

AMIR MOHTASHEMI



Iznik Dish

Ottoman Turkey, ca. 1580

Fritware painted with white slip and polychrome decoration under a clear glaze

Stock no.: HS86

A sixteenth-century Iznik dish decorated with the 'Quatre Fleurs' motif, comprising a symmetrical arrangement of red prunus blossoms, blue tulips, red carnations, and blue hyacinths growing from a tuft of grass. The rim is decorated with a stylised rock-and-wave pattern in black and cobalt blue, a motif derived from Chinese blue-and-white porcelain such as the fifteenth-century Jiangxi albarello in the Freer Gallery of Art (accession no. [F1954.117a-b](#)). This motif was used as a background on the wells of Iznik dishes as early as 1540, but it became a standard feature for the rims of dishes by the 1570s.¹

Two similar Iznik dishes in the Musée de la Renaissance, château d'Écouen (DS 2414 and [E.CI.8124](#)) are dated to ca. 1580. Another ([E.CI.8114](#)), which has similar composition but roses instead of red carnations as the central flower, is dated to ca. 1590.

[1] Atasoy, Nurhan, and Julian Raby. *Iznik: The Pottery of Ottoman Turkey*. 2nd ed. London: Alexandrian Press, 1989. p. 121.