



Inv. no. KP 104

TUREEN; PORCELAIN. 'THE BIRD SERVICE'
ROYAL COPENHAGEN PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY, C. 1780

H: 23; DIAM: 23,5 CM (TUREEN)

The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory produced dinnerware and figurines right from the outset. However, dinner services were not a very high priority in the first years. The reason for this was that as of 1779, the manufactory was owned by the king, and the royal household was not short of dinner sets. Nevertheless, experiments were carried out with several different dinnerware designs, predominantly completely smooth ones. Various types of decorations and patterns also saw the light of day. They were executed by the factory's staff of painters, who clearly drew inspiration from other factories, especially the ones in Meissen, Berlin and Fürstenberg.¹

'The Bird service', the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory's first large dinner service of the shape with the swirling curves, was produced only once. It originally comprised 627 pieces.²

As the name suggests, the bird decoration is the main distinguishing trait of the service, making it quite unique: No other dinner service

ever produced by the factory sports similar designs. The decorations consist of exotic birds and insects depicted in polychrome colours, either perched on or placed near flowering trees or branches. The motifs were taken from various eighteenth-century prints.³

‘The Bird Service’ is richly represented in The David Collection, which owns a total of forty pieces, including a tureen, dishes, sauceboats and plates. Other pieces can be found in the collections at Designmuseum Denmark and CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Denmark.

The tureen is inv.no. KP 104m

Inventory number KP 104c

Inventory number KP 104c

Inventory number KP 104g

Inventory number KP 104n

¹ G.F. Riedel: *Sammlung von Feder Vieh besonders Haus Geflügel nützlich Fabriken* (1775), J.El. Rißinger: *Raub Vögel Bey Tage* (1744) and J.M. Seligmann: *Sammlung verschiedener ausländischer und seltener Vögel* (1753).

² According to Dorenfeldt, the designation used for ‘The Bird service’ in the archives was *Dinnerware Set No. 2.*, and it was sold to Jean Jacob de Windt in Amsterdam in June 1781. See Lauritz G. Dorenfeldt: *Kongeligt porcelæn: brogetmalet porcelæn fra Den Kongelige Porcelainsfabrik 1775–1810*, Copenhagen 2016, p. 46.

³ Lauritz G. Dorenfeldt: *Kongeligt porcelæn: brogetmalet porcelæn fra Den Kongelige Porcelainsfabrik 1775–1810*, Copenhagen 2016, pp. 38–39.

Published in:

Bredo L. Grandjean: ”Dansk porcelæn” in *C.L. Davids Samling, Anden Del*, København 1953, pp. 149, 164–165;

C.L. David: *C.L. Davids Samling*, København 1960, pp. 44–45;

Bredo L. Grandjean: *Kongelig Dansk Porcelain: 1775–1884*, København 1962, pp. 112, 232, 261;

Dansk kunst og kunsthåndværk, Davids Samling, København 1972, p. 28 and pl. 14. (plate);

Verner Jul Andersen: *Dansk kunst og kunsthåndværk*, Davids Samling, 2. ed., København 1983, cat. 39, p. 25 and colour illustration XII;

Lauritz G. Dorenfeldt: *Kongeligt porcelæn: brogetmalet porcelæn fra Den Kongelige Porcelainsfabrik 1775–1810*, København 2016, pp. 46–47;