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LOT 118
PROPERTY FROM THE DRS. EDMUND J. AND JULIE LEWIS COLLECTION
AN IMPERIAL PRESENTATION SUZURIBAKO [WRITING BOX], MEIJI PERIOD, EARLY 20TH CENTURY

the large, square box with overhanging cover decorated in gold hiramaki-e on a gold nashiji ground, designed on the exterior and interior with large, imperial sixteen-petal chrysanthemum medallions Kinji in low relief interspersed with medallions outlined in gold lacquer and silhouetted on the nashiji ground, fitted in the lower section of the box with a silver-mounted implement tray which holds a brush and an ink cake holder, and on the left in fitted slots, a paper knife and paper-pricker, each of the utensils in identical mounts lacquered with gold chrysanthemum scroll on a nashiji ground, the pricker and knife blade silver, the large mizuire of silver cast as a pair of joined chrysanthemums which resemble the two types of chrysanthemum medallions ornamenting the box, the large rectangular inkstone placed in the central section of the tray lacquered on the sides and base in nashiji and fundame rims, the rims of the cover in silver-glit; wood storage box inscribed on the cover that the box was presented by the Emperor Meiji to Count Hisamoto Hijikata on
PROVENANCE
Emperor Meiji,
Count Hisamoto Hijikata

LITERATURE
Stephen Little and Edmund J. Lewis View of the Pinnacle, Japanese Lacquer writing boxes (Hawaii, 2011), no.75 pp.194-195

CATALOGUE NOTE
Hijikata was a classic Meiji-period loyalist who had always supported the imperial family. On this occasion he was being honoured for his appointment as State Minister with Second Middle Rank. He was also Councillor of the Bureau of Imperial Decorations, and was himself decorated by the governments of almost every European nation.

Fig. 1
Count Hisamoto Hijikata