

**A RARE ALBUM OF TWENTY-FOUR ENGRAVINGS
BY HELLMAN AFTER CASTIGLIONE, SICHELBARTH,
ATTIRET AND DAMASCENE
18TH CENTURY**

Comprising twenty-four engravings, plus a duplicate, the first sixteen are commissioned to commemorate the Emperor Qianlong's victory in Central Asia (1755-1759), including scenes of battlefields, sieges, and encampments, mostly set in rugged mountainous terrain, as well as victory banquets; one of a ploughing scene; three of a procession scene; one of a ceremonial presentation; and the last three commemorating an ancestral ritual; with an extra leaf of a battle scene 16¼ x 9½ in. (41.3 x 24.1 cm.), mounted as a leather-bound album

1. "Presenting the Prisoners Taken During the Pacification of the Muslim Tribes to the Emperor", 1754, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret.
2. "The Great Victory of the Chinese against Muslim troops", 1755, from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
3. "Raising the Siege of the Black River", 1755, the second battle between the Chinese army and that of Ta-ou-Atsi, who was beaten and taken prisoner in 1755, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
4. "The Battle of Tonguzluq", the pillage of the capital of the Elauths, 1756, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
5. "Storming of the Camp at Garden-Ola", the Chinese army fighting Amour-sana who had betrayed them after receiving support against Ta-ou-Atsi, 1757, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
6. "The Emperor Reviewing his Troops", from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
7. "The Battle scene between the Emperor's Grand-General Tchao-Hoei and the Resurgent Amour-sana", 1757, from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
8. "Receiving the Surrender of the Ili", from a drawing by Ignace Sichelbarth.
9. "The Battle of Oroï-Jalatu", the destruction of the enemy camp, 1758, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
10. "The Battle of Qos-Qulaq", the enemy is driven into the ravines in the mountains and trapped, 1758, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
11. "The Khan of Badakhsan Asks to Surrender", a great feast is given in honour of the General, 1750, from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
12. "The Battle of Yesil-Kor-Nor in 1759", from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
13. "The Chief of Us (Turfan) Surrenders with His City in 1759", the Tartars presenting tributes, from a drawing by Jean Damascene.
14. "The Battle of Altchouv in 1759", from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret.
15. "The Battle of Arcul on 1 September 1759", against the two Hot-chom in the mountains of Pulok-kol, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret.
16. "The Emperor Gives a Victory Banquet for the Officers and Soldiers Who Distinguished Themselves at Battle", Imperial Palace Gardens, Beijing, on 5 July 1754, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione.
17. "Ploughing Ceremony Conducted by the Emperor of China", after a painting belonging to Minister Henri-Leonard Bertin.
18. "Ordinary Procession of the Emperor of China When He Visits the City of Beijing", left leaf of a triptych dedicated to Charles Alexandre de Calonne (Minister of Finance), after a Chinese painting dated 1717 belonging to Minister Henri-Leonard Bertin.
19. "Ordinary Procession of the Emperor of China When He Visits the City of Beijing", centre leaf of triptych.
20. "Ordinary Procession of the Emperor of China When He Visits the City of Beijing", right leaf of triptych.
21. "A Celebration for Veterans under the Auspices of the Emperor Qianlong, 14 February 1785"
22. "A Visit by the Emperor to the Tombs of his Ancestors", engraving dated 1788.
23. "Emperor Qianlong Paying Respects at the Tomb of his Ancestors", engraving dated 1788.
24. "The Emperor Reciting Poems in Honour of his Ancestors", engraving dated 1788.

The engraver, Isidore-Stanislas Hellman (1743-1806?) was a student of Jean-Philippe Le Bas who worked on the original set of sixteen engravings of battle scenes commissioned by Emperor Qianlong. Between 1783-1788, Hellman engraved a new series of cold-chisel prints in half the size of the original, for sale to the public. The success of the reproduction encouraged Hellman to produce four additional prints in 1786, and a further four in 1788.

The first sixteen scenes of the present album are reproductions from a set produced to commemorate Emperor Qianlong's victorious campaigns between 1755-1759 in Central Asia, present-day Xinjiang. The originals were commissioned by Qianlong in 1765, and engraved onto copper-plates from drawings undertaken by the Jesuit missionaries at court: Giuseppe Castiglione (1688-1766), Jean-Denis Attiret (1702-1768), Ignace Sichelbarth (1708-1780) and Jean Damascene (d. 1781). The drafts were sent to Paris to be engraved under the direction of Charles-Nicolas Cochin of the Academie Royal at the Court of Louis XVI, where Hellman's master, Jean-Philippe Le Bas, was among one of the engravers.

The sixteen battle scenes were sent to Europe in 1765 and arrived in France in the autumn of 1766. Castiglione and Attiret died before the Emperor Qianlong received the engravings when the whole set was finally completed in 1775. The original commissioned quantity had been for a total of a hundred copies of the set but in fact two hundred were actually printed to ensure the safe receipt of the commissioned amount. A small number was reserved for the French king, his ministers and court officials and precautions were taken to ensure none were left with the engravers or printers. A French version of the Chinese Imperial edict concerning the commission is in the National Archives in Paris.

Evidently, the scene of the 'Ploughing Ceremony' (no. 17 in the album) and the triptych (nos. 18, 19, and 20) are Hellman's engravings of 1786. A larger example of the Ploughing Ceremony print (53 x 43 cm.) in the Musée Guimet, Paris, was included in the exhibition, From Beijing to Versailles: Artistic Relations between China and France, illustrated in the *Catalogue*, no. 95. The triptych, 'Ordinary Procession of the Emperor of China When He Visits the City of Beijing', from the same collection is also illustrated, *ibid.*, no. 96; the image is from an original scroll painting commissioned by the Chinese minister Lai Du to commemorate the procession of Emperor Kangxi's sixtieth birthday. The last four prints are probably the last of Hellman's engravings of 1788.

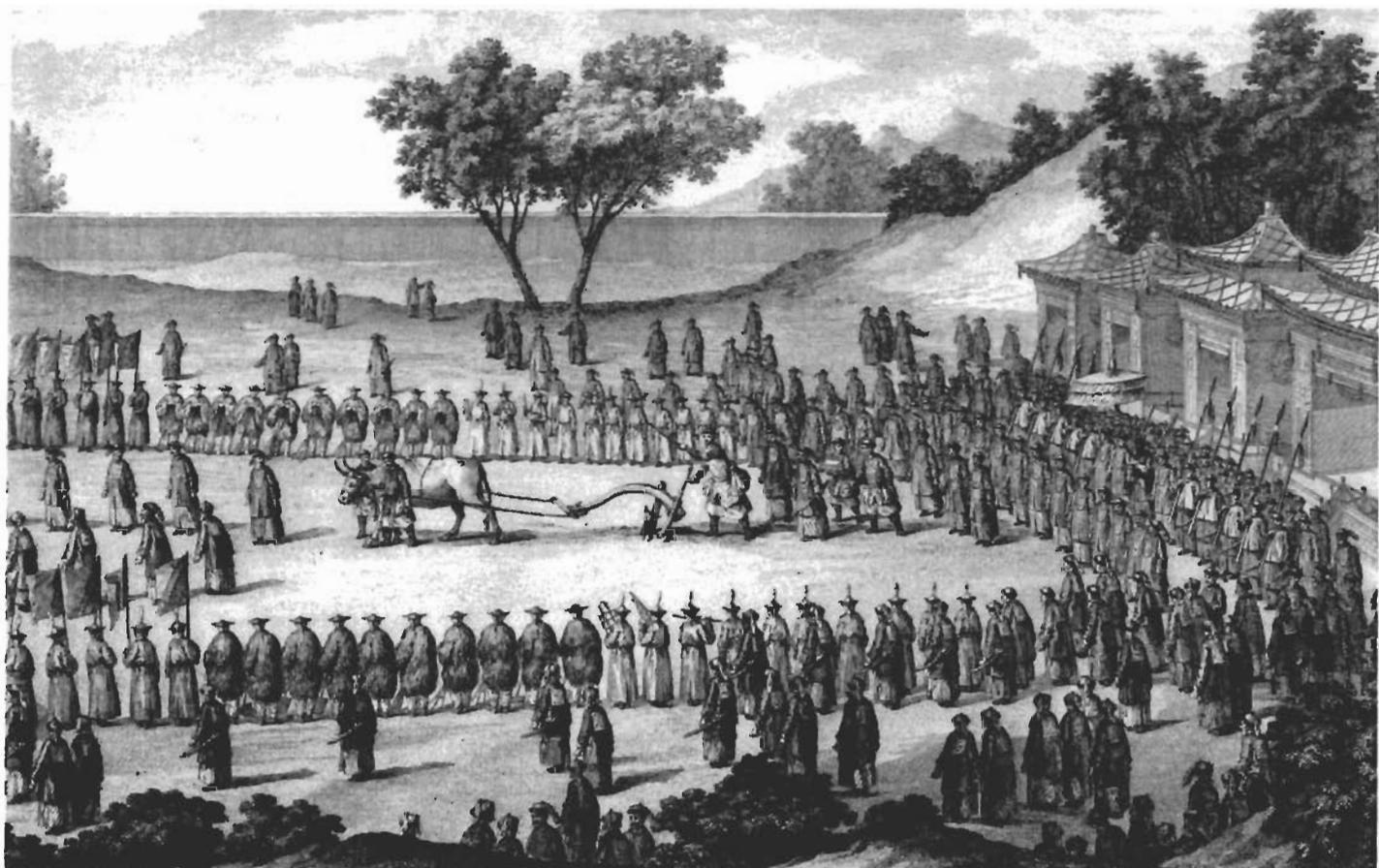
Complete series of Hellman's work are extremely rare although sets of the original battle engravings have been published: a set is in the Bibliothèque Mazarine; another in the Bibliothèque Nationale; a third is in the Musée Guimet; and a set was given by Louis XVI to Necker, now lodged in the Castle Coppet in Switzerland.

HK\$400,000-500,000 (US\$50,000-65,000)

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515 (leaf II)



515 (leaf XVII)

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Lot 515:

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CASTIGLIONE, SICHELBARTH, ATTIRET AND DAMASCENE
18TH CENTURY

Christie's Hong Kong, 30 April, 2000.

The estimated price is HK\$ 400,000 - 500,000 (US\$50,000 - 65,000)

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