

PRIAM mariner's chest:

sea chest 38 ¼ in. long by 17 in. wide by 17 ½ in. high of ¾ in. thick pine, tapering upward to lid 37 in. long by 16 in. wide; dovetailed construction, hinged cover (hinges replaced); top covered with black oilcloth fastened with ¼-inch dia. brass tacks; original forged iron handles and backplates on ends, brass keyhole escutcheon; lock and hasp missing; 3 ¼ in. wide pine moulding across front base, missing on both sides and back; black tarred finish; interior fitted with two tills, both having inlay work on covers; left cover hinged via extended pegs set into sides, inlaid with heart and diamond motifs; sliding cover on right till with two hearts in frame, faint carved initials "S M" or "G M" (?) in old script; bottom of left till missing, right till open to bottom of chest (which contained a fragment of leather netting or hammock, a few seeds and tiny sea shells, two live white larvae discarded); it appears a third open till once extended across the back of the chest between the tills (nail holes at both ends and difference in finish); it appears a tray once was supported by an extension of the left till's bottom board and existing strip tacked to right side; underside of chest lid inlaid in 1 each diamond and hexagonal panels containing Victorian-era paper cutouts of women which resemble cigar box art

underside of chest lid carries a rectangular white painted panel or ground with concave clipped corners applied directly to pine cover and a vessel's portrait; this painting depicts a four-masted vessel in barque rig sailing from right to left (port side view); the hull appears long, low and sleek with an overhanging or concave bow visible above the waterline; she is painted black above and red below the waterline with a white stripe between the two colors (she may be sailing 'light' as a good bit of red is showing); she carries three cabins on deck of a color which appears pink today; five portholes and two doors are visible on the forward cabin, four portholes and a door on the center cabin below the main mast (partially obscured by its rigging) and four portholes on the aft cabin; a large crudely-rendered stock anchor is depicted in brown suspended behind the port bow

the vessel carries four jib sails which extend from the bowsprit to the foremast; the fore-, main-, and mizzen masts carry six 'square' (rectangular) sails apiece; the jigger mast carries three triangular jigger sails which extend forward on the starboard side and therefore are almost entirely obscured by the mizzen sails; the jigger mast is doubled while the other three masts are obscured by their square sails; a four-sided one-piece spanker and jigger topsail trail to the stern

the foremast carries a small black rectangular flag with an indistinct blue center device; the mainmast displays a long red pennant with indistinct white lettering reading PRIAM or perhaps PIRAM – the paint was smudged while still wet; the mizzen mast carries a red rectangular flag with white numerals which reads "550" (again, the paint was indifferently applied or smudged while still wet); the jigger mast carries a larger red rectangular flag with a blue center while a crudely-rendered British Red Ensign trails from the single gaff

a tiny out-of-scale single-masted pilot cutter trails the barque, having three jib sails forward and a spanker and jigger topsail trailing from the single mast; no national flag is visible, but her spanker carries large indistinct numerals "NB / 8A" (or BA ?) with a red vertical line between the letters

a treeless rugged headland is depicted both forward and astern of the barque; a tiny lighthouse appears on both coasts, the one forward low to the water, the one astern on a high bluff above and behind the cutter; both lighthouses taper upward from their base, and seem to depict a doorway at the base, two long windows above, a circular walkway above that, and two more windows above the walkway; both have conical black roofs atop; the barque appears to be making for a river or harbor behind the left lighthouse and in front of a high bluff in the distance