

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Bureau Plat (Writing Table)

André-Charles Boulle (French, 1642–1732)

Date ca. 1710, with later alterations

Medium Oak and walnut veneered with brass, tortoiseshell marquetry, ebony, and pewter; gilt bronze, leather

Dimensions 31 3/4 × 74 1/4 × 36 7/8 in. (80.6 × 188.6 × 93.7 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1916.5.01

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 10, Living Hall

Commentary The late seventeenth century saw the emergence of new types of furniture, many created by André-Charles Boulle. Boulle most likely invented the bureau plat (flat writing table), as it is known today. Previously, writing tables had been supported by eight legs and had several drawers on each side (see, for example, 1918.5.101). But around 1710, Boulle simplified the design by eliminating the drawers and reducing the number of legs to four. He also gave an elegant curve to the once-straight legs. 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.