

Basic Detail Report



Ocarina, C

Date

1887-1916 ca.

Primary Maker

Max Freyer & Company

Description

Transverse shape (or "sweet potato" shape), with duct and protruding mouthpiece; 10 fingerholes; porcelain with blue decorative flowers under glaze. The blue-and-white pattern seems quintessentially Chinese, but this ocarina was manufactured in Germany. Europeans began collecting Chinese porcelain in the 1300s, coveting the ceramicware for its high quality and "exotic" appeal. Chinese artisans even began creating products specifically for European markets. In the 1700s, European manufacturers decided to capitalize on the allure by making their own, lower-cost copies of Chinese ceramics.