

Museum inspiration:



Lime Pot in the Shape of Cat

Thailand (Buriram Province)

11th–12th century

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/73809>

According to Asian Art Museum (<https://searchcollection.asianart.org/collections>):

“Today people get together over a cup of coffee or tea to be social and to get a buzz of caffeine. In many parts of South and Southeast Asia, people once chewed a betel, a mild stimulant and psychoactive substance that may have antidepressant qualities, for the same purposes. These traditions continue today both in Asia, and in Asian diasporic communities around the world.

A betel quid consists of the nut of the areca plant, which is chopped up, mixed with the mineral lime, and wrapped in the leaf of a betel vine. Sometimes flavorings, like herbs, spices, and tobacco are added to the quid.”

The opening visible on the top of the body allowed the lime to be taken out with a spatula. The lime pot symbolized the home and occupied a central place in the social life of the household. According to tradition, if the lime pot was broken, it would bring bad luck.