

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Octagonal Pedestal (One of a Pair)

André-Charles Boulle (French, 1642–1732)

Date after 1686–1715, with possible late 18th century modifications

Medium Fir veneered with tortoiseshell and brass marquetry, ebony, and ebonized fruitwood; gilt bronze

Dimensions 45 × 22 1/2 × 22 1/2 in. (114.3 × 57.2 × 57.2 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1916.5.07

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 10, Living Hall

Commentary Often created in pairs, octagonal pedestals of this size were made to support large pieces of sculpture or Chinese porcelain. They were intended to stand away from the wall and be seen in the round. The eight-sided model derives from a pair of pedestals made in 1686 by André-Charles Boulle, the celebrated cabinetmaker to Louis XIV, for the king's oldest son, the Grand Dauphin. These are now kept at the Chaalis Abbey, north of Paris. It is not known who commissioned this pair, but they were probably made by Boulle before 1715, when he turned his workshop over to his sons. The base, cornice, and top were likely altered later in the century to suit the taste of their new owner. Source: Vignon, Charlotte. *The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook*. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.

Collection History Duveen. Frick, 1916. Source: *Furniture in The Frick Collection: Italian and French Renaissance, French 18th and 19th Centuries (Pt. I)*. Volume V. New York: The Frick Collection, 1992.