

Cosmetic Case

ORIGINS

Date: Mid to Late 20th Century

Place: Central New York

Materials: Buffalo Horn



Picture of Cosmetic Case

Donated

By: Unknown

DESCRIPTION

This Cosmetic Case is made up of a type of horn (believed to be buffalo) and was donated to the library on February 11th, 1985. It has two separate measurements to account for both the top and the base of the case. Its lid has a height of .7 centimeters and a diameter of 3.2 centimeters while the base has a height of 1.7 centimeters with a diameter of 3.2 centimeters. The artifact has a black residue inside of the base that is believed to be dried up cosmetics.



Side View of the Cosmetic Case



The Cosmetic Case from Above



Another Side View

CULTURE

Description:

Cosmetic vessels as such were used to hold face and body paint as well as other forms of jewelry such as bracelets and earrings. Cosmetic cases were first made out of clay and then eventually evolved into being made out of wood, metal and ivory. It is common in some areas for men, as well as women, to wear make-up. In addition to everyday beautification, people can wear make up for ceremonial rituals or death ceremonies.



Caption: “A painting of a person who has been mummified in Egypt with their bandages covered in paint to resemble their face.”

Use within Culture:

Depending on what region of the world we are looking at, make up can be seen as an important aspect of society. For example, in Egypt, the data which rest while body and face paint were applied to give the gods a good impression during the “Judgment of the Dead.” For some Native Americans, the group’s leaders would wear headdresses and which could be accompanied with facial or body paint. Not only has cosmetics changed but the casing and the designs on the case has changed as well. Some wealthier people may have obtained a cosmetic case made of ivory with a high polish and intricate design on the lid. The Chinese used cosmetics to stain their nails to distinguish themselves into social classes such as the Chou Dynasty royals having gold and silver nails in 1046-256 B.C.

Report written by: Justin M. Torres