

# 18th Century Material Culture: Trunks & Portmanteaus



# Dome Topped Trunks



Leather Covered Trunk  
c. 1770 - 1800  
(National Park Service)



Leather Bound Trunks  
18th Century  
(Tom Wnuck Estate)



Sealskin Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century  
(Parks Canada, Quebec)



Trunk Owned by Former Slave, Aunt Letty, who lived with the Beale Family of Williamsburg, Virginia  
Made in Maryland, 18th Century  
(12" x 7" x 6")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



William Pitt Stamp Act Repealed Dispatch Box Covered in Leather

1766

(James D. Julia Auctions)



William Pitt Stamp Act Repealed Dispatch Box Covered in Leather  
1766  
(James D. Julia Auctions)



William Pitt Stamp Act Repealed Dispatch Box Covered in Leather

1766

(James D. Julia Auctions)

Chap. I.



AN  
ACCURATE DESCRIPTION  
OF  
AMERICA.

CHAP. I.

*America, unknown to the Ancients.*



THE Sea, that takes several Denominations from the Countreys which it washeth, and surrounding the dry Land, cuts out, and shapes so many winding Bays, Creeks, and Meandering In-lets, seems no where so much confin'd and penn'd into so narrow a Channel, as the Straights of Magellan: From whence again, soon expatiating, it spreads it self into two immense, and almost boundless Oceans, that which opens to the North, gives terminaries to the four Regions of the

Earth; that to the South, onely to *Asia* and *America*; both which, indeed, are but one continu'd Sea, extending it self round the Universal Globe.

This watry part of the World, that almost through all Ages lay fallow, hath in these later times been Furrow'd by several Expert and Stout Captains, who now by their Art and Industry, have given a good Account of, and made clear Discoveries from East to West, where-ever the Sun rises or sets.

The Northern Bounds under the *Arctic Zone*, have been hitherto so obstructed with Ice, that the undertakings of such as adventur'd either to find by the North-East or North-West a Passage to *India*, have been utterly frustrate. Of the Southern, no such pains hath as yet been taken in the Discovery, so that for the most part it is yet unknown how far the Water, either deep or shallow, overspreads the Earth, onely thus much Experience hath made out, that the *Antarctic* needs lesser Line to Fathoms, than the *Arctic Ocean*.

The ancient *Greeks*, *Phoenicians*, and *Romans*, or whosoever that were Renown'd by Antiquity, and listed in the number of their famous Navigators, were no less Timorous than Ignorant concerning Maritime Affairs, and are not fit to stand in the least degree of competition with our later Voyagers.

B

Of

William Pitt Stamp Act Repealed Dispatch Box Covered in Leather  
1766  
(James D. Julia Auctions)

# AMERICA





Domed Leather Covered Document Box Reported to have Belonged to an East India Company Official  
c. 1750 - 1800  
(Christie's Auction House)



Leather Covered Trunk  
18th Century  
(James Julia Auctions)



Leather Covered Trunk  
18th Century  
(James Julia Auctions)



Leather Covered Trunk  
18th Century  
(James Julia Auctions)



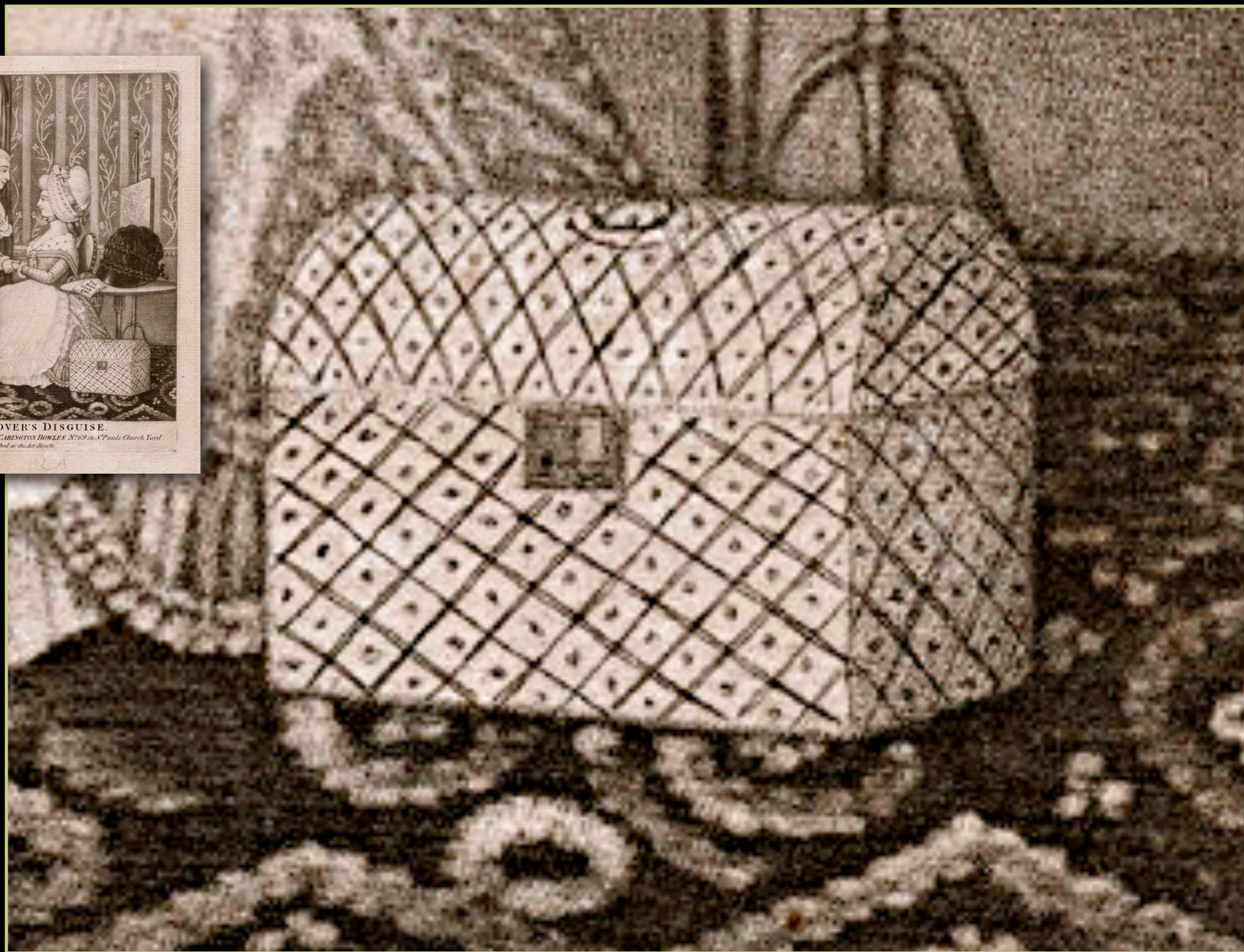
Detail: Dome Topped Trunk

“An English MAN of WAR taking a FRENCH PRIVATEER” by Carington Bowles after Robert Dighton 1781  
(The British Museum)

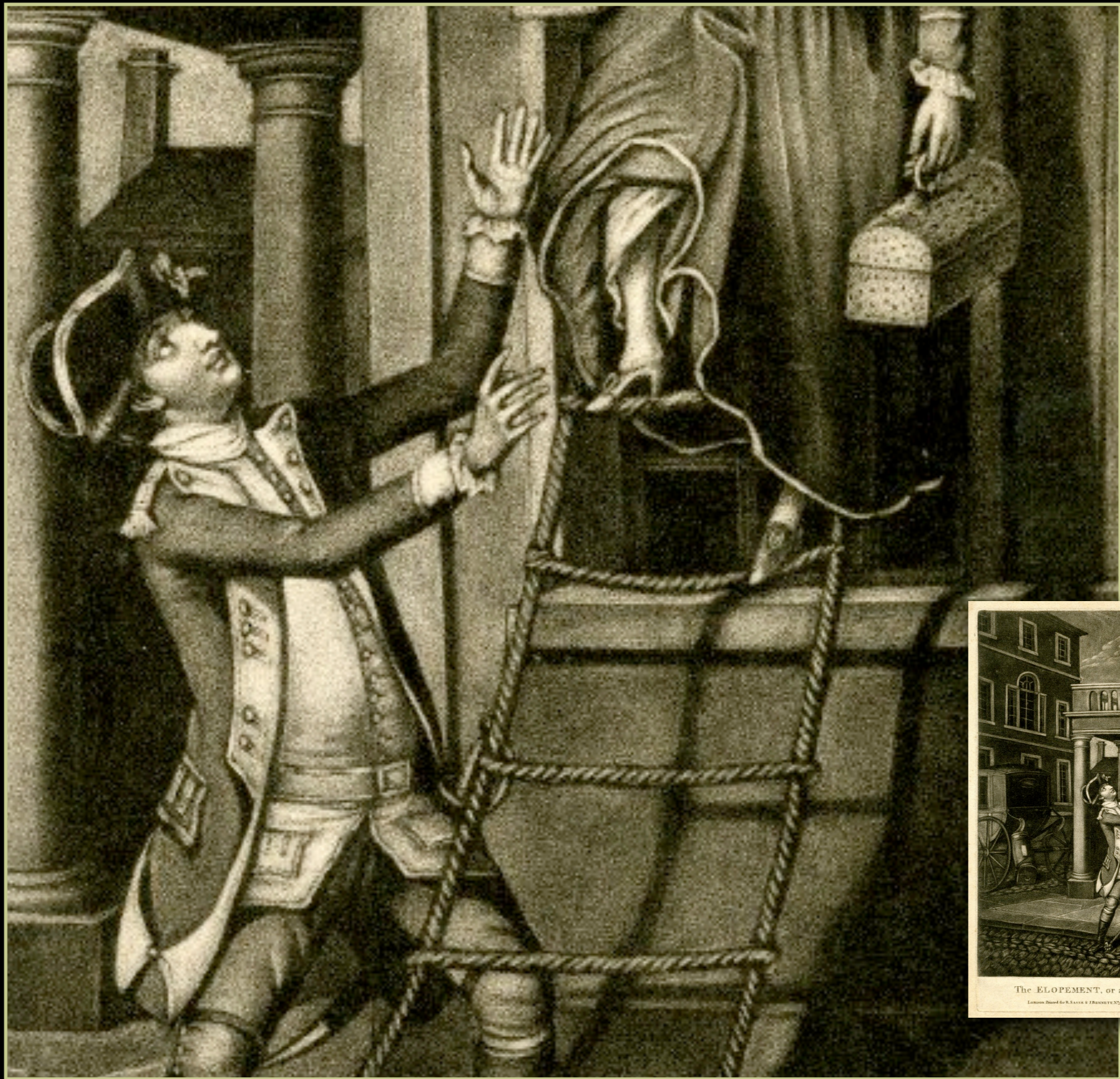


Detail: Domed Top Trunk

“An English MAN of WAR taking a FRENCH PRIVATEER” by Carington Bowles after Robert Dighton 1781  
(The British Museum)



Detail: Domed Top Trunk  
"The LOVER'S DISGUISE" by Carrington Bowles 1776  
(Lewis Walpole Library)



Detail: Domed Top Trunk  
“The Elopement, or a Tripp to Scotland” by Sayer & Bennet, London, 1777  
(The British Museum)



Leather Covered Trunk Decorated with Brass Tacks and Lined with Uncut Sheets of Playing Cards  
by James Bryant, London Trunk Maker c. 1773 +  
(Chris Fox Collection)



Leather Covered Trunk Decorated with Brass Tacks and Lined with Uncut Sheets of Playing Cards  
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by James Bryant, London Trunk Maker c. 1773 +  
(Chris Fox Collection)



Pony Hide Covered Trunk  
18th Century  
(15 1/6" x 10 1/2" x 9")  
(Antique Hadden)

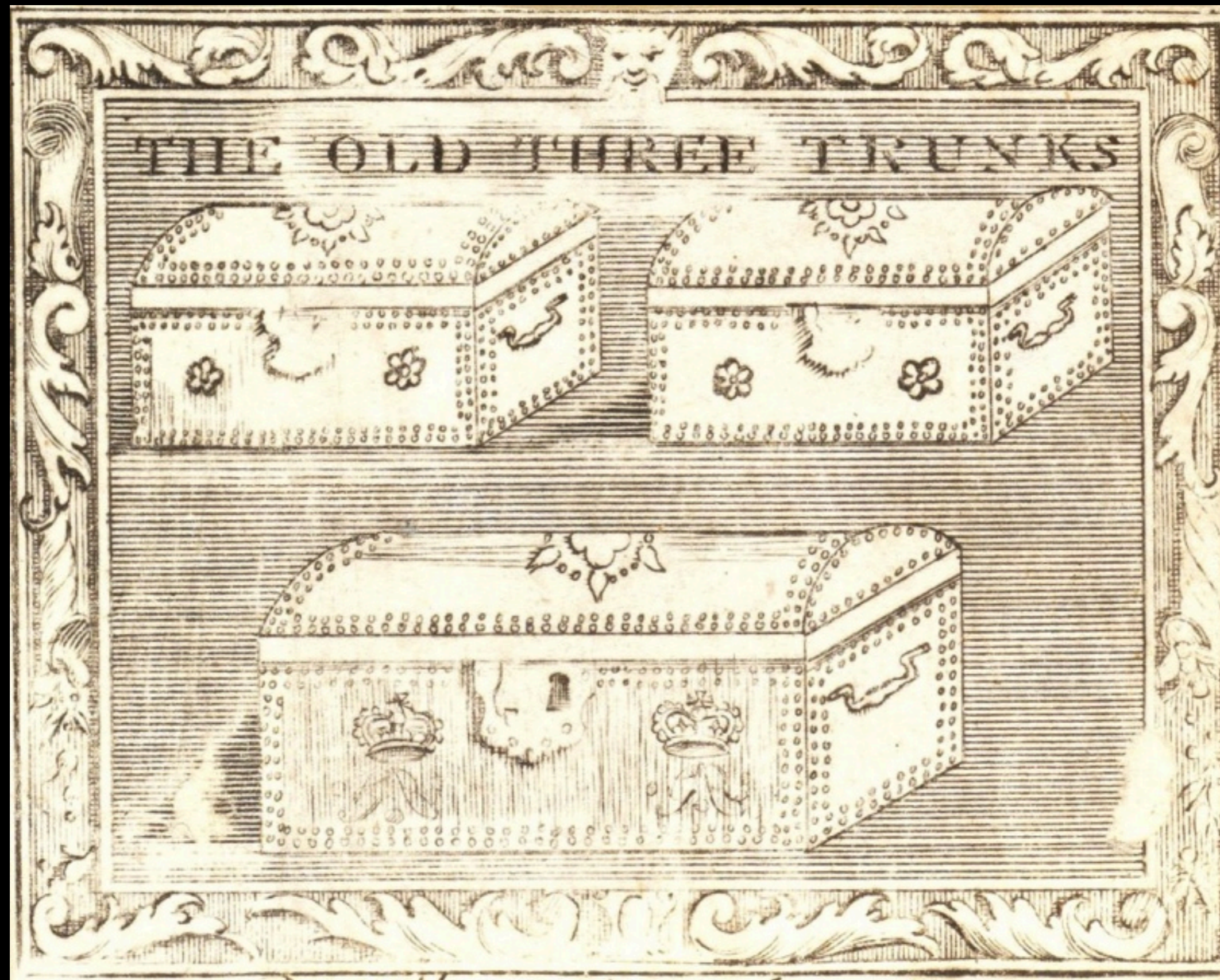


English Leather - Covered Trunk

c. 1720 - 1760

(17" x 9 1/2" x 8 1/4")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Trade Card "THE OLD THREE TRUNKS"  
(Lewis Walpole Library)

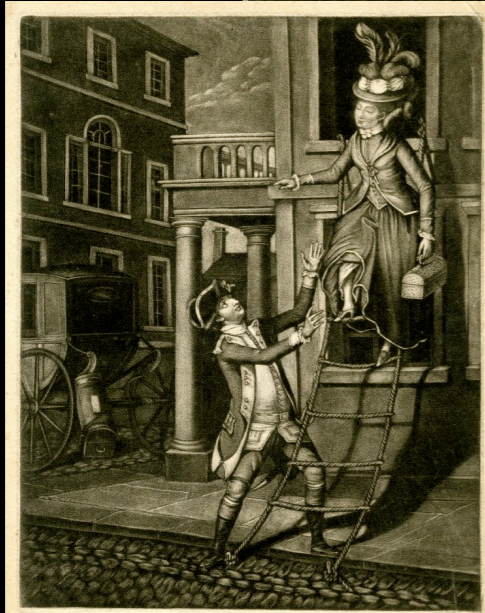


*A Harlot's Progress Plate 1.*

+

*W. Hogarth inv. pinx. sc. 168*

"A Harlot's Progress"  
by William Hogarth c. 1732  
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



The ELOPEMENT, or a TRIPP to SCOTLAND.

Engraved by R. SAVIN & F. BENNETT, N<sup>o</sup>. 22, Fleet Street, at the Art Gallery, & Brown's Coffee-House.



Detail: "The Elopement, or a Tripp to Scotland"  
Published by Sayer & Bennet, London, 1777  
(The British Museum)



Spanish / Portuguese Embossed Leather Covered Trunk  
c. Late 17th - Early 18th Century  
(Bonham's Auction House)



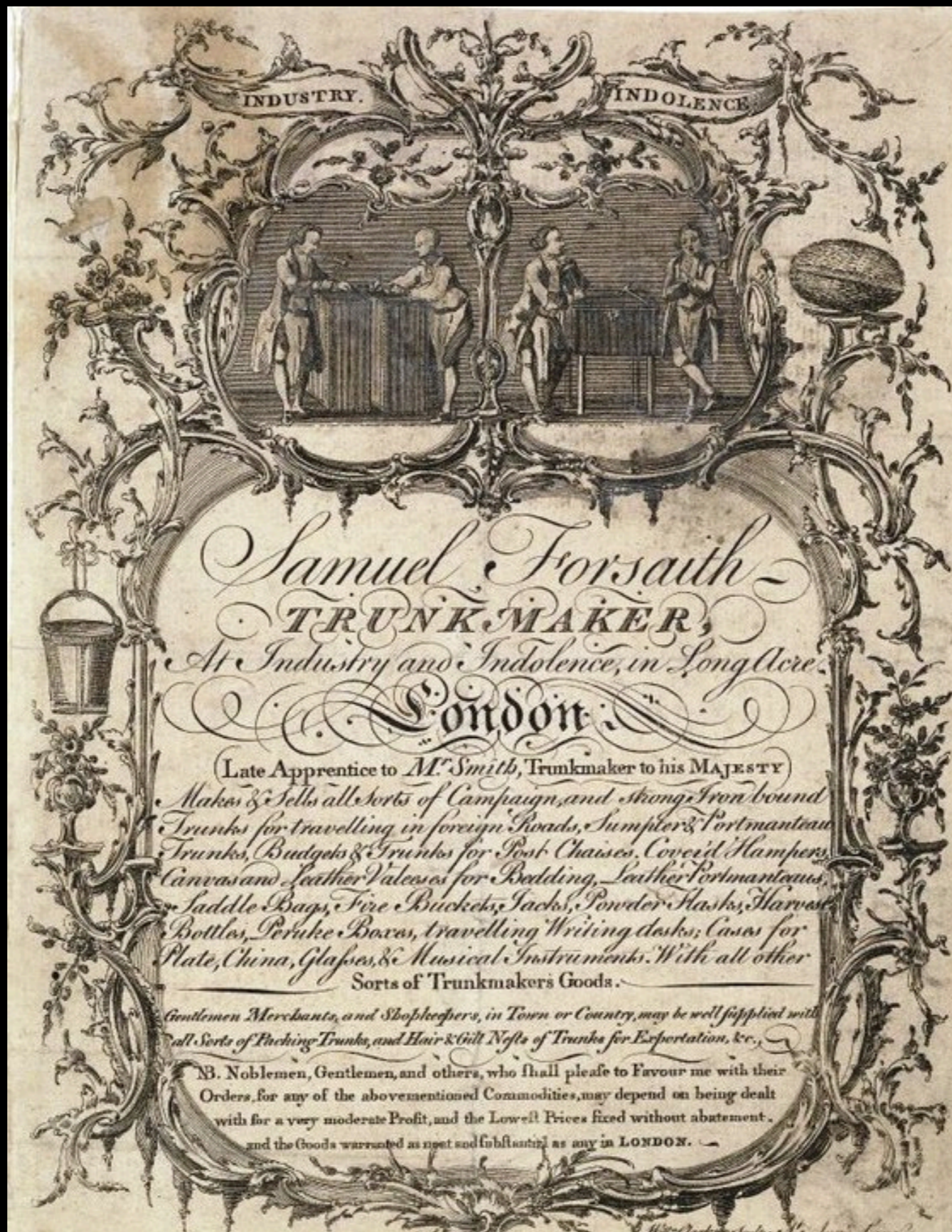
Brass Studded Leather Covered Trunk  
c. Late 17th - Early 18th Century  
(39 1/2" x 20 1/2" x 20")  
(Christie's Auction House)



English Leather Covered Trunk Owned by Philip Morgon, a Mason of Bristol  
by Edward Smith of Smith & Lucas c. 1751 - 1760  
(41 5/8" x 22 1/4" x 21 5/8")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Leather Covered Trunk Owned by Philip Morgon, a Mason of Bristol  
by Edward Smith of Smith & Lucas c. 1751 - 1760  
(41 5/8" x 22 1/4" x 21 5/8")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



Example of a London Trunk Maker's Label  
(Lewis Walpole Museum)



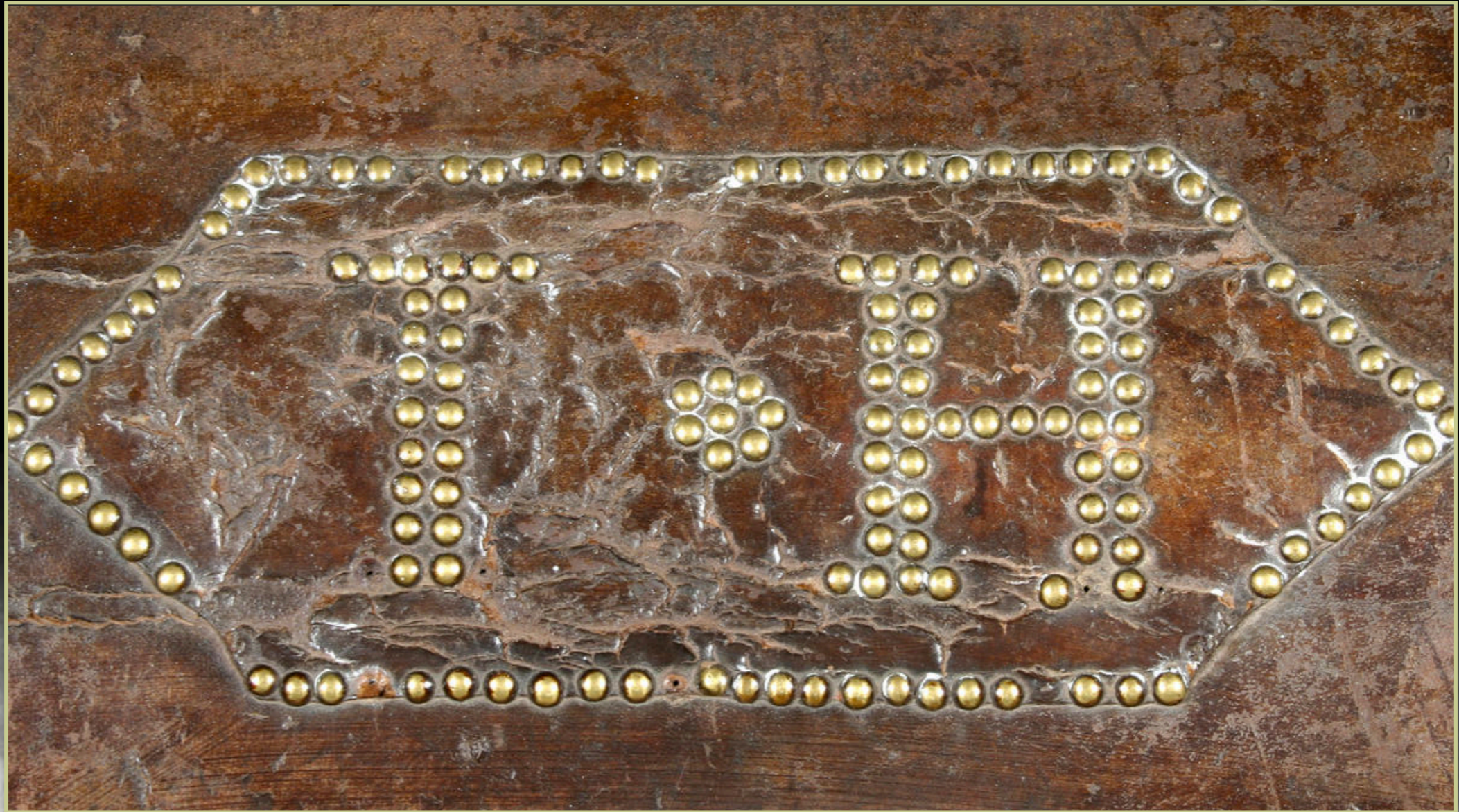
Example of a London Trunk Maker's Label  
Late 18th Century  
(The British Museum)



“A Harlot's Progress, Plate 5 / A Harlot's Progress”  
by William Hogarth 1732  
(The British Museum)



Leather Bound Trunk  
18th Century  
(Bonham's Auction House)



Leather Bound Dome Trunk  
18th Century  
(Bonham's Auction House)



Brass Tack Decorated Campaign Trunk  
General George Washington  
(Mount Vernon)



Brass Tack Decorated Campaign Trunk Labels  
General George Washington  
(Mount Vernon)



Trunk Carried by General John Cope when he Fled from the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745  
(National Museums of Scotland)



Hair Covered Trunk Used by General George Washington for Correspondence during the Revolution  
Manufactured in Boston by John Head c. 1775  
Purchased by Washington after the Evacuation of Boston in 1776  
(Mount Vernon)



Hair Covered Trunk Used by General George Washington for Correspondence during the Revolution  
Manufactured in Boston by John Head c. 1775  
Purchased by Washington after the Evacuation of Boston in 1776  
(Mount Vernon)



Hair Covered Trunk Used by General George Washington for Correspondence during the Revolution  
Manufactured in Boston by John Head c. 1775  
Purchased by Washington after the Evacuation of Boston in 1776  
(Mount Vernon)



Campaign Trunk Plate  
General George Washington  
(Mount Vernon)



Brass Trunk Plate  
Captain Hawker  
H.M. 62nd Regiment of Foot  
Light Infantry Company



Detail: "Modern Love: The Elopement"  
by John Collet 1764



Brass Stud Decorated Leather Covered Trunk  
c. 1780  
(Herbert Gordon Gasson Antiques Rye)



Pigskin Covered Trunk  
18th Century  
(Bonham's Auction House)



Spanish Leather Covered Trunk  
Early 18th Century  
(Private Collection)



Spanish Leather Covered Trunk  
Early 18th Century  
(Private Collection)



Spanish Leather Covered Trunk  
Early 18th Century  
(Private Collection)



Continental Leather Covered Trunk

1749

(Private Collection)



English Leather Covered Trunk

c. 1720 - 1760

(44" x 22" x 18")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Leather Covered Trunk

c. 1775 - 1800

(32" x 16" x 13")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Cow - Hide Trunk  
c. 1779  
(45" x 19 1/4" x 23")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Linen - Lined Trunk

c. 1720 - 1740

(44 1/2" x 18 1/4" x 17")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Leather Covered Trunk

c. 1700 - 1750

(39" x 21" x 19")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Leather Covered Trunk

c. 1700 - 1750

(30 1/4" x 11 1/2" x 12 1/4")

(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Deerskin Covered Trunk  
Lined with E. Johnson's British Gazette and Sunday Monitor for December 13, 1786  
by Drivers & Eyre. 1700 - 1750  
(23 7/8" x 11" x 11 1/4")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)



Small Leather Covered Trunk  
Late 18th Century (1790+)  
(18" x 7 1/2" x 7")  
Private Collection)

# Flat Top Trunks



Brass Tack Decorated Trunk Purchased by George Washington for His Granddaughter, Eliza  
(Mount Vernon)



English Leather Covered Top Handled Trunk  
by Edward Smith c. 1760 - 1780  
(19 3/4" x 10 1/4" x 7")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



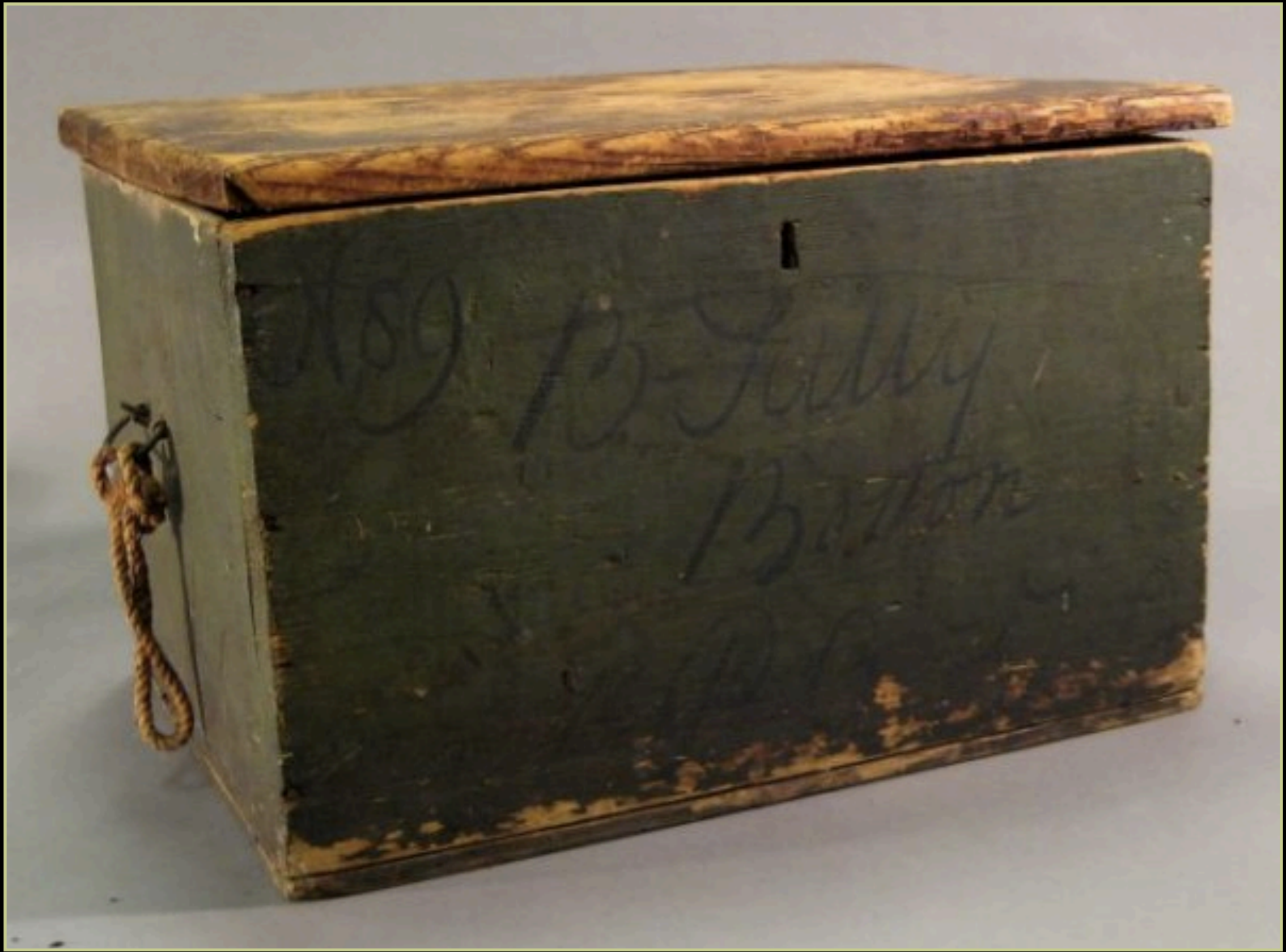
English Leather Covered Top Handled Trunk  
by Gladman & Randall c. 1775 - 1785  
(18  $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 12  $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 6  $\frac{3}{4}$ " )  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



English Leather Covered Trunk  
by Charles Townsend c. 1740 - 1770  
(43 1/4" x 19 1/4" x 12 7/8")  
(Colonial Williamsburg)



Brass Tack Decorated Campaign Trunk  
General George Washington  
(Mount Vernon)



Wood Campaign Trunk

Pormanteaus  
&  
Valices



Leather Portmanteau  
18th Century  
(Fort Ticonderoga)



Leather Portmanteau  
18th Century  
(Fort Ticonderoga)



“School Boys giving Charity to a Blind Man”  
by William Redmore Bigg, 1782  
(Michael Finney Antique Books & Prints)



“School Boys giving Charity to a Blind Man”  
by William Redmore Bigg, 1782  
(Michael Finney Antique Books & Prints)



A Dinner Conversation  
Marcellus Laroon the Younger c. 1735 - 1740  
(Yale Center for British Art)



A Dinner Conversation  
Marcellus Laroon the Younger c. 1735 - 1740  
(Yale Center for British Art)

# Acknowledgements

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