

HISTORIC JAPANESE CHEST FOUND IN FRANCE FETCHES 7.3 MILLION EUROS AT **AUCTION**



An Edo-era Japanese chest that once belonged to Cardinal Jules Mazarin, France's chief minister from 1642 to 1661, and had gone missing, was bought at an auction for 7.3 million euros by Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.

French auctioneer Philippe Rouillac in Loire Valley received a phone call on Jan. 21 from a woman in her 50s who told him she was selling her house and wanted to discard furniture she owned.

Rouillac visited the woman's house, but saw nothing he thought was valuable. Then just as he was about to leave, the owners unveiled a chest that contained sherry bottles they offered him. It was a black-and-gold lacquered chest with silver and mother-of-pearl decorations.

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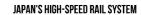
1 sur 4 12/09/2013 13:23



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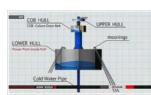
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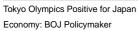
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2 sur 4 12/09/2013 13:23





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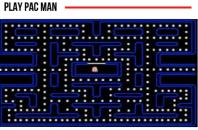


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4 sur 4 12/09/2013 13:23