

# Basic Detail Report

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## Calling card case

### Date

1800-1850

### Medium

Bark, quills, moosehair, felt

### Description

Rectangular calling card case of bark and felt decorated

with porcupine quills and dyed moose hair. The edges are bound in white quills. Calling cards were an essential middle and upper class social tool in the 19th century, especially for women. There was an elaborate ritual for using cards, including when to give them and when and where to leave them after visiting. This item is made by the Metis nation of Canada, descendants of fur traders and fishermen and the local women from Cree, Ojibwa and Saulteaux peoples. These cultures were a mix and Metis comes from the French word for mixed. The Metis were renowned for their decorated clothing and accessories which were in big demand in Europe. Metis girls were taught the craft at local Mission schools and their work exported.

### Dimensions

Object/Work: 100 x 65 x 20 mm