



Vauxhall saucer      1755-57      Diameter 11cm

From the Garrick Bond Collection

Thinly potted with a slightly green glaze and painted in colours with specimen flowers.

The translucency is brown, possibly due to the conditions in the muffle kiln.

This saucer is one of only three, and at most four, recorded examples of botanical decoration on Vauxhall porcelain. A small bowl, probably from the same tea service, and from the Billie Pain Collection was exhibited by Simon Spero in his 2004 exhibition, no. 33. The decoration includes a rose with incurving petals, possibly *Rosa centifolia*, the common Provence rose, resembling one drawn by Ehret, and a double flower with six larger outer petals and a dense cluster of inner ones, possibly a tree peony, anemone or double clematis. More familiar Chelsea botanic decoration was concentrated on plates and dishes.

Most factory decorated polychrome Vauxhall, particularly teawares, was “polychrome printed” rather than just painted. This technique, particular to the factory, involved overglaze printing of two or more colours, most often brown, pink or sepia, which were then filled in with hand-painted colouring. Printing on enamels was perfected at Battersea in about 1753.

Bonhams 17 May 2017 lot 183

*Ceramics at Vauxhall*, ECC 2007, Simon Spero, Felicity Marno and Roger Massey

Can anyone identify the flowers on this saucer and suggest a botanical print(s) which may have provided the inspiration?

Is the whereabouts of the other example(s) known?