

Ethnohistorical collection

Plate

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Circular soup plate with wavy rim. The plate is decorated with a dark blue border with golden laurel wreath and different sections of star and floral motifs. In the center is a bouquet of flowers in white, orange, mauve and

yellow. On the underside of the plate is the hand-lettered serial number 8902.

Accession Number 2023.54.07.08

Marchand Maison Birks

Fabricant / Éditeur Paragon China Company

Artiste / Auteur Holland, Arthur Dale

Materials ceramics, fine soft porcelain

Measurements 1,9 x 26 cm

Historical context

This fine porcelain 'Queen Mary' pattern plate, dating from the 1950s, was produced by the Paragon China company in England. It is part of a dinnerware set that includes cups, saucers and bowls, all stored in their original protective covers. The set was presented to the donor as an engagement gift. The set was purchased at Maison Birks on the corner of Sainte-Catherine and Union.

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 the 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.

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