

No. 21

**A fine and rare Imperial Cinnabar Lacquer Box and Cover
with Qianlong six-character Mark and of the Period**

Qing Dynasty, Qianlong period (1736-95)

The lid finely carved with three five-clawed dragons writhing amongst waves around a central flaming pearl. The straight sides carved with waves and tips of the dragons tails. The interior and metal-lined base painted with black lacquer. The interior of the cover with an incised and gilt four-character mark “*long wen bao he*” (treasured box with dragon design). The base with an incised and gilded six-character mark reading “*da qing qianlong nian zhi.*” Qianlong mark and of the period. Spink label on the base.

Several boxes of this shape are known, all varying in design and inscription, each referring to the design of the box. The use of characters to describe the design is a feature of many Imperial lacquer ware of the Qianlong period.

Compare an example in the Palace Museum Beijing, see *Zhong guo qi qi quan ji*, vol.6: Qing Fuzhou, 1993, col.pl.205

D 7 in

清乾隆 雕漆剔紅龍文寶盒





Cover with four-character mark
“long wen bao he”



Box with six-character mark
“da qing qianlong nian zhi.”