

Regency leather trunk



Image: <https://www.pinterest.pt/pin/397020523382798059/>

This Regency leather trunk was recently sold for £1800.

It was described as:

“Early C19th black leather and brass bound camphor trunk, the lift up top with a brass bound edge and a brass studded oval panel with the name ‘Captain J W Smyth’. The front with a brass studded swag, the sides retaining the original brass carrying handles.

Provenance Captain J W Smyth of Ashton Court Somerset”.

What is a ‘camphor trunk’?

Camphor trunks are trunks made out of camphor wood. Camphor wood is a fragrant and durable hardwood and hence suitable for the storage of fabric and clothes. They were popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Who was Captain J.W. Smyth?

The Regency period is from about 1714 to 1837. Without conducting extensive military and family history research has not been possible to identify a Captain J.W. Smyth who might have been active during that period.

Was it in the 1947 sale?

At least four trunks were sold in the sale. In Room 19: lot 467, two trunks, sundry pictures and photo frames and lot 473 with a similar description. Clearly these were minor lots and not key pieces so it seems unlikely that they are this camphor trunk.