

Plate

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The plate is complete; only a few small chips are missing from the rim, and some cracks have been repaired with metal spikes. The plate is circular with a plain rim. The rim slopes slightly inwards, the wall is low and the base is flat. The plate rests on a small ring-shaped foot, the base of which is free of glaze. The plate has two long Y-shaped cracks. On the back of the

plate, these two cracks have been consolidated by eleven elongated copper metal spikes, each inserted into a pair of small circular drilled holes; the spikes are held in place by a hard, yellowish-white paste. Only the ends of the two spikes placed near the edge of the plate are visible on its face; the decoration almost completely covers the inside of the plate. It is hand-painted in polychrome enamel with gold highlights over glaze. It features geometric and floral motifs. The decoration occupies the marli and the background. The frieze on the border, a small portion of which also decorates the side of the plate, is surrounded by a thin double line painted in orange-red. The frieze is composed of two alternately repeated elements. These are three-pointed tongues, or spearheads, pointing towards the center of the plate; they are drawn in orange-red. One of the tongue designs features a flower in the center, outlined in orange-red and painted in pink and red. Cross-shaped leaves emerge from this flower: they are outlined in black and painted green. The spaces between the leaves are lined with curved, undulating branches; two are painted blue, the other two white. The tongue is covered with brown spirals. The ends of the tongue extend along the edge and join the neighboring tongues; they too are painted orange-red and filled with spirals. They are also each trimmed with a small leaf painted green. The other design, also in orange-red, features a central flower in reserve; drawn in orange-red, it is painted pink. The bottom of the tongue is painted pale blue, with brown rosettes. From the top of the tongue's central tip emerges a flower outlined in orange-red and painted pink. It is topped by foliage outlined in black and painted green. From both sides of the tip emerge branches outlined in black and painted yellow. The background is decorated with a large medallion outlined in orange-red; it is composed of three-pointed tongues pointing outwards, in two alternating patterns, the inner portion of which is wavy or pointed, also alternating. One of the tongue patterns is painted brown with gold highlights in the form of geometric motifs. The ends of the tongue's base extend to either

side, joining neighboring tongues. The tongues of the other model are also drawn in orange-red. They feature a central rosette in orange-red overpainted in brown, with a core of radiating lines in orange-red; some flowers still show traces of pale blue highlights. These tongues are filled with brown eye pearls (or partridge eyes). In the center of the medallion are three sets of leafy plants, outlined in black and painted green. The central set features a flower painted in blue and white. The one next to it on the left features two flowers, including a large peony: they are outlined in orange-red and painted pink. A similar bud is painted yellow. The one on the right features a similar bud. The rim of the plate is covered with a pale brown coating.

Accession Number 2018.10.21

Date 1740 c

Materials ceramics, fine hard-paste porcelain from China

Measurements 3 x 22,613 cm

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Photo by René Bouchard

On display