

AMIR M O H T A S H E M I



Carved Wooden Qur'an Box

Lombok, Indonesia, 19th to early 20th century

Carved wood

27 cm high, 30.5 cm long, 9 cm deep

Stock no.: A6090

A carved wooden Qur'an box from the island of Lombok, Indonesia. It was probably made by the Sasak people who follow a religion which combines Islam with native animist beliefs. One side of the box is carved in relief with an image of Buraq, the mount of Prophet Muhammad. The other side is carved with swirling motifs, typical of Lombok carving.

A Qur'an box of the same form with similar knotted carving on one side and Buraq on the other is held in the Dharmawangsa Collection, Jakarta, and attributed to Lombok.¹ Another box of the same form with knotted carving on one side and a Javanese 'Wayang' style carved scene on the other was exhibited at the 2016 exhibition *Art of the Austronesians: The Legacy of Indo-Pacific Voyaging* at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. The box was dated to the 19th to early 20th century and attributed to Lombok.

All of these boxes feature small hemi-circular loops on the box and the lid, through which a cord would have been threaded to secure the two together.

[1] <http://www.dharmawangsa-art.com/bali/koran-container-island-of-lombok>