

A M I R M O H T A S H E M I



Ottoman Kubur (“Pen Case”)

Ottoman Turkey, 18th century

Mother of pearl, leather, amber and silver

32 cm long, 4.5 cm diameter

Stock no.: A5154

This cylindrical *kubur* (“pen case”) is made of three component parts and veneered with mother-of-pearl scales. The detachable lid is crowned with a green emerald finial which rests on an amber wood knop surmounted by a silver rim around its edges. When opened, the inside of the case reveals a tubular papier-mâché body covered in red leather. In addition, beneath the case there is also a detachable base concealing a silver inkwell with a cover decorated in the form of a foliage motif.

There is a similar Ottoman pen case with mother-of-pearl scale decorations in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection (Accession Number: MXD116).¹ Furthermore, there is another comparable pen case, bearing the *tughra* of the Ottoman Sultan Osman III (r.1754-57), held at the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts in İstanbul (Accession Number: 4040).²

Footnotes:

1 J.M. Rogers. 1996. *Empire of the Sultans: Ottoman Art from the Collection of Nasser D.Khalili*. London: The Nour Foundation. p.170.

2 For an image of the pen case see, Garo Kürkman. 1996. *Ottoman Silver Marks*. Istanbul: Mathusalem Publications. p.163.