

Basic Detail Report

Title Washbowl

Date about 1845

Primary Maker William Davenport & Company

Medium Mechanically-molded buff-colored earthenware with a blue-tinted glaze, black underglaze decoration, and overglaze enamels in orange, pink, and green

Description Large, round, buff-colored earthenware washbowl with a blue-tinted glaze, a type of ceramic known as pearlware. The washbowl is part of a larger partial toilet set, consisting of a washbowl (.1) and pitcher (.2), two matching pitchers (.3 and .4), a shaving mug (.5), a soap dish (.6a-c), a toothbrush holder or razor box (.7a,b), and a lid (.8). The entire set is decorated with a floral pattern and border. The naturalistic floral pattern consists of variously sized flowers transfer-printed in black beneath the glaze, with green, pink, and light orange enamel highlights hand-painted over the glaze. The remaining decoration consists of a scalloped border made up of a printed, underglaze, black, scalloped band, next to an overglaze, hand-painted, orange, scalloped band. This orange and black border is interrupted periodically by a group of elaborate scrolls of various sizes and widths and highlighted in green enamel. The scrolls surround a roughly diamond-shaped, scalloped-edge decorative element that is painted with light orange enamel. Finally, on all the objects in the set, the blue-tinted glaze has pooled around the printed decorative elements and raised or recessed portions of the ceramic's surface,

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giving the set a pearly blue and white appearance. The washbowl swells from a narrow base to a wide, lipped rim. The inside bottom of the washbowl is decorated with two large flowers surrounded by various smaller flowers that are printed in black beneath the glaze. Some of the smaller flowers have been painted with orange enamel, however, the majority of the printed decoration on the bottom inside of the bowl has been left unpainted. This pattern is surrounded by an area of white, with the above-described orange and black scalloped border at the rim. Between the scrolls and orange decorative elements, the manufacturer printed groups of flowers which have been hand-painted in orange, pink, and green. The outside of the washbowl is decorated similarly with the orange and black border printed about one quarter of the way down the side, and groups of flowers printed between the scrolls and orange decorative elements. There is light crazing over all the surfaces of the washbowl, and a crack that runs from the rim to about halfway down the side.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x diameter): 5 x 15in. (12.7 x 38.1cm)