Primary Maker: Gouverneur Morris
Title: Wooden leg of Gouverneur Morris (1752–1816)
Date: ca. 1780
Medium: Oak, leather, metal
Dimensions: Overall: 42 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. (108 x 36.8 cm)
Credit Line: Gift of Mrs. Frederick Menzies
Object Number: 1954.148

Object Name: Wooden leg
Classification: HISTORIC RELICS

Curatorial Remarks:
This artificial limb was used by Founding Father Gouverneur Morris (1752-1816), who lost his left leg in a carriage accident at the age of twenty-eight. The gallant statesman was notorious for his many affairs, and rumors persisted that his injury resulted from jumping out a window to escape a jealous husband.

Physical Description:
Turned and carved oak prosthetic leg made in two sections; lower section tapers downward and has knob at base; upper section attached with metal ring and screws and forms U-shape with one side twice as long as the other; center of U lined with green leather; short side has slots for tie to secure leg; mounted on circular wooden base with metal rods.