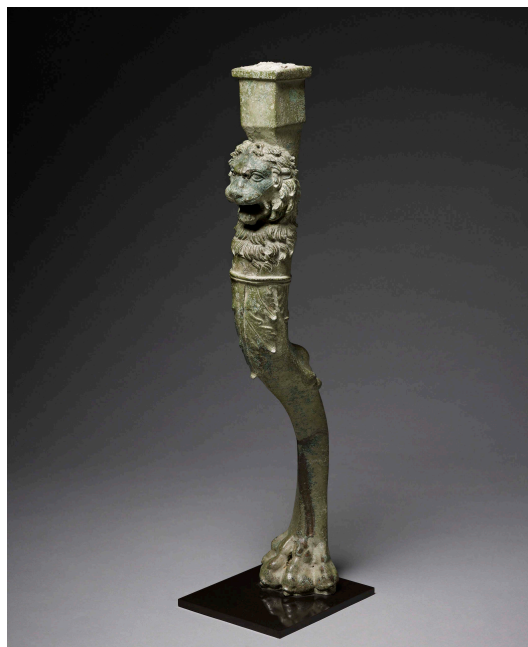


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ROMAN

*A BRONZE TRAPEZOPHOROS
IN THE FORM OF A LION'S HEAD AND LEG*

1ST OR 2ND CENTURY AD

Bronze
Height: 68 cm

Provenance:
Sale, Munich, Gorny & Mosch, 18 December 2009, lot 19

Comparative literature:
G. M. A. Richter, *The furniture of the Greeks, Etruscans and Romans*, London, 1966, pl. 575-576

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This striking antique bronze was the support for a monopied table. Roman tables took on quite elaborate forms, the legs modelled in the shape of animals, sphinxes or grotesque figures. They were among the elaborate furnishings featuring in wealthy households across the empire. Our knowledge of Roman furniture is derived mainly from depictions in frescoes along with actual pieces of furniture and fragments, several of which were preserved by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

The present table leg can be compared to several pieces from the same period in the British Museum's collection, for example a marble table-leg in the shape of the head and leg of a panther or another, also in marble, in the form of a winged cupid springing from a plant mounted on a lion's leg. Tables resting on a single central support were popular; Livy mentions 'tables with one foot'¹.

¹ Richter (see lit.) p. 112