Table

Place of origin: London (probably, made)
Date: ca. 1805 (made)
Artist/Maker: Hope, Thomas, born 1769 - died 1831 (designer)
Materials and Techniques: Mahogany, inlaid with ebony and silver, and carved in relief
Museum number: W.13-1936
Gallery location: British Galleries, Room 120, The Wolfson Galleries, case 12

Public access description
Object Type
This table represents the late Greek revival in both its design and ornamentation. For example, the plinth is decorated with scrolling anthemions (a motif based on the honeysuckle flower), which imitate the designs used on ancient Etruscan vases.

Materials & Making
The cabinet-maker is unknown, but the table was probably made in London, judging from the high quality of the workmanship and materials.

Design & Designing
A table like this is illustrated as Plate 39 in Household Furniture and Interior Decoration... executed from designs by Thomas Hope, London, 1807. It is described as 'Top and elevation of a round monopodium or table in mahogany, inlaid with ebony and silver'. The publication allowed many commercial cabinet-makers to make versions of this design. A very similar table is featured in a watercolour (dated 1818) by Hope and the architect William Atkinson. The watercolour depicts the boudoir in Hope's house, Deepdene, near Dorking, Surrey. This table was once thought to be the V&A piece, but the pedestal of the one depicted is plain.

Related Objects
Several other versions of this table design exist with different details of decoration, including one with gilt-bronze mounts at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Descriptive line
Hope table, mahogany inlaid with ebony and silver and carved in relief, designed by Thomas Hope, London, ca. 1805

Dimensions
Height: 69.5 cm, Width: 103.2 cm

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Object history note
This table was illustrated in Hope's book 'Household Furniture and Interior Decoration', published in 1807. He based the inlaid ornament on designs found on Greek vases. Circular tables on pedestal bases became a standard form of Regency furniture.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O48867/table-hope-thomas/