

Basic Detail Report



Title Tea Table

Date 1788-1791

Primary Maker Oliver Gilman

Medium Cherry, brass and iron hardware

Description Cherry tea table in the Chippendale, or rococo, style. The tea table has a round top that is not stationary, but rotates and tilts up into a vertical

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position. The pedestal has two square blocks at the top, separated by four

turned posts, one at each corner. The pedestal consists of a cone with a ring

about half way down the cone, over a compressed ball, over a cylindrical base

with three cabriole legs and pad feet. The cylindrical base of the pedestal has

two bands of incised lines. The lower edges of the pedestal base and the

underside of the legs near the base are carved with cyma curves, or S-curves,

and C-curves. Condition: There are light scratches and small indentations on the

top. The top of each leg and foot is lightly scratched and worn. One foot is

replaced, and has since been re-attached. Design and Construction Details: The

top is constructed of three boards that are butted together. A pair of slender

cleats are screwed to the underside of the top. Between each cleat is a block

which is attached to the cleats with round hinge pins; the top pivots on these

pins. A round brass catch holds the top in the horizontal position. The block is

the top of a box, formed of two square boards that are separated by an upright,

turned post at each corner. The lower block has a round opening in the center,

which fits over a tenon, or pillar, at the top of the pedestal. The tenon is

surrounded by a wooden ring inside the box; both the ring and the tenon have

openings to accommodate a key, or slender rectangular piece of wood, that is

inserted through the openings, to join the box with the pedestal. This

construction allows the top and box to rotate at the top of the pedestal. Each leg

is dovetailed into the base of the pedestal. Three iron strips are nailed to the

underside of the pedestal base and legs.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x diameter of top): 28 7/16 x 35 3/16in.

(72.2 x 89.4cm) Component (maximum width between two feet): 26 5/8in. (67.6
cm)