

# PAN

AMSTERDAM

## PAUL RUITENBEEK CHINESE ART



Red overlay glass snuff bottle

1750-1800

6 cm high (without stopper)

The bottle is of flattened, rounded form with a flat lip and recessed, oval base. The clear glass is heavily suffused with small bubbles and has a single, ruby-red transparent overlay, finely carved on either side with a continuous design of a pond, with two lotus blooms and a lotus leaf on one side and an egret wading amidst foliage and a lotus seed pod on the other side. Jadeite stopper.

A scene of a single egret and lotus plant with seed pod is a rebus for the wish '*yilu lianke*' ('May you pass your exams all the way'). This wish was expressed when someone had to pass the highly important series of civil service examinations.

A comparable example, but in blue overlay, is illustrated in Sotheby's New York, *The Neal W. and Frances R. Hunter Collection. Fine Chinese Snuff Bottles*, 15 September 1998, lot 123. Another red overlay snuff bottle with a continuous

pond design is illustrated in: Hugh Moss, Victor Graham and Ka Bo Tsang, *A Treasury of Chinese Snuff Bottles. The Mary and George Bloch Collection*, Volume 5, Part 2, Glass, Hong Kong, cat. no. 875, pp. 435-436.

Provenance:

Formerly in an American private collection