



JAIME EGUIGUREN

ARTS & ANTIQUES

Mexico, 17th Century

ENCONCHADO
TRUNK

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Enconchado Trunk

Wood, mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell, and iron locks

Height: 40 cm

Width: 60 cm

Depth: 32 cm

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This exquisite “Enconchado” trunk or portable wooden chest has an inlaid decoration of mother-of-pearl and tortoiseshell depicting naturalistic motifs and stylized floral and geometrical sets. It has a rectangular shape with four angular stands. The cover on top shows the same geometrical and floral decoration and is foldable. The interior has some drawers and a geometrical ornamentation of different fruit woods. The iron lock has also naturalistic decorations. The inferior lower part of the trunk has a thin drawer.

This amazing piece of furniture is a faithful witness of the Orient influence that is felt in this period and that is easily accepted by the Spanish colonial society in America. Orientalism, latent in the depths of the Hispanic soul, awakens with exuberance in American lands. The mother-of-pearl is an oriental decoration, specifically from the Philippines, which arrived in America in the Galeón of Manila, 1565, when the Spaniards occupied the Philippines and thus had a communicating bridge across the Pacific, from Asia to Mexico and indirectly to Lima, Perú. The route Philippines-Acapulco was done by the Galeón de Manila and the Mexico-Callao by the Galeón of Acapulco.

Of various types and uses, there were large cabinets, cupboards, with high crests “peinetones” or “cresterías”, tables, boxes, crosses, frames, jewel boxes, etc.



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