

History of Himitsu-Bako(Personal Secret Box)

Himitsu-Bako in Japanese means Secret Box. This secret box was first referred to in a journal titled “Onsen Miage Hakone Sou” issued during 1830-1843. Onsen Miage Hakone-Sou means “Hakone Hotspring Souvenirs”.

In this time period the Himitsu-Bako(secret box) was in its early stages. It was referred

to as a “Shikake-Bako” and “Chie-Bako” Shikake means device or trick and “Chie” means idea, wisdom, or intelligence. Shikake-Bako and Chie-Bako were kind of Ito-Bako(String box. a small box used to contain strings, nails, sewing kits, etc.).These string boxes were developed into small chest (Tansu) for use by workers to carry their tools in and have their tools safe from theft. Because of the Shikake(device or trick) no one could get into the box without first knowing the secret. Workers to keep their tools safe used these chests on old coaches and ships.

The Ito-Bako (small box) was made with a very simple device/trick in the beginning.

As

this box become more popular the device/trick became more complicated. These boxes

were soon referred to as a Shikake-Bako and Chie-Bako. Up to this point in history these boxes were very simple with little or no decoration. These boxes did not resemble the secret puzzle boxes of today. It was after 1870, in the Meiji Period, that Mr.R.Ohkawa made an effort to develop a more complicated secret box. This effort resulted with the integration of Yosegi-Zaiku and Shikake-Bako making the first **Himitsu-Bako**. This originated and was developed in **Hakone** area of Japan.

Customers :

Thank you for purchasing our Personal Secret Box. The box is intricately designed and handmade by Japanese craftsmen. As with any work of art, the Personal Secret Box must be handled with care. Please keep the following points in mind.

<Notes>

*Wood may expand or contract with changes in humidity. Avoid areas of high humidity and high temperature. It is natural for movement of the wooden pieces to be affected by environmental changes, therefore we cannot guarantee the future functioning of the box.

*To clean, wipe the surface with a clean, dry cloth. Never use abrasive cleansers on it.

*Be careful not to drop or allow impact to your box.

*The Personal Secret Box is not edible. Never put it in your mouth.

*Do not force the box open. It may cause damage.