

SA1119834

A finely carved camphor wood chest

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1119834

Date of manufacture: 1920

Dimensions

Height = 55.5 cm (21.9")

Width = 104 cm (40.9")

Depth = 54.5 cm (21.5")

Description

Hong Kong based cabinet makers have a long established history of producing camphor wood chests for the transportation of goods across the globe, and for visitors or expats to take home as mementos of their stay. This intricately carved chest, dating to the late 1920s, is a particularly fine example of their work. Chests of this type were the perfect vessel to store cherished keepsakes collected whilst travelling across China - the camphor oil in the wood repelling insects that sought any of the fine silks and material that were housed inside. The natural insect repellent still works to this day - thankfully, the smell is far more appealing to us humans, as you will find out when you lift the lid. Intricately decorated to all sides, this chest is a wonderful example of the wood carvers skill. Inside, sits its original camphorwood tray, upon which there is some feint Chinese writing, probably chalked on by the cabinet maker. There is also a 'Liberal Brand' makers or retail label. Condition - this chest has been traditionally restored, to extenuate the original shading within the carved surfaces. Camphor wood has many aesthetic and practical qualities, however, its grain i...

Seller Details

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