

Dish

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The dish is complete; there are a few enamel chips around the edges, particularly at the corners. The dish is oval with a wavy outline. In cross-section, the wing and marli slope towards the bottom. The wall is rounded and the bottom is flat. The reverse of the dish has a slightly concave center. The base of the dish is rounded. The body is pinkish-beige in color and

covered with a bluish-white enamel; there are enamel smudges under the dish, near the rim. There are a few small holes in the enamel on the reverse. The decoration is hand-painted; it has been traced (*chatironné*) in black and painted in dark blue under glaze. The painted decoration is geometric and vegetal. It features a flower basket and compartmentalized braid. The decoration is painted on the inside of the dish, i.e. on the wing, on the upper part of the *marli* and on the bottom. The decoration on the wing and *marli* is tripartite, with two braids separated by a band. The decoration on the narrow wing features a row of broad blue lines. It rests on a thin black fillet, with dashed lines separating the bands. This row is separated from the inner braid by a wide band painted blue. The inner braid is outlined in black and painted blue. It is trimmed with three sections, all repeated alternately. One of the sections is composed of a reserved, repeated motif, the elements of which are arranged in a mirror-like fashion. The main motif, in reserve, consists of two scrolls flanking two wing-shaped quarter-flowers, also flanked by scrolls. The flowers are adorned with black radiating lines. The other section consists of a fish-scale section, made up of three rows of half-ovals traced in black with an off-center core painted blue. Between these two sections is a third, consisting of a half-flower outlined in black and painted blue. Painted at the corners of the dish, it is bordered by two blue-painted arcs, while the sides are in reserve. The central motif, at the center of the dish, consists of a wicker basket filled with flowers. The basket is truncated cone-shaped, with a flat swollen bottom and a horizontal swollen rim; it is outlined in black and partially filled with a latticework outlined in black and painted blue; the basket's rendering imitates rattan. From the top of the basket emerge a central half-flower flanked by two flowers in a row; they are surrounded by leafy plant stems and grapes; all these trimmings are outlined in black and painted blue, sometimes faded, with the exception of the lower leaves. The central flower serves as a dividing line between the two areas on either side of this axis:

the leaves and grapes within it are arranged in a mirror-like fashion on either side of this axis. The central flower is seen from three-quarters up, while the adjacent flowers are seen from the front. The basket rests on a sort of ironwork-like support, the elements of which are arranged in a mirror-like fashion. It consists of two acanthus leaves curved upwards and linked by a semicircular arch. Beneath the center of the support is a pearl; another pearl is flanked by two plant stems curved in a semicircle and topped with pearls. These elements are outlined in black and painted blue.

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Date 1770 c

Materials ceramic, white earthenware

Measurements 3,2 x 21,5 x 30,3 cm

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Photo by René Bouchard