

Cup

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The cup is whole; there are small chips on the inner rim. It is cylindrical in shape, with a slightly flared body and straight rim. The base of the body is rounded. The cup rests on a small annular foot whose base is beveled on the outside; this area is free of glaze and is pale brown in color. The cup is fitted with a vertical ear-shaped handle, which is oval in cross-section; its lower

part extends downwards in the shape of an elongated tail ; The decoration is of a floral and vegetal type and is treated in Imari. It is hand-painted in two-tone blue underglaze, then traced and painted in iron red, with gold highlights, overglaze; it is visible on the outer wall, on the handle, under the inner rim and on the inner base. On the outer wall, the decoration is set between two thin horizontal lines painted in blue, one under the rim and the other near the base; the lines are open in the region of the handle. Another closed line is painted in blue at the top of the foot. The main decoration is divided into two zones, back to back and adjoining the handle; both zones have similar decoration. One features a three-bulb pierced rock, symbolizing the Chinese philosophy of Taoism; it is outlined and painted in blue, with a partially faded gold line. The rock is surmounted by a basket, seen from the front, with an oval body and a wide, flat rim, topped by a high, inverted U-shaped vertical handle, the top of which features a knotted band. The basket is painted blue, with a gold line running around its edges. The body of the basket is filled with red-painted pearls. The headband is painted red with gold highlights. The basket is overflowing with flowers and leafy plant stems, painted red with gold highlights. From the left of the rock emerge two leafy, flowering plant stems, as well as two curved stems of leafy bamboo; these are traced and painted in red, with gold highlights. Through the bamboos are tri-lobed leaves painted blue. The opposite side features a hollow, poly-lobed rock, outlined and painted blue, with gold highlights. Emerging from the rock are curved stems of bamboo and flowering shrubs. The curved plant stems are traced and painted blue, with gold highlights, as are some of the leaves. Other leaves and flowers are outlined and painted in red, with gold highlights. The side opposite the handle features two groups of leaves under the blue-painted fillet below the rim. Some are outlined and painted in blue, while others are outlined in red and filled with red-painted lines; all feature gold-painted highlights. The handle is adorned with a vertical stem decorated with leaves; the main ones

are outlined and painted blue, while others are outlined and painted red. The three-lobed leaf at the top of the stem is highlighted in gold. The wall of the cup, on either side of the two handles, is decorated with a leaf traced in red and painted with oblique lines. The inner rim is decorated with a horizontal braid frieze. The braid is outlined in blue and features two zones with distinct, alternately repeated motifs. One area features a diamond latticework painted red, while the other is made up of groups of leaves, some outlined and painted blue, others outlined red and sometimes painted red. Some of the blue leaves are highlighted with gold. The leafy areas are framed by broad, sometimes curved vertical lines, which are drawn and painted in blue with gold highlights. The inner base of the cup is decorated with a poly-lobed flower traced and painted in red. The top of the rim is covered with a ferruginous coating painted pale brown.

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Date 1770 c

Materials ceramics, fine hard-paste porcelain from China

Measurements 7,8 x 7,338 cm

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Photo by René Bouchard