

Ethnohistorical collection

Cup set

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Collections / cup set





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Set of Paragon Company Queen Mary mugs stored in a khaki green padded cover. The cups have a circular shape with a gold handle and an exterior laurel flower motif. The inside of the cups is decorated with a dark blue border and gilded laurel flowers and different sections of star and floral motifs. The center of the cups is decorated with different bouquets of flowers.

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Marchand Maison Birks

Fabricant / Éditeur Paragon China Company

Artiste / Auteur Holland, Arthur Dale

Materials ceramics, fine soft porcelain, fiber, plastic

Measurements 10,6 x 28 cm

Historical context

This set of fine porcelain 'Queen Mary' pattern cups, dating from the 1950s, was produced by the Paragon China company in England. The cups are part of a dinnerware set that includes saucers, stock bowls and plates, all stored in their original protective covers. The set was given to the donor as an engagement gift. It was purchased at Maison Birks, located at the corner of Sainte-Catherine Street and Union Avenue. The porcelain model was made in honor of the visit of Queen Mary (Queen Consort of the United Kingdom from 1910 to 1936) to the Paragon China production plant on April 22, 1913. In the late 1920s, the model became available to the general public. All pieces are hand-painted, and the artist's signature can be seen: A. D. Holland attributed to Arthur Dale Holland. This painter-ceramist, active in the 1940s and 1950s, offered his work to several major English porcelain manufacturers in the Stoke-on-Trent area, including Minton and Wedgwood.

Paragon China gained recognition from the Royal Family with their 'Two for Joy' series of cups commemorating the birth of Princess Elizabeth in 1926. In 1933, the company received its first Royal Warrant of Appointment, identifying it as an official supplier to the Royal Family. This mandate was perpetuated by Queen Consort Elizabeth (Queen Mother Elizabeth) in 1938, and by Queen Elizabeth II in 1955.