

SA1178263

Japanese Ship's Tansu Chest

Price

GBP 650

| USD \$878 | EUR 761

Item Reference: SA1178263

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 44 cm (17.3")

Width = 50 cm (19.7")

Depth = 43 cm (16.9")

Description

This superb Japanese funadansu, a ship's tansu chest in wonderful antique condition. Originally crafted for use aboard merchant vessels, it was designed to meet the practical demands of maritime trade, often safeguarding documents, tools, and valuables during long voyages. Constructed from solid hardwood, likely keyaki (zelkova) or sugi (cedar), the chest is reinforced with iron corner brackets, straps, and rivets. These hand-forged fittings not only lend a rugged, industrial aesthetic but also served to protect the chest from the rigours of transport and shifting seas. The chest features four deep drawers, each fitted with iron bail handles, ideal for storing a range of items. Its weathered wood grain, aged patina, and robust ironwork give it a commanding decorative presence. Highly prized for their craftsmanship and historical significance, ship's tansu like this are rare survivors of Japan's maritime heritage. This well-preserved example stands as a fine testament to functional design and enduring artistry. Internal reference : SAI3976

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