

SA1192057

Taisho Period Japanese Elm Tansu Chest – Circa 1910

Price

GBP 950

| USD \$1,286 | EUR 1,112

Item Reference: SA1192057

Date of manufacture: 1910

Dimensions

Height = 163 cm (64.2")

Width = 114 cm (44.9")

Depth = 41 cm (16.1")

Description

A beautifully composed Japanese Tansu chest from the Taisho period, crafted in richly grained elm (keyaki), prized for its durability and expressive figuring. This piece exemplifies the transitional elegance of early 20th-century Japan, where traditional joinery met subtle Western influences in proportion and finish. The upper section features a harmonious arrangement of sliding doors and a hinged cabinet, accented with original iron hardware in stylised chrysanthemum and cloud motifs. Below, a series of graduated drawers offer practical storage, each fitted with forged iron warabite handles and decorative lock plates, reflecting the meticulous metalwork of the era. The chest's warm patina and understated symmetry evoke the refined simplicity of Japanese domestic interiors, while its modular construction hints at its original use—possibly as a merchant's chest or household storage, designed for portability and adaptability. This Tansu is not only a functional piece but a testament to Taisho-era aesthetics: a quiet blend of Meiji-era craftsmanship and the emerging modern sensibility. Ideal for collectors of Japanese antiques, wabi-sabi interiors, or film and theatre se...

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