

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Pot-pourri à Vaisseau

Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory (French, est. 1756)

Date 1760

Medium Soft-paste porcelain, with later addition of gilt-bronze base

Dimensions 17 1/2 x 14 7/8 x 7 1/2 in. (44.5 x 37.8 x 19.1 cm)

Credit Line Henry Clay Frick Bequest

Accession Number 1916.9.07

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 9, Fragonard Room

Commentary The highly original design for this pot-pourri à vaisseau (potpourri in the form of a ship) was created in 1757, most likely by the Sèvres manufactory's artistic director, Jean-Claude Duplessis. The piece can be dated to about 1759, the year that Sèvres began producing potpourri ships of this size (initially, they were smaller). The painters and gilders responsible for its decoration juxtaposed grounds of apple green and dark blue, the latter enriched with gold in a caillouté (pebble-like) pattern. The colorful imagery and exotic birds on the front and back reserves are by Louis-Denis Armand l'aîné (act. 1745–88), a prominent artist who specialized in painting birds and landscapes. Armand also painted the birds on two related vases à oreilles in The Frick Collection. Gold, the use of which was exclusive to the Sèvres manufactory, is generously applied along the contours of the piece to emphasize its bold shape.

Collection History J. Auriol. Hon. G. Byng, M. P., Wrotham Park. Alexander Barker. Earl Dudley. Frick, 1916. Sources: Porcelains in The Frick Collection: Oriental and French. Volume VII. New York: The Frick Collection, 1974. Vignon, Charlotte. The Frick Collection Decorative Arts Handbook. New York: The Frick Collection/Scala, 2015.