

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Table Clock

Pierre de Fobis (French, 1506–1575)

Date ca. 1530

Medium Gilt brass and enamel

Dimensions 5 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. (12.8 x 7 x 7 cm)

Credit Line Bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey, 1999

Accession Number 1999.5.129

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 23, Clocks and Watches Room

Commentary One of the most famous French clockmakers of his time, Pierre de Fobis is still recognized today for his durable and highly refined movements. This clock is among Fobis's rare extant works and one of the earliest surviving spring-driven timekeepers. It incorporates the latest discoveries of the day: a coiled spring that provides energy to power the clock's mechanism; a verge escapement that regulates the rate at which energy is delivered to the oscillator (at the time, this was a simple balance); and a fusée, a cone-shaped spindle that equalizes the diminishing force of the coiled spring as it unwinds. The complex movement is set into a typical sixteenth-century French clock case inspired by classical architecture and ornament. Source: Vignon, Charlotte. *The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook*. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.

Collection History Possibly made for Jean Martin. Galerie Fischer sale, December 1–3, 1955, lot 801. Schenk Collection. Purchased by Edgar Mannheimer 1969–70; purchased by Winthrop Kellogg Edey from Mannheimer; Bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey to The Frick Collection, 1999.