

Ethnohistorical collection

Plate assembly with bowl

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Collections / plate assembly





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Set of Paragon Company Queen Mary model bowl plates stored in a khaki green padded cover. The plates are circular with a wavy rim. The inside of the plates is decorated with a dark blue border, a gilded laurel wreath and different sections of star and floral motifs. The center of the plates is decorated with different bouquets of flowers. This set bears the handwritten serial number 8902 on the underside of the saucers.

Accession Number 2023.54.04.1-13

Marchand Maison Birks

Fabricant / Éditeur Paragon China Company

Artiste / Auteur Holland, Arthur Dale

Materials ceramics, fine soft porcelain, fiber, plastic

Measurements 10,4 x 18,2 cm

Historical context

This set of fine porcelain 'Queen Mary' pattern bowl plates, dating from the 1950s, was produced by the Paragon China company in England.

These plates are 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 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.