



## Empire Style Tripod Breakfast Table, Paris, Circa 1815



2 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Mahogany

### Description

A very elegant breakfast table in the form of a tripod pedestal, made of mahogany burl, topped with its original circular black marble slab with a recessed base. Height: 79.5 cm Diameter: 97.5 cm Typology and function: This table fits perfectly into the typology of breakfast tables defined by Nicole de Reyniès (*Mobilier domestique - Vocabulaire typologique*), namely a large circular table (over 80 cm in diameter), intended for serving drinks and snacks in the refined interiors of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Its structural configuration also places it within the category of the pedestal table as analyzed by Jean-Pierre Samoyault (*Mobilier français - Consulat et Empire*): a round parlor table resting on an architecturally designed tripod base, composed of a frame supporting the

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tabletop and a concave triangular plinth. It combines: a use: tea table or dining table; a configuration: tripod pedestal table with a frieze.

Description: The circular black marble top features a slightly concave basin, a functional detail directly inherited from 18th-century cabaret tables. This design allowed liquids to be retained when serving chocolate, coffee, or tea, thus protecting the precious wood of the piece. The marble is original. It underwent professional restoration by broaching in the past, but this restoration is now perfectly stabilized and virtually imperceptible. Its deep and even polish restores all the density and nobility of the stone. The circular frieze, understated and elegant, is veneered with rich mahogany burl. The choice of perfectly matched veneers reveals high-quality Parisian craftsmanship, intended for an affluent clientele. The vibrant moiré of the veneer animates the surface in the light. Delicate bronze roses with stems tied by ribbons embellish the veneer; this romantic element, beautifully chased, places the pedestal table in the late Empire/early Restoration period. Three solid columns, also veneered in mahogany burl, support the apron. They are adorned with finely chased gilt bronze rings decorated with beading and guilloché. These bronzes, executed with great finesse, reflect the restrained and architectural decorative vocabulary characteristic of the Empire style. The base rests on a concave triangular plinth, a form typical of the Consulate-Empire period. This structure ensures both stability and elegance, while visually lightening the overall silhouette. In the center, a wide, gadrooned gilt bronze ring encircles a circular base supporting a patinated bronze vase; this ensemble adds rhythm to the composition and anchors the piece in the space. The entire piece can be disassembled according to Parisian practices of the early 19th century: the columns are traversed by threaded steel axles, allowing for a solid and practical assembly. This type of assembly, common in Parisian workshops, testifies to meticulous craftsmanship

designed for durability. Stylistic context: During the Consulate and the Empire periods, pedestal tables evolved towards more architectural forms, inspired by Antiquity, while retaining the uses inherited from the 18th century. As Jean-Pierre Samoyault indicates, when the marble top reaches a significant size, the structure is reinforced and adopts a more stable tripod base. With its diameter of 97.5 cm and its height of 79.5 cm, this table far surpasses the simple side table: it constitutes a true living room table, intended to accommodate several guests. Its generous size, its marble top with a basin, and its structural stability confirm its function as a serving and social table. It represents an elegant, bourgeois version of the Empire-style pedestal table: without excessive decoration, but with great formal and technical coherence. Condition: Very good condition. Original marble, restored at a later date, perfectly stabilized. Sound and stable structure. Veneer and bronze mounts in very good condition. Provenance: Private collection.