



Art-Historical Action Protocol

1. Title

Spring Light on Imperial Celadon. Large Vase with Red Famille-Rose Panels and Qianlong Imperial Mark (1736–1795).

2. Abstract

The vase belongs to the court porcelain of the Qianlong reign. On a celadon ground with dense sgraffito decoration stand out large red panels painted in famille-rose enamels with gold highlights, depicting birds among peonies, magnolias, chrysanthemums, bamboo, and lotus. The composition is enriched by auspicious symbols of longevity (壽) and dragon-shaped handles. The four-character mark 乾隆御製 on the enamel-decorated base indicates the piece was made by imperial order for the court.

3. Keywords

Qianlong, celadon ground, sgraffito, famille-rose, red panels, birds and flowers, longevity symbolism, imperial mark.

4. Object

- **Material:** white porcelain body, celadon glaze with sgraffito, overglaze famille-rose enamels, gold leaf and gilding.
- **Form:** ovoid body with slightly expanding neck; paired dragon-shaped handles.
- **Ground:** pale celadon with sgraffito scrolls.
- **Panels:** two large red panels with gilt borders; inside — compositions of birds among peonies, magnolias, chrysanthemums, bamboo, and lotus. The birds are detailed with fine gold painting, enhancing their plumage and giving the scene a luminous brilliance.
- **Mark and base:** four-character seal mark 「乾隆御製」 (“Made by imperial order of Qianlong”), painted in cobalt blue on a fully enameled base decorated with floral motifs.

5. Methodological Basis

Comparative study with analogues from the Palace Museum (Beijing), the National Palace Museum (Taipei), and auction catalogues (Christie’s, Sotheby’s, Bonhams). Analysis includes stylistic, iconographic, and technical evaluation of famille-rose enamels and celadon sgraffito grounds of the eighteenth century.

6. Main Observations

- **Ground:** celadon glaze with dense sgraffito spirals.
- **Panels:**
 - First panel: pheasant and songbird among peonies, magnolias, and chrysanthemums, detailed with gilding.
 - Second panel: birds among lotus and bamboo, highlighted with gold in plumage and foliage.
- **Decorative elements:** ornamental friezes in pink and turquoise; a meander band at the foot; character 壽 (“longevity”) in the upper section.
- **Mark and base:** fully enameled base decorated with floral motifs; four-character imperial mark 「乾隆御製」 in a square seal.

7. Interpretation

- **Peony** – wealth and nobility.
- **Magnolia and chrysanthemum** – spring and longevity.
- **Lotus** – purity.
- **Bamboo** – virtue and steadfastness.
- **Birds with gold highlights** – refinement, splendor, and imperial authority.
- **壽 (longevity)** – auspicious wish for long life.
The decoration conveys a comprehensive message of harmony, prosperity, and imperial magnificence.

8. Conclusion

The vase is attributed to the imperial kilns of Jingdezhen during the Qianlong reign (1736–1795). The combination of celadon sgraffito ground, famille-rose panels with gold details, and an enamel-decorated base firmly establishes it as an imperial commission of the highest quality.

9. References

Academic Sources and Catalogues

- *Porcelains with Cloisonné Enamel Decoration and Famille Rose Decoration*. The Complete Collection of Treasures of the Palace Museum. Hong Kong: Commercial Press, 1999.
- Bonhams. *A very rare famille-rose celadon-ground cylindrical vase, Qianlong seal mark and of the period*. London, 2009.
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Author's Publications

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- Dronova, N. D. *Что надо знать о старинном китайском фарфоре / What You Need to Know about Antique Chinese Porcelain*. Moscow: ООО "Типография KEM", 2016, p.134. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.16794377. ISBN 978-5-9908782-6-6.