

On offer are an amazing pair of (what I assume to be) prints in a leather case which is embossed with the sitters names "Mr & Mrs Smith". Mrs Smith has a trade label to the reverse which shows that they were retailed by Rudolph Ackermann of Regent Street. This dates them at around 1830.

Rudolph Ackermann's store was an offshoot of his fathers lucrative empire. His store was among the most fashionable in London. As well as being plushly furnished in the latest style, innovations included gas lighting and speaking tubes which allowed staff to communicate over the many floors that the business operated.

You can read more about the firm here:

<http://printshopwindow.blogspot.com.au/2012/06/rudolph-ackermann-and-repository-of.html>

I bought these years ago from a huge old Queenslander in Wooloongabba, Brisbane. While the outside of the house was impressive, inside it was like an amazing time capsule where two successive generations of spinster sisters and their spinster nieces had quietly inherited a wealth of treasures from various branches of their well connected and aristocratic family who lived in England and France. Living in genteel poverty in colonial Brisbane they had no need for the fantastic silver, jewelery, furniture and amazing curios and stored most of it away until the last remaining niece (who was then in her eighties) decided to part with some of it.

I have had this case in my storeroom always meaning to do some research on it but I have never had the time so will pass it on to some-one who has the time to make the most of it. I have listed the pictures as prints but I am not 100% sure of this as I can't see why the expense and bother of doing prints of ordinary, albeit wealthy, people was worthwhile. Perhaps they are finely wrought pencil drawings as this would make more sense. Perhaps a clever ebayer can cast more light on the subject?

Along with the case, I will include a duplicate copy of an old will which lists the treasures of Emma Belloc of 49 Roland Gardens. The lucky Emma has some amazing items including letters to Lady Hamilton from Lord Nelson, Lord Nelsons ring and some amazing jewelery which was a personal gift from the Sultan of Zanzibar. Family legend is that this is who the case came from and there is enough information in the will that if you were interested you may be able to find out exactly who Mr & Mrs Smith were. I think that Emma Belloc was a close relation of the writer Hillaire Belloc.

The prints have some light foxing under the glass. The leather case has some bumps and scratches but is in good condition for its age. The velvet lining is lovely and the latch and hinges are fully operational.

Closed the case measures 195mm x 155 mm x 24mm.

MR & MRS SMITH.



