PAGODA RED









BAITONG WATER PIPE

\$280

c. 1900 • China • Alloy • Collection #CFC248A W: 6.0" D: 1.5" H: 9.75"

Though commonly attributed to smoking opium, a water pipe such as this was actually used for smoking tobacco. Popular during the late Qing dynasty, these small water pipes work by the same principles as a hookah, drawing smoke through water held in the lower compartment for filtration.

Crafted of baitong (nickel silver), this pipe apparatus includes a second compartment with a hinged lid used to store loose tobacco, as well as spots for two accessories, likely a small brush and a tweezer. The side of the pipe is patterned with branching peonies, an emblem of springtime and a symbol of love and beauty. Continued...



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A keepsake from a bygone era, this unusual pipe captivates as an elegant sculptural object.