



# Bencharong

## Chinese Porcelain for Siam; Discover Thai Art

Dawn F. Rooney

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- First book in the exciting *Discover Thai Art* series
- An accessible yet authoritative guide to these collectible and beautiful porcelains
- Examines the shapes, motifs and origins of each piece
- Exquisite items from previously unseen private collections

Bencharong, a unique class of Chinese export ware, was made exclusively for Thai royalty and the ruling elite in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Enamelled porcelain containers and dishes for the table and boudoir are resplendent in kaleidoscopic colors inspired by verdant, tropical vegetation. Lai Nam Thong ('gold-washed'), a variant, takes the opulence of this ware to a pinnacle by adding gold as an embellishment. Although Bencharong belongs both in place and time to the broader tradition of Chinese export art for the European and American markets, it is distinctively Thai in style and aesthetics. A wealth of lavish illustrations, many never before published, are visual revelations of Bencharong's splendor.

The author traces the history of Bencharong from the renowned kilns of Jingdezhen to enamelling centres at coastal ports in southern China and its final destination – Ayutthaya and Bangkok.

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Dawn F Rooney, a long-term Thai resident and an art historian specializing in Southeast Asia, is the author of nine books, of which four are on the ceramics of the region.