

*A love story*



# Qixi

## Chinese Valentine's Day



*Glass snuff bottle of rounded form, the red overlay on a transparent ground, carved on each side with peaches and leaves. The bottle resting on little leaves.*

*1760-1850*

*Ht: 5,5 cm*

*Provenance: old italian collection*

*Long ago, there was a very poor but clever, diligent and honest boy who was orphaned at an early age. One day, he adopted an abandoned, old buffalo that proved to be very loyal to him and relieved the boy of hard labor in the fields. The two were inseparable and had a very good relationship. Villagers from near and far came to know the boy as the Cowherd.*

*Meanwhile, the youngest of the seven celestial princesses, who had grown tired of the privileged and secluded life at the heavenly palace, longed for a life among the common people. Although her feelings were considered controversial, the girl was determined to pursue what she deemed was her own happiness. She sneaked out of the heaven and descended onto the earth to meet the Cowherd, with whom she had secretly fallen in love with in the heaven.*

*The two were married and had a lovely boy and a girl. While the Cowherd worked in the fields with his farm cattle, the princess weaved at home to help support the family. The villagers all admired her excellent weaving skills and even learned from her. The girl was known as the Weaving Girl.*

*The family lived moderately but peacefully and happily until the girl's celestial family realized that the princess was missing and traced her back to the village. (It is believed that one day in the heaven is equal to two earth years.)*

*Mad with rage, the Celestial Empress gave her daughter two choices: return to the palace or witness the destruction of her husband and offspring. The princess had no choice but to leave.*

*But the buffalo, who was very old and near death, suddenly started to speak, much to the astonishment of his bereaved owner. He told the Cowherd to use his hide as a vehicle to catch up with his wife. Reluctantly, the Cowherd placed his young son and daughter in two baskets carried by a yolk and sailed off to heaven.*

*Seeing that the Cowherd was gaining on them, the Empress took out her hair pin and drew a big river across the sky, known to the Chinese as the Silvery River (the Milky Way in the West), to drive a wedge between them.*

*However, all the magpies in the world, deeply touched by the story, came to their rescue. Every year on the seventh day of the seventh month, they would flock together to form a bridge so that the family could enjoy a brief reunion.*

# Romeo & Juliet

*For life and beyond the grave....*

## Romeo

*A glass snuff bottle of squared form, the red overlay on a snowflake ground, the neck without overlay.*

1800-1860

Ht : 5, 8 cm



## Juliet

*A glass snuff bottle of flattened rounded form, the red overlay on an opaque white ground carved with double-gourds. The bottle resting on three little double gourds.*

1760-1860

Ht : 6 cm

# Cupid & Aphrodite

## Cupid

A blue and white porcelain snuff bottle of squared form, decorated with a hunting scene.

Ht : 8,5 cm

19th century

## Aphrodite

A blue and white porcelain snuff bottles of cylindrical form, decorated with a hunting scene.

Ht : 8,5 cm

19th century





# Tristan & Iseult

## A Celtic Drama



### Iseult

A translucent green glass snuff bottle of pear form. Carved with a phoenix in the bamboo on one side of and with a frog and lotuses on the other. The eyes of the frog carved in tiny black splashes.

1760-1850

Ht: 9 cm

### Tristan

A translucent green glass snuff bottle of rounded form, the body is suffused with darker splashes. Wide-mouth.

1760-1850

Ht: 5,8 cm

# *Le rouge & le noir*

*Stendhal's Romanticism*



*A red and a black glass snuff bottles of elongated pear form. and concave foot.*

*19th century  
Ht: 8cm*

# Dragon & phoenix

## Imperial couple

*Japanese ivory snuff bottle of cylindrical shape. It is stained in black with a phoenix and a dragon among clouds. Matching stopper.*

*Black apocryphal Qianlong mark*

*Late 19th century  
Ht: 7,4 cm*



# Shâh Jahân & Mumtaz Mahal

*Taj Mahal, a proof of love*

## Shâh Jahân

*An opaque semi-transparent glass snuff bottle imitating "realgar".*

*Flat foot.*

*18<sup>th</sup> century*

*Ht: 5,8 cm*

*Provenance: Old Dutch Collection, Amsterdam*



## Mumtaz Mahal

*A glass snuff bottle of pear shape imitating "realgar".*

*Flat foot.*

*18<sup>th</sup> century*

*Ht: 7,2 cm*

*Provenance: Private French Collection*

# Emperor & Empress

*Life in Yellow*



## Empress

*A yellow glass snuff bottle of rounded rectangular shape based on a small foot, flared neck.*

*1780-1850*

*Ht : 6,2 cm*

*Provenance : Collection Louis Gonse*

## Emperor

*A yellow glass snuff of rounded shape, a pair of mask ring handles is carved on each sides.*

*1800-1860*

*Ht : 6 cm*

*Provenance : Louis Gonse*





# Bonnie & Clyde

« Wanted ! »



## Clyde

A ruby red snuff bottle of rounded form the narrow side is carved with a lengthy raised panel.  
1800-1860  
Ht: 8cm



## Bonnie

An elongated monochrome ruby-red glass snuff bottle.  
1760-1820  
Ht : 7,8 cm

# Butterfly lovers

## Liang Shanbo & Zhu Yingtai romance

A pair of porcelain snuff bottles of bulbous form, painted in "famille rose" enamels in a continuous scene with three butterflies and flowers on one side; the reverse with four butterflies and a snail. A stylized pattern around the neck. Apocryphal Kangxi mark.



Guangxu Period - 1875-1908  
Ht: 5,8 cm  
Provenance: Collection O. Debosque

Zhu Yingtai is a beautiful and intelligent young woman, the ninth child and only daughter of the wealthy noble family. Breaking traditions that restricted females from going to school, she convinces her father to allow her to disguise herself as a young man and travels to Hangzhou to attend classes.

During her journey, she meets Liang Shanbo, a scholar from Shaoxing, who lives in the same province as her. They feel a strong affinity for each other at their first meeting. Hence, they gather some soil as incense and take the oath of fraternity in the pavilion of a thatched bridge.

For the next four years in school, they share the same room where there is only one bed and two quilts. Zhu Yingtai gradually falls in love with Liang Shanbo. Although Liang equals Zhu in their studies, he is still a bookworm and fails to notice the feminine characteristics exhibited by his classmate.

One day, Zhu Yingtai receives a letter from her father, asking her to return home as soon as possible. Zhu Yingtai has no choice but to pack her belongings immediately and bid Liang Shanbo farewell.

However, in her heart, she has already confessed her love for Liang Shanbo and is determined to be with him for all eternity.

Before her departure, she reveals her true identity to the headmaster's wife and requests her to hand over a jade pendant to Liang Shanbo as a betrothal gift. Liang Shanbo accompanies his "sworn brother" for 17 miles to see her off. During the journey, Zhu Yingtai hints to Liang Shanbo that she is actually a woman. Months later, when Liang Shanbo visits Zhu Yingtai, he discovers that she is actually a woman. They are devoted to and passionate about each other and they make a vow of "till death do us part". The joy of their reunion is short-lived as Zhu's parents have already arranged for her to marry a man from a rich family called Ma Wencai. Liang Shanbo is heartbroken when he hears the news and his health gradually deteriorates until he becomes critically ill. He dies in office later as a county magistrate.

On the day of Ma Wencai and Zhu Yingtai's marriage, mysterious whirlwinds prevent the wedding procession from escorting the bride beyond Liang Shanbo's grave, which lies along the journey. Zhu Yingtai leaves the procession to pay her respects to Liang Shanbo. She descends in bitter despair and begs for the grave to open up.

Suddenly, the grave opens with a clap of thunder. Without further hesitation, Zhu Yingtai throws herself into the grave to join Liang Shanbo. Their spirits turn into a pair of beautiful butterflies and emerge from the grave. They fly together as a pair and are never to be separated again.

# Price list (us \$)

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1: Qixi- 3400 \$             | 11: Shâh Jahân- 3500 \$           |
| 2: Romeo- 2300 \$            | 12: Mumtaz Mahal- 3500 \$         |
| 3: Juliet- 6500 \$           | 13: Emperor- 4500 \$              |
| 4: Cupid- 2200 \$            | 14: Empress- 4500 \$              |
| 5: Aphrodite- 2200 \$        | 15: Bonnie- 2500 \$               |
| 6: Tristan- 3700 \$          | 16: Clyde- 3000 \$                |
| 7: Iseult- 4200 \$           | 17: The butterfly lovers- 6600 \$ |
| 8: Le rouge- 1000 \$         | 18: A lovely bonus- 1000 \$       |
| 9: Le noir- 1000 \$          |                                   |
| 10: Dragon & Phenix- 1500 \$ |                                   |



\* Condition report available

# *A Lovely Bonus*



*An inside-painted glass snuff bottle painted with an erotic scene on each side.*

*Beginning of the 20th century*

*Ht : 6,5 cm*

