in.

---

Rare gold lacquer and pietra dura snuff bottle, Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

Date: Ch'ien Lung reign, 1735–1796

### **Scope and Contents**

From the Major Molyneaux Collection, London. Oblate bottle with flattened shoulder and sides edged in amber lacquer. The obverse, with tessellated gold ground, illustrates a scene of three small boys picking peaches. One stands on the back of his kneeling companion, and a third stands by with a basket. The figures are composed of white jade, jasper, malachite, and carnelian. The peaches are carnelian, and an overhanging bluff is dotted with cabochons of emerald, jade, pearl, and other cabochons. The reverse depicts peony plants of chalcedony, jade, and malachite; the rockery studded with turquoise, emerald, jade, and other cabochons. Conforming stopper. Six-

character mark of the reign underfoot. From Wedderien, Inc.,  
New York. Height 2-7/8 in.

---

Ivory snuff bottle, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Fattened oblong body and high foot; decorated on one side with a lady leaning on a blooming prunus tree on a red background. On the other side a bird flying over a flower spray on a black background. Half circle and framed sides in polychrome. Height 2-7/8 in.

---

Ivory snuff bottle in the form of a lady, 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

On a saddled horse and riding side saddle. Horse with lowered head. Lady holding a fan, and her head serves as a stopper. Painted in polychrome. Height 2-1/2 in.

---

Turquoise matrix snuff bottle, undated

Date: undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened baluster form on oval foot ring, tapering shoulder, short neck, everted lip rim. Domed lid in turquoise with small finial, two animal masks holding loose rings on the sides, brilliant matrix-type turquoise. Height 2-3/4 in.

---

Translucent white agate snuff bottle, undated

Date: undated

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened ovoid form on concave foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck, plain translucent white agate. Red tourmaline stopper on a white rondelle. Height 2-1/2 in.

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Carved malachite , 19th century

Date: 19th century

### **Scope and Contents**

Flattened cylindrical form on elliptical foot ring, tapering shoulder, tubular neck. Decorated in high relief with a Feng Hung bird, a pheasant, peonies and foliage in high relief. Similar stone topper with flower. Ivory stand. Height 2-1/4 in. [description in box with foot ring but no bottle]