Bencharong displays important cross-cultural exchange: produced in China from 14th century for the Thai royal market, adorned with Indian and Buddhist motifs and floral patterns designed to please a Thai audience, and using a colored enamel technique originating in Europe. After being exported from China to Thailand, the bowl was acquired by Carl Bock, a Norwegian naturalist, when visiting Thailand in the 1880s. He sold it to Augustus Franks, a curator at the British Museum. Franks donated the bowl to the museum, possibly in 1883.

Bencharong production is a laborious and expensive process. The glazed porcelain undergoes a high-temperature firing, reaching up to 1350°C. Enamels are then painted over the glaze, and it is fired once more at temperatures ranging from 800°C to 1000°C. Common shapes include bowls or jars, with or without lids, and stem plates.

Recently, Bencharong has changed again, with new shapes like teapots and plates. Opulent decorations are now made in over 30 colours. No longer restricted to royalty with new shapes like teapots and plates. Opulent decorations are now made in over 30 colours. Bencharong wares now reach audiences worldwide.

For more information about
Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

How many colors can you see? The name “Bencharong" comes from two Sanskrit words - 'pancha'(five) a nd ‘rang’(color). This bowl displays seven vibrant colors. It was made at the Chinese Jingdezhen kilns with designs, like Buddhist ‘Thepanom’ figures and floral patterns, supplied by the Thai royal court. Ceramics like this one were once only permitted to be used at the Thai royal court.
The lid is inspired by the reliquary urn-shaped stupa (sacred ritual burial mound), revealing a strong connection between religion and kingship.

About 1800

Made at Jingdezhen, China; exported to Thailand

Porcelain and enamel

British Museum Franks.1392.D

Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

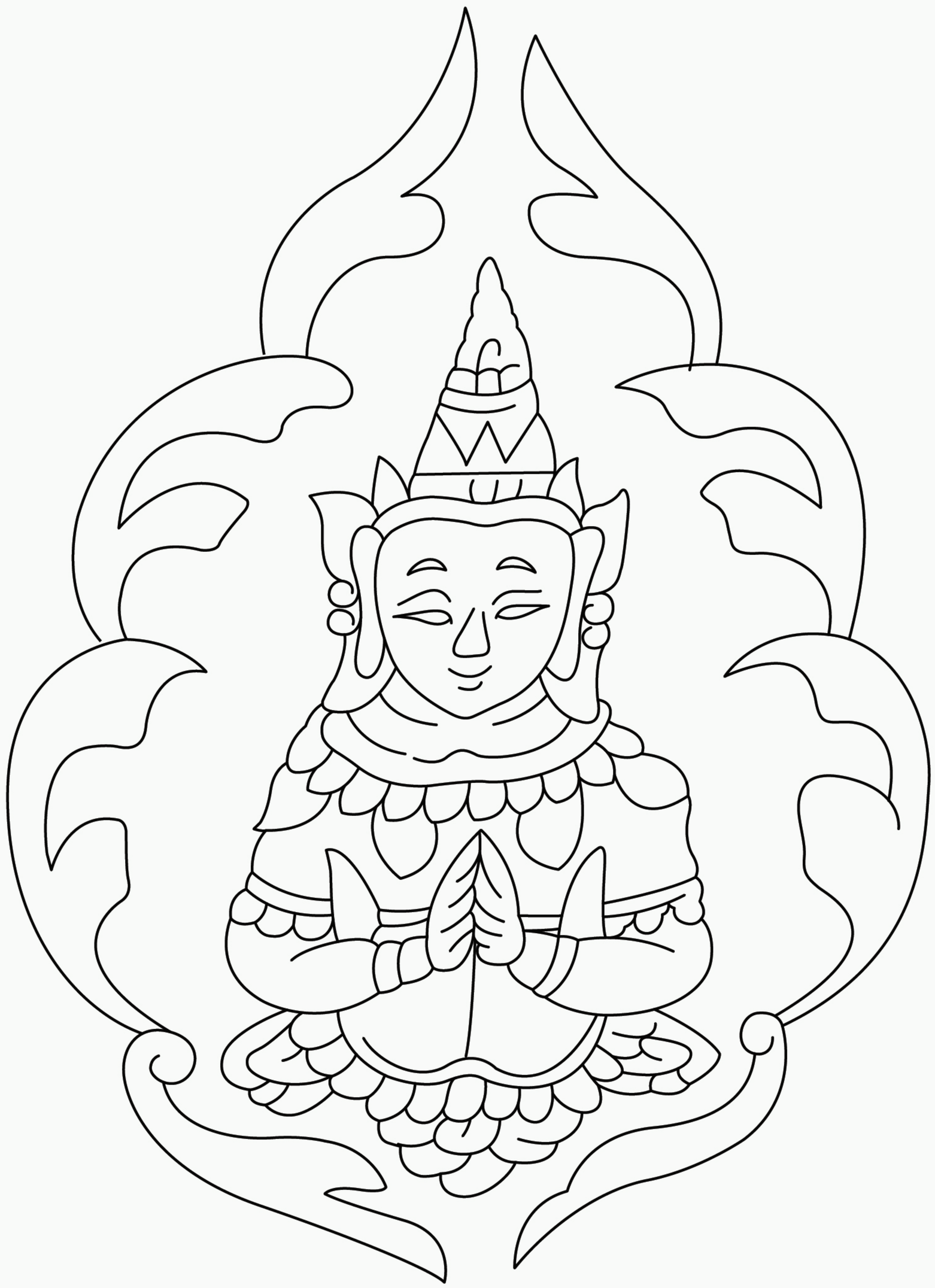
How many colors can you see? The name “Bencharong" comes from two S anskrit words—'Pancha'(five) and ‘rang’(color). This bowl displays seven vibrant colors. It was made at the Chinese Jingdezhen kilns with designs, like Buddhist ‘Thepanom’ figures and floral patterns, supplied by the Thai royal court. Ceramics like this one were once only permitted to be used at the Thai royal court. The lid is inspired by the reliquary urn-shaped stupa (sacred ritual burial mound), revealing a strong connection between religion and kingship.

About 1800

Made at Jingdezhen, China; exported to Thailand

Porcelain and enamel

British Museum Franks.1392.D



For more information about
Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

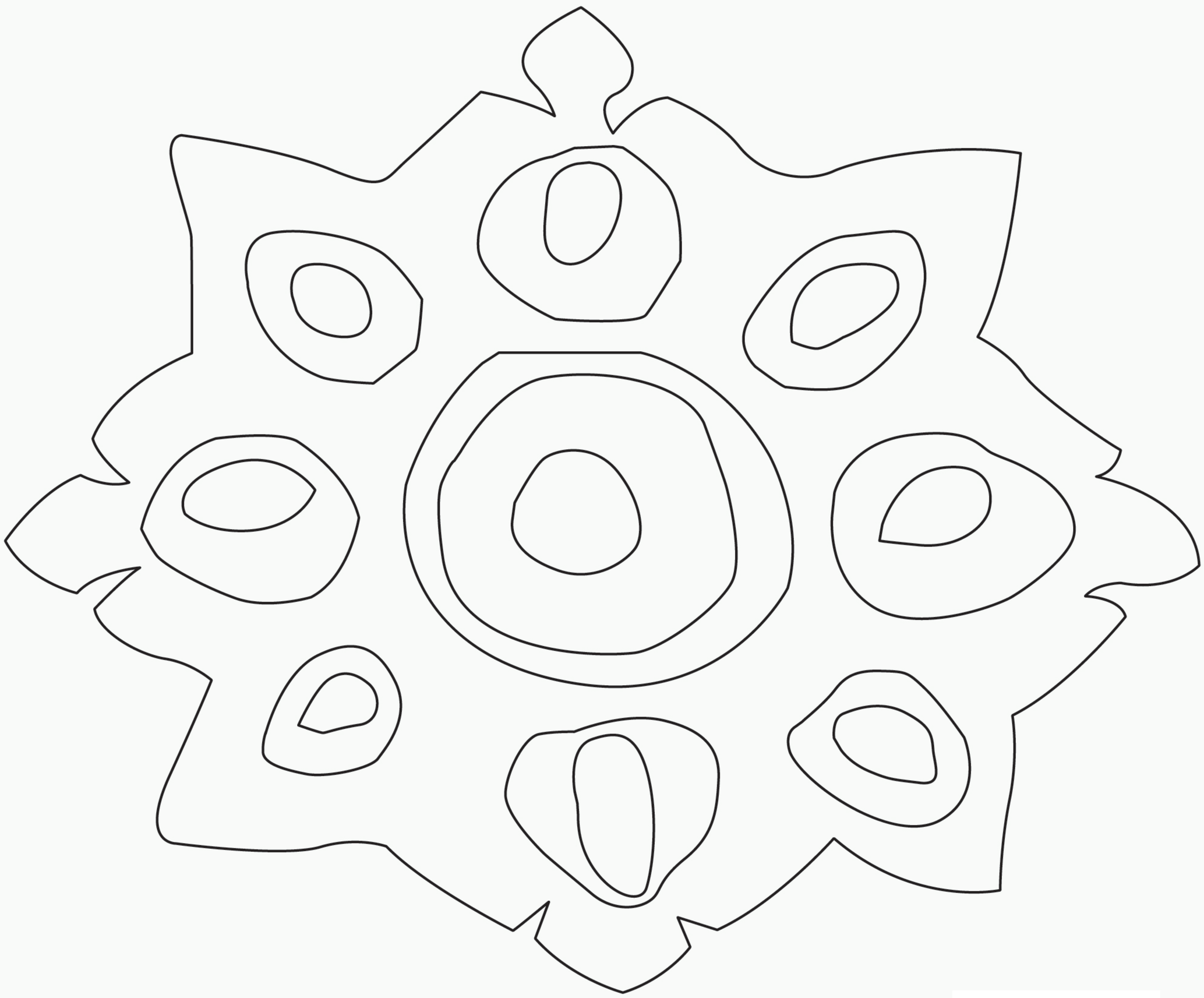
How many colors can you see? The name “Bencharong" comes from two S anskrit words—'Pancha'(five) and ‘rang’(color). This bowl displays seven vibrant colors. It was made at the Chinese Jingdezhen kilns with designs, like Buddhist ‘Thepanom’ figures and floral patterns, supplied by the Thai royal court. Ceramics like this one were once only permitted to be used at the Thai royal court. The lid is inspired by the reliquary urn-shaped stupa (sacred ritual burial mound), revealing a strong connection between religion and kingship.

About 1800

Made at Jingdezhen, China; exported to Thailand

Porcelain and enamel

British Museum Franks.1392.D



For more information about
Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl

How many colors can you see? The name “Bencharong" comes from two S anskrit words—'Pancha'(five) and ‘rang'(color). This bowl displays seven vibrant colors. It was made at the Chinese Jingdezhen kilns with designs, like Buddhist ‘Thepanom' figures and floral patterns, supplied by the Thai royal court. Ceramics like this one were once only permitted to be used at the Thai royal court. The lid is inspired by the reliquary urn-shaped stupa (sacred ritual burial mound), revealing a strong connection between religion and kingship.

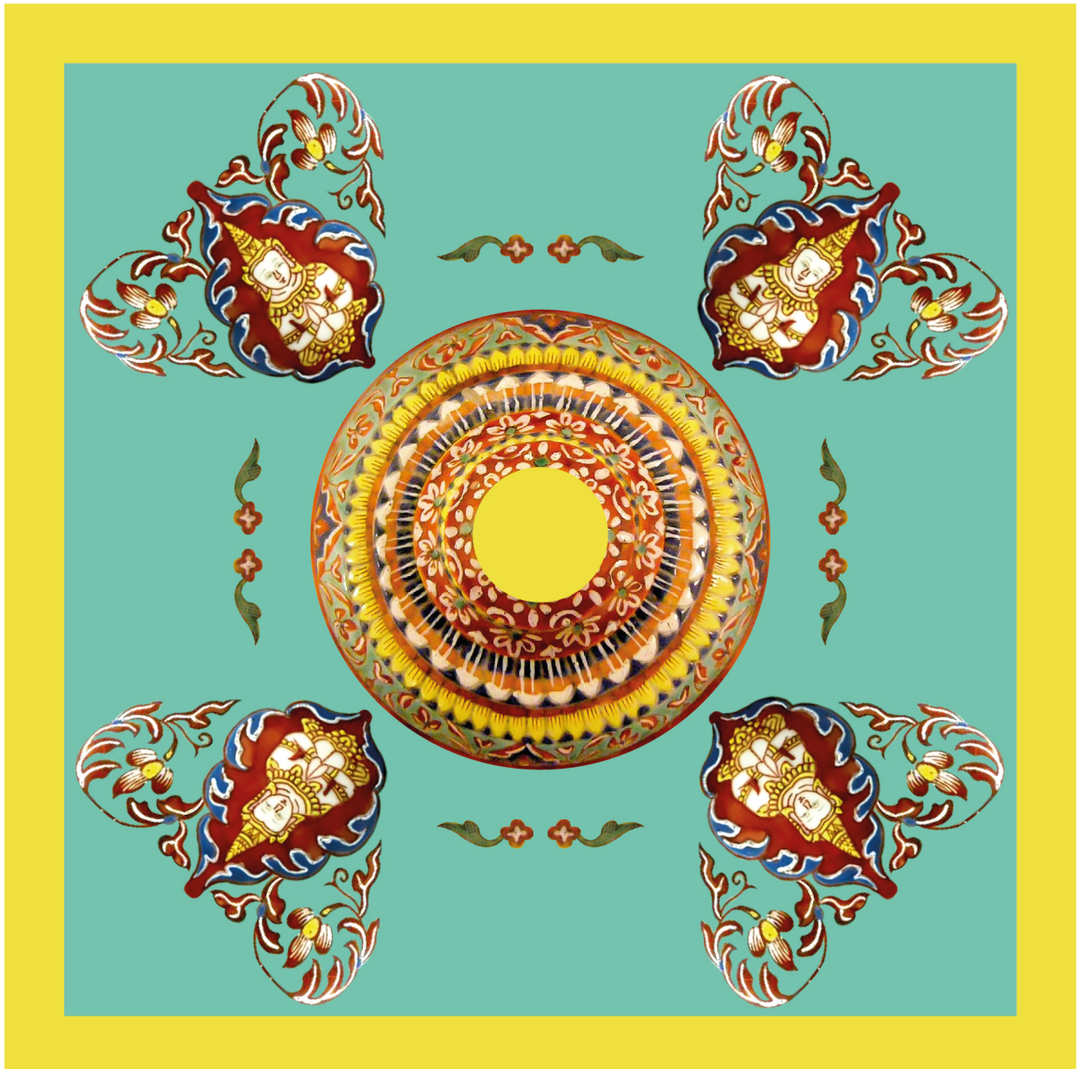
About 1800

Made at Jingdezhen, China; exported to Thailand

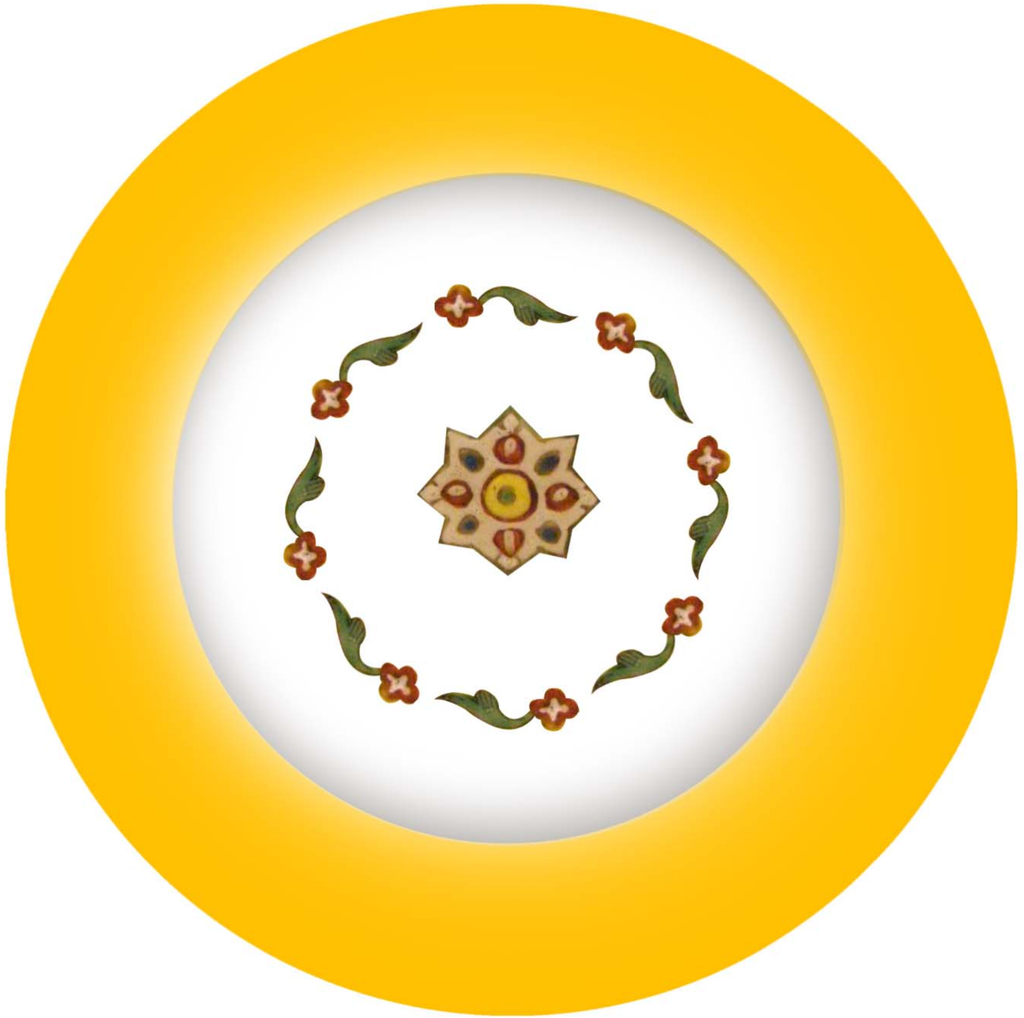
Porcelain and enamel

British Museum Franks.1392.D

For more information about
Covered Bencharong Enamelled Bowl



Dinner Plate



Salad Plate