

Basic Detail Report

Title Punch Bowl

Date 1785-1790

Primary Maker Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth

Medium Wheel-thrown Chinese export porcelain with gilding and overglaze hand-painted polychrome enamels

Description Large, Chinese export porcelain punch bowl with hand-painted overglaze enamels and gilding. The punch bowl is decorated on the inside with a border and group of flowers, while a Chinese scene circles the outside of the bowl. The punch bowl sits on a circular foot that is decorated with a small, gilded, Greek key border. A line of red enamel is painted at both the top and bottom of the foot. The finely detailed scene that circles the bowl shows Chinese men and women dressed in robes standing on a balcony beneath a tree that looks out over a body of water. There are scenes of adults and children fishing, playing musical instruments, and sitting or standing in conversational groups in front of a Chinese structure. All these scenes are framed by mountains, a body of water, and a blue sky in the distance. The scene is painted with great attention to detail, including costume, facial expressions, instruments, birds, trees, architecture, and the boats in the background. The inside of the punch bowl is hand-painted in the center with a spray of pink, purple, and yellow flowers on stems with leaves. A border is painted at the inner rim, consisting of suspended double 'C' scroll diamond and bell-flower ornaments connected by scalloped decorations and orange enamel feathers. A plain line of gilding decorates the

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top edge of the rim. Documents in the object file state that the punch bowl was damaged on or about 16 September 1957 when it was in transit to the Wilmington Society of Fine Art in Wilmington, Delaware. The punch bowl broke into three large pieces, with additional chips in the porcelain. The punch bowl was repaired well, although a white putty-like substance is visible in some areas along the previous breaks where the substance was used to fill in missing porcelain chips. At that time, small portions of the enamel and gilding were repainted, where the break had damaged the decoration. This is most evident along the border and rim, but not on the sides or bottom of the punch bowl. Otherwise, the hand-painted enamel decoration retains its original crispness and does not show signs of chipping, flaking, or wear.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x diameter): 6 3/16 x 16 1/8in. (15.7 x 41cm)