



**A VERY RARE 19TH CENTURY BENTWOOD TABLE  
BY THONET**

**Dimensions: H: 31 in / 79 cm | Dia: 18 in / 46 cm**

**9939**



A Very Rare 19th Century Bentwood Table  
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Made from beechwood, steamed for many hours allowing it to be bent into curves, a new technique developed by the Thonet brothers, the table on a tripartite base with corresponding stretchers and bun feet, supporting the open column of clustered bent and curving uprights with a circular dished top above, bearing a contrasting design. With the maker's original paper label.  
Austria, circa 1870-1881

Lese-Tisch by Thonet

This model, although rare, does feature in various Thonet catalogues of the period. Listed as a 'Reading Table,' it came in two variants, the present version being the more expensive one with the decorated top. The paper label's design corresponding to the years 1870-1881.

**Literature:**

## Thonet Brothers

The Thonet Brothers were German-Austrian furniture makers who revolutionized the industry with their invention of bentwood furniture. Michael Thonet, a skilled craftsman, developed a process of steam-bending beechwood in the mid-19th century, which allowed for creating lightweight and durable furniture with curved shapes. In 1853, Michael Thonet and his sons formed Thonet Brothers, and they developed a range of bentwood furniture designs, including the famous No. 14 chair. The company expanded and opened factories in several countries, and their bentwood furniture became iconic worldwide.