

3

GEBRÜDER THONET, Austrian
company design

ARMCHAIR c. 1900
Steam-bent beechwood
Mfr.: Gebrüder Thonet, Austria

Philip Johnson Fund
667.80

During the 1850s Michael Thonet perfected his process of bending lengths of steamed beechwood rods in iron molds. This technological development eliminated laborious hand carving and led to the first mass-production of inexpensive standardized furniture. Its only ornament consists of decorative spirals accentuating the ends of the rods. Thonet's furniture was produced in great quantity and sold around the world through mail-order catalogs. Some of the original bentwood designs are still in production today.