China Trade Campaign Chest

£2,150



REF: 84235

Christopher Clarke Antiques
The Fosseway, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1JS
clarkeltd@btconnect.com • 01451 830 476 • www.campaignfurniture.com

Height: 131.39 cm (51.7")

Width: 107.91 cm (42.5")

Depth: 48.24 cm (19")

Description

A Chinese Export camphor wood Campaign Chest.

This chest, although obviously by a Chinese workshop, was made for sale to a Westerner passing through one of the Chinese ports. The use of camphor wood, ebonised reeded moulding between the drawers, brass side carrying handles, ebonised feet and decorative gallery to the top all point to its origin.

The top section is taller than the bottom with an extra drawer row and the decorative, carved and partly ebonised gallery both increasing its height. The drawers are all plain with no secretaire, giving plenty of storage space. This chest was probably first bought by someone who wasn't planning on continually moving it. It was perhaps bought for shipboard use, with the gallery a good indicator, or by someone expecting to use it mostly in one residence but with the convenience of it having a level of portability. It was not designed to be as practical as a British campaign chest of the second half of the 19th century that could bare continual travel.

The brass carrying handles to the side make it easy to lift one section off the other, with the two parts united by four rectangular lugs to the top section fitting into corresponding holes to the bottom. The drawer handles are a similar design to a standard British campaign handle of the second half of the 19th century. The back is panelled and there are keys for the drawers.

This is a good sized China Trade Campaign Chest with the contrast in the colour between the golden camphor and the dark ebonised moulding lifting the piece. Mid 19th century.

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