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Restoration Report

Object Description: Lane Cedar Chest, serial number 633060
Date of Manufacture 6/3/1936

Dimensions: Overall: H22' x L44" x D19"
Feet: H7" x W3"
Front Apron: H3" scalloped.

Materials

Primary wood: Tennessee Red Cedar. Walnut Veneer top.

Secondary Wood: Yellow Poplar turned feet and ornamentation turnings
& Carvings

Veneer: Walnut on front and sides.

Finish: Shellac

Hardware: **Note-** In 2000 the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled the locking latch system due to suffocation of children. Lane offers a replacement "no lock latch". The original lock will be left intact but the latch in the lid will be replaced whereby the lid will open and close.

The exterior hinges had been coated or plated. The coating has deteriorated but the hardware is in excellent working condition.

Attachments: N/A



Object Condition
General Condition

The piece is in good condition.

1. The walnut top has considerable wear and scratches through the finish into the wood. The front, sides, and back are in very good condition. The underside substrate is in very good condition.



2. The underside is veneer covered and unfinished. It is in poor condition. The piece has been stored in a VA garage. The local humidity has separated and buckled the veneer from the substrate.



Structural Condition

The structure is in excellent condition.

1. One foot needs repair. The feet are fastened to the case with a screw through the substrate and with glue.
2. The left proper front foot has been stripped from the screw and the glue line has deteriorated.



3. All feet had been reinforced with two 3 inch nails. I removed the nails and determined that only the left proper front foot needs repair.

Coatings Condition

The finish tests to be shellac. This would be unusual for a 1936 piece. Nitrocellulose lacquer was the typical finish of the period. Early nitrocellulose lacquer often tests similar to shellac, especially if it has high alcohol content. In my opinion the solvent testing and cleaning reaction substantiate the finish as shellac.

The finish is in very good condition. There are areas on the sides and front of incipient crazing. The condition has been caught early and is easily remedied.

Adhesive Condition

The age and color of the original glue suggests hide glue. The only glue deterioration has been to the left and right front feet and the underside veneer.

Treatment Response

Cleaning Protocol

The piece was cleaned with water and Murphy's oil soap to remove water soluble dirt. The piece was then cleaned with naphtha to remove oil soluble dirt.

Repairs Performed

Feet - The feet are attached by 3 inch screws and hi glue. The glue line was broken on both rear feet. The screw holes were stripped. Wood was added to the Screw holes and hide glue was used for adhesion.



Locking Latch – The lid locking hatch was replaced by a Lane provided “no-lock” latch. The original latch was returned to the client.

Underside Veneer – Portions of the veneer still had good glue adhesion. In order to affect repair to the entire veneer, the remaining glue line had to be lifted. A hot iron was used to melt the hide glue. The veneer was re-attached using PVA glue. Glue was applied to both glue sides, allowed to dry, the veneer was laid in place and a hot iron used to melt and set the glue. I was unable to use hide glue (the original glue) because clamping this section was not practical.



Interior glue block – Each interior corner has a cedar decorative glue block that hides the bolt that attaches the feet. The proper left rear block was unattached. I replaced the block with hide glue. **Note:** I found a minor crack in the cedar originating from the bolt. The crack does not effect the structural integrity of that area but should be kept in mind when moving the chest. Lift, do not drag the chest.

Veneer – There were 9 veneer repairs on the front of the apron and 6 on the back side.

Walnut veneer was used for the repairs.
Hide glue was used for the veneer repair.
Synthetic wood was used to repair veneer nicks.

Before



After



Before



After



Finish Protocol

1. The existing finish of the front and sides was dry sanded with 500 grit sandpaper to level the finish and eliminate finish deterioration.



One coat of Bysacki shellac was applied by spray gun to seal the existing finish.

Uneven Color on side panels



2. The veneer coloring on the two front side panels and one side of the chest aged unevenly. Color was

evened out with Warm Brown oil based glaze and one coat of Bysacki shellac was sprayed on to bond the glaze to the shellac finish.

Side Panel color Adjustment



4. The proper right side also had uneven color. Color was evened out with Warm Brown oil based glaze and one coat of Bysacki shellac was sprayed on to bond the glaze to the shellac finish.

Uneven side panel color



5. The repaired underside veneer was sprayed with 3 Coats of shellac.

The front, sides, and feet were French Polished with Bysacki Shellac. The shellac was allowed to cure for 1 month, then front and sides were hand rubbed to a satin sheen.

6. The hinges were cleaned and painted to match the original paint finish.
7. The top was sanded from grit 100 to grit 220 to remove scratches in the wood. The top is walnut veneer with yellow poplar edging.

The edging was pre-treated with linseed oil. Then stained with golden mahogany stain to match the chest front center and finished with Garnet shellac.

The walnut veneer was dyed with a solution of walnut hulls and water. Then finished with Tung oil varnish. Varnish was used for the top to provide better wear protection.

The top was allowed to cure 2 weeks and hand rubbed to a satin sheen.

Finished Top



Finished Chest



Respectfully submitted by
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