

SA1229097

**Chinese Famille Rose
Octagonal Tray, Garden Court
Scene, Qianlong Mark, Early
20th C**

Price

GBP 800

| USD \$1,083 | EUR 936

Item Reference: SA1229097**Date of manufacture: 1920**

Description

A substantial Chinese porcelain octagonal serving tray, entirely hand-painted in famille rose enamels. The central reserve depicts an elegant domestic gathering in a garden pavilion. A woman plays a qin at a low table, attended by women, a child and male attendants, with flowering shrubs, bamboo, ornamental rocks and a distant landscape completing the scene. The painting is finely rendered, from the facial features and patterned robes to the furniture and garden details. The composition celebrates the ideals of a cultivated and prosperous household: family harmony, music, learning and life within an idealized garden. Such scenes were popular in Chinese decorative art because they combined domestic happiness with symbols of status and good fortune. A broad burnished gilt ground surrounds the reserve, richly painted with flowers, fruit, foliage and vividly coloured butterflies. Four shaped white cartouches contain further floral sprays, birds and butterflies. In Chinese decorative tradition, butterflies evoke longevity, while peonies are associated with wealth and honour. The reverse is painted with the Eight Precious Things (ba bao), a traditional group of auspicious obj...

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