

Victorian papier-mâché top tea table

£395



REF: 7209

Height: 73 cm (28.7")

Diameter: 49 cm (19.3")

Description

An early Victorian papier-mâché snap-top tea table with floral and mother of pearl decoration on a painted base, circa 1840.

Victorian papier-mâché furniture became popular in the mid-19th century as a lightweight, affordable, and decorative alternative to wood.

Made by layering paper pulp or sheets hardened with glue and varnish, these pieces were often lacquered to a glossy black finish and richly embellished with mother-of-pearl inlay, gilt designs, and floral motifs.

The furniture included chairs, tables, trays, and cabinets, prized for their elegance and craftsmanship. Although not as durable as wood, papier-mâché pieces reflected the Victorian love of ornamentation and innovation.

They combined artistry and practicality, embodying the era's fascination with new materials and industrial production methods.