Ship's Cabin Bed

£4,850



REF: 84223

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

Height: 85.06 cm (33.5")

Width: 184.08 cm (72.5")

Depth: 68.55 cm (27")

Description

An English teak Cabin Bed.

A Cabin Bed was three pieces of furniture in one and so ideal for the confined space on board ship. It is a bed, a sofa and a chest of drawers. The original purchaser of this piece of furniture probably bought it from a Cabin Fitter - a seller of campaign furniture who would provide all you would need for your 6 month journey to India or beyond in the first half of the 19th century. Part of the service they offered would be to also deliver and fit your furniture in your cabin, as their name implies.

This was never meant to be a smart piece of furniture but practical and sturdy in its use. Teak was used because its resistance to hot and wet conditions made it ideal for both use on board ship and the climate of the east. That's not to say that no heed was given to its aesthetics. The panelled back has a serpentine crest to its back and the curved shape is echoed to the side panels and front retaining boards. The back and sides are screwed to each other and fixed on metal lugs that locate to holes to the base. When the screws are removed, the two sides and back can be removed for ease of moving, as shown in the second image. The front boards would be fitted during stormy seas to prevent the occupant from falling out of bed. They also sit in place on lugs and are then fixed by a thumb bolt to the sides.

The dovetails and quadrant moulding to the inside edges of the drawers show that this was made by an English cabinet maker as opposed to an Indian. The drawers have a cock bead line cut to their edge and replaced knob handles. The cabin bed stands on square, squat feet.

Once the original owner of this Cabin Bed arrived at their destination, they would either keep it as part of their start up furniture or sell it to someone returning to England. Its just as useful today and comfortable for the feather cushions we have had made for it. By repute it once belonged to the sculptor Lynn Chadwick. Early to mid 19th century.

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