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## ALBUM DE VINGT-QUATRE ESTAMPES ILLUSTRANT LES CONQUETES DE L'EMPEREUR QIANLONG

FIN DU XVIIIÈME SIECLE

**Price Realized** (Set Currency)

€11,750

(\$14,065)

Price includes buyer's premium

**Estimate**

€10,000 - €15,000

(\$11,970 - \$17,956)

**Sale Information**

Sale 5065

Arts Asiatiques

19 November 2003

Paris

ENLARGE

**Lot Description**

ALBUM DE VINGT-QUATRE ESTAMPES ILLUSTRANT LES CONQUETES DE L'EMPEREUR QIANLONG

FIN DU XVIIIÈME SIECLE

Seize planches commémorant les victoires de l'Empereur de la fin de l'année 1754 à 1760 avec des scènes de batailles et d'hommages rendus à l'Empereur par les peuples soumis ; une planche intitulée "Cérémonie du Labourage faite par l'Empereur de Chine" ; deux planches illustrant la pompe entourant la sortie de l'Empereur hors de son palais ; une planche intitulée "Marche Ordinaire de l'Empereur de la Chine lorsqu'il passa dans la ville de Péking", "Dédié à Monseigneur Charles Alexandre de Calonne, Ministre d'Etat Contrôleur Général des Finances, Commandeur et Grand Trésorier des Ordres du Roi" ; une planche intitulée "Fête donnée au vieillards par l'Empereur Qianlong, le 14 Février 1785" ; trois planches intitulées "L'Empereur va visiter les tombeaux de ses ancêtres", "Cérémonies Respectueuses de l'Empereur devant les tombeaux de ses ancêtres" et "L'Empereur récitant des poèmes en l'honneur de ses ancêtres"  
Dimensions: circa 40 x 23,5 cm. (15¾ x 9¼ in.)

**Lot Notes**

The Emperor Qianlong commissioned the original set of sixteen engravings of his conquests on July 13, 1765 for the central hall of the Palace in Beijing. The drawings, originally larger than the present set, were prepared in China by four Jesuits: Giuseppe Castiglione, the director of the project, Jean-Denis Attiret, Ignatius Sichelbarth and Jean Damascène. By recommendation of Louis-Joseph Le Febvre, head of the French Jesuit mission to China, they were sent to Paris, where the engravings were executed by eight artists under the direction of Charles-Nicolas Cochin of the Académie Royale. This commission was considered of utmost importance, as it potentially offered France means of leaving a favorable impression on the Emperor and thus gaining advantage in view of commerce and missioning, directed against the Dutch, Portuguese and English. Qianlong's commission was for an edition of one hundred copies only; however, to ensure the safe receipt of at least one hundred copies in China, an edition of 200 copies was actually printed. To reduce the risk of loss at sea they were distributed over two ships in lots of 100 impressions each. The entire edition was received in China by 1775 for which the Compagnie Française des Indes in Canton was paid the sum of 240,000 pounds. Only a very limited number of extra copies was printed for the French King, his ministers and some members of the Court and the greatest precaution was taken that no copies remained with the engravers or printers to ensure its exclusivity.

**Post-Lot Text**

AN ALBUM OF TWENTY FOUR PRINTS DEPICTING THE CONQUESTS OF THE EMPEROR QIANLONG  
LATE 18TH CENTURY