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# PAGODA RED

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## KOREAN TABLE CHEST WITH MOTHER-OF-PEARL INLAY

**\$580**

c. 1900 • South Korea • Wood, Lacquer, Mother of Pearl • Collection #CFC150

W: 14.25" D: 11.5" H: 7.75"

This Korean table chest was crafted in the early 20th century of lacquered papier-mache with beautiful mother-of-pearl inlay, a decorative technique known as "najeonchilgi." During the Joseon era (1392-1910), the symmetrical, arabesque designs of "najeonchilgi" were replaced with more diverse patterns, often featuring the ten symbols of longevity, fruits like plums, plants like bamboo, intricate landscapes and geometric shapes.

A relatively simple example of this art form, this small chest is comprised of a rectangular base with four cabriole legs and a highly decorated removable lid. Continued...



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The lid is inlaid with a square cartouche border and patterned with black lacquer flecked with bits of shell, formed into a decorative trim and a round medallion of painted geometric forms. The sides of the box are decorated with petite auspicious symbols, including fruits, animals, ingots, and scrolls. Each shell fragment is unique in color and texture with a glimmering, iridescent finish. A stunning accessory for the home, this footed ornate box captivates with its unusual form and dazzling sparkle.

From the collection of Frances and Gary Comer.

