



## 19th Century Marine Yellow Box Commissary Shipboard Administrative Management Cae25com001

1 000 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Length : 63 cm

### Description

NAVY or MERCHANT SHIP Yellow chest, 19th century, belonging to the ship's purser in charge of the ship's administrative management, with several locks CAE25COM001. This is a rare chest, as it was unique to each ship in the navy or merchant marine. Note the stamp, the military acceptance seal, indicating military use. The chest is easily identifiable; its yellow color prevents it from being easily removed (or stolen) during unloading. Its bright and rare color also allows for identification in case of maritime disaster, facilitating underwater recovery. The chest is obviously very sturdy and of high quality. It has double locks for its internal and external openings. Each opening has two different locks, each with a different key for the purser and the captain. The chest can thus only be opened when

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these two ship's officers are present. It has an internal metal compartment with its two locks and two The keys are fully functional. Only one key remains for the external opening. Nothing is therefore blocked on this chest; it can be locked at both levels. Three keys are provided. The internal chest contained the money, gold, and cash necessary for a long voyage, and even to pay the sailors at each port of call. The main compartment was reserved for important ship's documents, undoubtedly the reason there is only one key for the initial opening, which probably did not require the captain's presence. The largest compartment could also very likely contain weapons necessary to avoid going through the ship's armory in the event of a mutiny on board. This chest remained in the galley of the captain or the purser; these officers were invariably the primary target of the sailors in the event of a mutiny.

**Role of the Purser:** The purser (or provisions purser) was an officer in charge of the logistical, financial, and administrative management of the ship. He was responsible for the ship's cash box, therefore the yellow chest, and reported directly to the ship's purser. to the captain or the maritime intendant ashore. The purser kept a cash book, where each transaction was meticulously recorded.

**Historical context (19th century):** The yellow chest is mentioned in several French Navy regulations, notably in the instructions of the Ministry of the Navy in the 19th century. It appears aboard warships, but also on some transport or state service vessels. In accounts by sailors or officers, it is sometimes referred to as "the purser's cash box" or "the yellow chest" as a symbol of shipboard administration.

**Description of the chest:** It is in very good condition, with its oilcloth top protecting it from sea spray and moisture damage. The canvas is clearly marked COMMISSIONER. It is heavy, approximately 15 kg! Dimensions: approximately 63 x 42 x 32 cm. The wood, probably of an exotic species, shows no signs of woodworm and the colors are excellent. The

leather side handles are in very good condition and still usable. The locks are all Fully functional with three keys. The base is in very good condition, with its two wooden slats for sliding... A rare item for a nautical collector or for interior decoration in a seaside resort or elsewhere... For collectors of antique weapons...