





A CHINESE
POA

Of circular form, supported on a short circular foot, the sides rising to a gently everted lip, decorated in shades of underglaze blue, painted to the exterior with four flower blooms representing the seasons: prunus for winter, peony for spring, lotus for summer, and chrysanthemum for autumn, all below a band of wan characters incised in relief to reveal the biscuit, the foot encircled by a border of upright ruyi, the well with a raised dome (mantou xin) to the center, encircled with eight auspicious and precious objects, including coral, twin fish, a book, chimes, a rhinoceros horn, a pearl, and a shell, the wall of the interior painted with four representations of Lan Caihe, each wearing elegant flowing robes and with a flower basket over the shoulder, the glazed base with a recessed center.
Period: Kangxi period (1662-1722), ca. 1700-1720.
Provenance: Breamore House, Hampshire.
Footnote: Lan Caihe is one of the Eight Immortals. Always depicted carrying of a flower basket and associated with spiritual freedom, happiness and detachment from worldly possessions. Unlike many other Chinese deities, Lan Caihe's gender is traditionally ambiguous.
The wan symbol found on the exterior of this bowl represents good luck and eternal abundance. The incised carving is a variation of the intricate reticulated or linlong technique, characterised by intricate cuts creating a pierced pattern. Père Francois Xavier d`Entrecolles (1664-1741) used the term reticulated in the 18th century to describe porcelain that had the appearance of a net. The Chinese term linglong connotes something that is exquisite and elegant.

Identical bowls can be found in several significant museum collections:
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York: Purchase by subscription, 1879 Object Number: 79.2.403
Victoria & Albert Museum, London: Salting Bequest, accession number C.941-1910, published in “The Catalogue of the George Eumorfopoulos Collection of Chinese, Korean and Persian Pottery and Porcelain – Volume V”, by R L Hobson, ref E40 Plate 9. (they call the figure a flower fairy)
The Frick Collection, New York: Bequest of Childs Frick in memory of Frances Dixon Frick, 1965, accession number 1965.8.75
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam: object number AK-NM-6845
Groninger Museum, object number 1899.0360
Museum Arnhem, inv. nr. GM10.412
There are also five similar bowls in the collection formed by Augustus The Strong at Dresden and listed in the inventory of 1721.

Origin	Chinese
Period	17th Century
Dimensions	19cm diameter / 7.5cm high

Antique ref: BK32