



Snuff-Box

Date

1807

Medium

Tin plate

Description

Oblong tin box with a hinged lid at the top. It is enamelled in red, with gold border decoration and an image of a man wearing an admiral's hat. 'Gambier' is written above his head indicating that the image could represent Sir James Gambier (1756-1833), 1st Baron Gambier who was an admiral of the Royal Navy. Snuff boxes were used for holding snuff, a scented powdered tobacco, in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was inhaled through the nose and was thought to have medicinal properties. The making of snuff boxes was a lucrative business. They could range in design from very simple to extremely ornate.