



Chinese Canton famille-rose medallion oval dish, 19th century POA

Chinese Canton famille-rose medallion oval dish, 19th century, the central roundel richly decorated in polychrome overglaze enamels and gilt with a courtyard scene, with a dignitary sitting upon the balcony of a pagoda with attendants, while two kneeling female farmers seek supplication from a courtier and two further women holding baskets and wearing wide-brimmed hats and hitched skirts look on, all set within a rocky garden with tree and low fence visible in the background, the wide rim decorated in the typical style with butterflies, fruits and flowers including peony, chrysanthemum and lily.

Dimensions:

Width: 38.5cm. (15 1/4in.); height: 33cm. (13in.)

Condition:

Some wear to enamels and gilding, two tiny frits.

Notes:

Butterflies (hudie) symbolise blessings or happiness; the latter syllable is homophonous with 'die' (eighty years old) and so they can also be a symbol of longevity or a long and happy marriage. The motif of a butterfly amongst peony, in particular, often alludes to a young man approaching the woman he loves. The auspiciousness of the imagery on this dish is further increased by the repetition of the motif; reference to yet another homophone of 'die' which translates to 'pile up' or 'multiply'.

Material and Technique	Porcelain with overglaze enamel decoration
Origin	Chinese
Period	19th Century
Condition	Very good
Diameter	diameter: 38.5cm. (15 1/4in.); height: 33cm. (13in.)