



Portraits of Valour: Imperial Bannermen Portraits from a European Collection

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142

AN IMPERIAL OIL PORTRAIT OF MINGLIYANG ATTRIBUTED TO IGNAZ SICHELBARTH (AI QIMENG, 1708-1780), ET AL. QING DYNASTY, QIANLONG PERIOD, CIRCA 1771-1776

Estimate: 3,500,000 - 4,500,000 HKD

oil on Korean paper

the bust portrait depicting a commanding officer of the Qing empire in frontal view, dressed in a full set of armour, wearing an iron battle helmet with Sanskrit script picked-out in gilt on the brim of the helmet, the full protective flaps extending down from the base of the helmet framing his weathered face enhanced by a trimmed mustache and a faint goatee, his grey suit of armour studded with brass bosses with epaulettes on both shoulders, all against a bluish-grey background, the upper right corner inscribed vertically in Chinese with the characters *Dingbian youfu jiangjun Chengdu jiangjun yideng xiangyong bo Mingliang* ('Assistant Commander to the Right fo the Border Protection Forces, Commander of Chengdu, Marquis of the first rank, with the designation Hero of Merit, Mingliyang'), and repeated in Manchu on the upper left corner, the upper left corner of the reverse attached with a yellow label inscribed *Pingding liang Jinchuan gongchen xiang di san* ('The third painting from the series of meritorious officials who contributed in conquering the two Jinchuan [the major and minor]') 72.5 by 56 cm., 28 1/2 by 22 in.

CATALOGUE NOTES & PROVENANCE

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72.5 by 56 cm., 28½ by 22 in.

PROVENANCE

Dr. Wuensch, Germany, early 20th century.
A rare book dealer in Heidelberg, Germany.
E.J. Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 1985.

LITERATURE

E.J. Brill, *Catalogue 544*, Leiden, 1985, no. 2.

HK\$3,500,000-4,500,000

US\$452,000-585,000

清乾隆約三十六至四十一年 (傳) 艾啟蒙等《明亮像》 油彩紙本 木框

標題：

兩側漢滿文「定邊右副將軍成都將軍一等襄勇伯明亮」
畫背標籤「平定兩金川功臣像第叁」

臉龐方圓，眉如劍削，目如點漆，鼻樑端直，薄唇緊抿，髭鬚略稀。戴灰銀色胄，疑綴金梵文，頂垂貂纓，護頸滿佈金黃色釘。甲衣銀灰泛紫，亦飾金釘，肩上鑲鐵鍊，緣襯暗花邊飾，腰間繫結。背景滿塗淺灰藍。上方左右兩側以滿漢文書寫人物官銜姓名，背面左上角有土黃色標籤，上書其圖像系列及編號。

來源：

Wuensch 醫生，德國，二十世紀初
德國海德堡珍本書商
E.J. Brill，萊頓，荷蘭，1985年

出版：

E.J. Brill，《Catalogue 544》，萊頓，1985年，編號2



142 INSCRIPTIONS IN MANCHU AND CHINESE



142 LABEL

The Manchu transliteration:

Jecen be toktobure ici ergi aisilara jiyangiyôn Cengdu-i jiyanggiyôn uju jergi faššangga baturu be Mingliyan

The English translation:

Assistant Commander to the Right to the Border Protection Forces, Commander of Chengdu, Marquis of the first rank, with the designation Hero of Merit, Mingliyang

Mingliyang (1735-1822), courtesy name (zi) Yinzhai, was a member of a famous family of the Manchu Fuca clan. His uncle was the important statesman Fuheng, and one of his aunts was the first wife of the Qianlong Emperor. His father, Guangcheng, was less prominent but attained the position of lieutenant-general of a banner. Mingliyang passed the state examination as a licentiate and in 1753 married a great-granddaughter of the Kangxi Emperor. He intended to take further examinations but the emperor sent him to Ili as commander of the troops there; in 1766 he was appointed assistant military governor at Jilin and in 1768 transferred to Ningguta. He participated in the war against Burma and then from 1772 to 1776 fought against the Jinchuan rebels in Sichuan; for his services during this campaign he was awarded the title Count of Xiangyong (Zeal and Bravery) of the first class and his portrait was painted for the Hall of Purple Splendour. The emperor commended him in a poem which was later added to the full-size portrait:

All by himself he commanded the troops of one way [the Southern army];

Several times he fought and killed the rebels.

As child of a related [to the emperor] noble family he was awarded hereditary favours.

He showed his sincerity and accumulated merit; this was seen with joy and appreciation.

He was then appointed general of Chengdu and also put in charge of Jinchuan.

His checkered career after Jinchuan shows the ups and downs that even a relative of the imperial family had to endure. It was probably due to his skill and reputation as a superior strategist that he was recalled each time after his dismissal. And everytime, he climbed the ladder again quickly, apparently convincing not only his direct superiors but also the Emperor of his potential and achievements. At least some of his 'sins' look rather trivial from today's point of view, also in comparison with what some of his contemporaries got away with.

A brief survey of Mingliyang's life after his award for the Jinchuan achievements include:

- 1776 Mingliyang is appointed Manchu General of Chengdu, a new position created to control the affairs of the Jinchuan Tanguts and including responsibility for the Manchu and Chinese troops and the officials.
- 1778 Mingliyang is appointed Provincial Commander-in-Chief.
- 1781 Mingliyang is appointed military Lieutenant-Governor in Urumchi, after helping to suppress the Gansu Muslim rebellion.
- 1783 Arrested and sentenced to execution on the charge of not having prevented a prisoner from committing suicide.
- 1784 Set free, he receives the rank of a Junior Imperial Bodyguard and is sent to help quell a further Muslim rebellion in Gansu.
- 1785 Commended for bravery, he becomes Captain-General of the Guard Division.
- 1785-92 Assistant Military-Governor at Ili, at Uš and at Kašgar, successively.
- 1791-92 Appointed Military-Governor of Heilongjiang.
- 1795 Again cashiered on the charge of compelling his subordinates to sell to him goods at reduced prices. He has to serve as a commoner in Urumchi.
- 1796 He helps combatting the Bailianjiao (White Lotus) rebels in Hubei; he is appointed Senior Imperial Bodyguard again.
- 1797 After the pacification of the Miao, he is awarded the title of Count Xiangyong of the second class.
- 1798 For errors committed in directing the campaign in 1798 he is arrested and stripped of his title. As he is urgently needed, he is allowed to redeem himself by fighting under General Derentei. For his achievements he is promoted to Deputy Lieutenant-General.
- 1800 Mingliyang is again stripped of his ranks and sentenced to death but is pardoned by the emperor. Later in 1800 he is again degraded, and he is punished again in 1810.

Nevertheless, finally he attains the position of Grand Secretary and is raised to the rank of a Marquis Xiangyong of the third class. He served the empire for seventy years.

He seems to have been an excellent soldier which left him little time for other pastimes or studies; he was a mediocre calligrapher and painter of bamboo.

Mingliyang is the only figure out of the 280 figures in which all three painted versions are known. The full-size hanging portrait is in the Museum of East Asian Art in Cologne (**fig. 1**) and the handscroll version was sold in our New York rooms 1st June 1992, lot 77 (**fig. 2**).

定邊右副將軍一等襄勇伯成
 都將軍明亮
 獨統一路頗有新獲姻戚少年
 世承恩澤建績抒忱是用褒嘉
 併司將印永靖祚已



FIG 2 MINGLIYANG, HANDSCROLL VERSION SEVENTEEN MERITORIOUS GENERALS AND OFFICIALS BY JIA QUAN, DETAIL, 1779

■二 明亮 清乾隆四十四年 賈全《平定金川五十功臣贊》手卷（局部）

定邊右副將軍
 一等襄勇伯成
 都將軍明亮
 獨統一路頗有新獲
 姻戚少年世承恩澤
 建績抒忱是用褒嘉
 併司將印永靖祚已
 乾隆四十四年
 御製

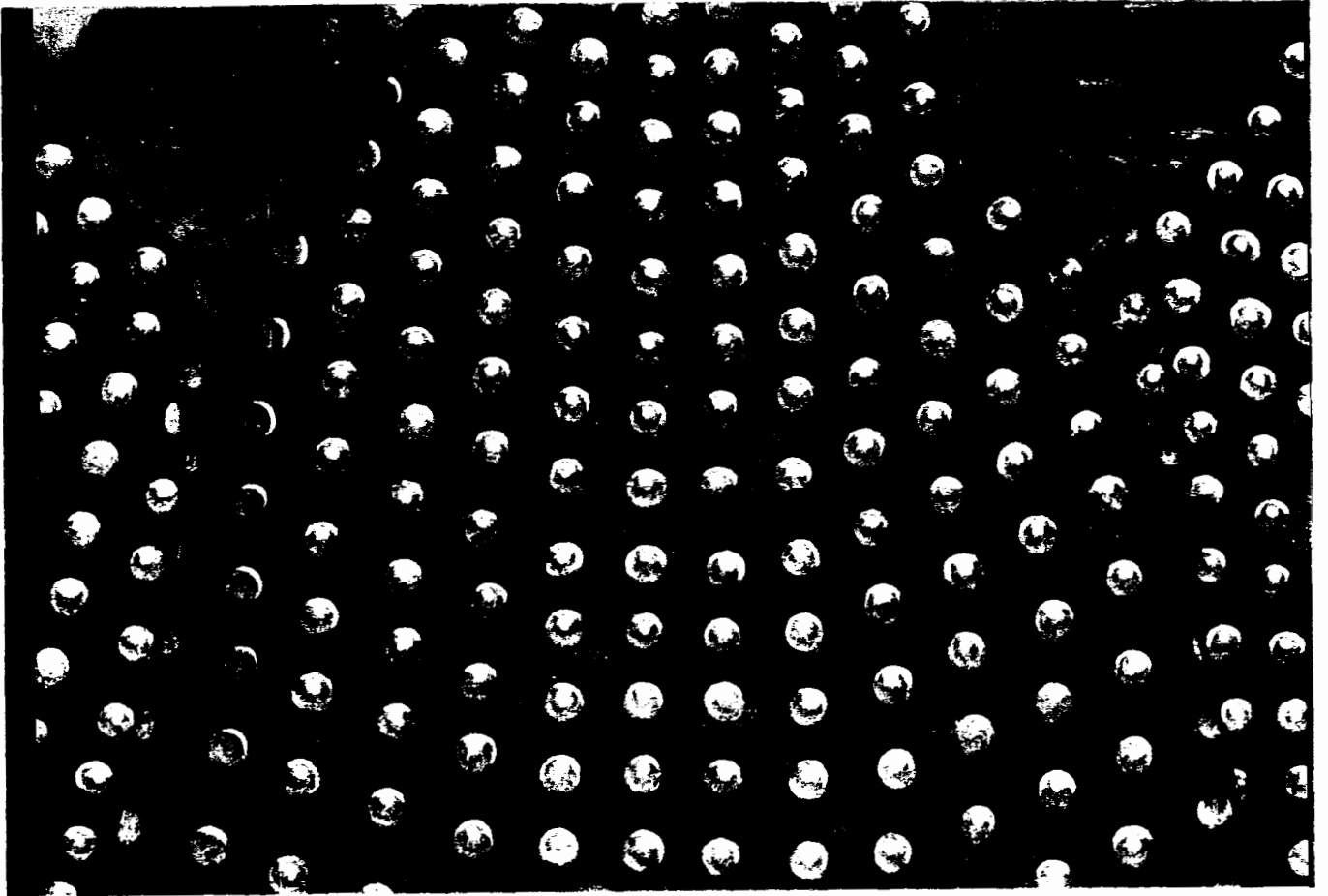


FIG 1 MINGLIYANG, FULL-SIZE PORTRAIT, BY IGNAZ SICHELBARTH (AI QIMENG, 1708-1780) ET AL. MUSEUM OF EAST ASIAN ART, COLOGNE, GERMANY

■一 清乾隆 艾啟蒙等《明亮像》繪 設色紙本 德國科隆東方藝術博物館藏品

明亮（1735-1822年），字寅齋，屬著名之滿族富察氏，大學士傅恆及孝賢純皇后（乾隆帝元配）之侄。其父廣成，經傳鮮見其名，仍官至「正黃旗蒙古都統」。明亮乃「文生員」出身，即已通過普通科舉。乾隆十八年（1753），與康熙帝孫女成親，是為「多羅額駙」。明亮本欲再試科舉，卻給派往伊犁，授為「領隊大臣」。乾隆三十一年（1766），任「吉林副都統」。三十三年（1768），調往寧古塔。明亮從征緬甸，又於三十七（1772）至四十一（1776）年間，遠赴四川，助平金川之亂。為嘉其勳勇功勞，高宗賜銜「一等襄勇伯」，命人為明亮繪像，以懸紫光閣，並御製贊，題於畫像，曰：「獨統一路，頗有新獲。姻戚少年，世承恩澤。建績抒忱，是用褒嘉。俾司將印，永靖祚巴。」

明亮雖屬皇親之列，仕途也起伏不斷。屢遭罷黜，又因其才略出眾見稱，屢獲復職，旋又騰達飛黃，向其上級以至君主證明自身之才幹功績。現在看來，相對於當時其他官宦，明亮之過失甚為瑣碎，或只錯在未及趨權附勢、坦率欠圓滑。下列明亮自平金川後之事蹟，其善惡功過，或已昭然自明。



142 DETAIL

乾隆四十一年	議設之「成都將軍」，須統轄金川番地滿漢文武，授明亮出任
乾隆四十三年	任「四川提督」
乾隆四十六年	助平甘肅回族動亂，旋授「烏魯木齊都統」
乾隆四十八年	失職致使未能阻止官犯自盡，被逮，擬處以「絞監候」
乾隆四十九年	獲釋，賜授「藍翎侍衛」，再赴甘肅，助平回民暴亂
乾隆五十年	阿桂嘉其奮勇，獲授「頭等侍衛」
乾隆五十至五十七年	先後調任伊犁、烏什及喀什噶爾「參贊大臣」
乾隆五十六年底	授「黑龍江將軍」
乾隆六十年	復因逼令下屬以賤價出售市物之罪，革職，留烏魯木齊効力
嘉慶元年	赴湖北，助平白蓮教亂，有功，復授「頭等侍衛」
嘉慶二年	苗族之亂平定後，復封「二等襄勇伯」

嘉慶三年，因剿匪計劃失當，被奪其銜。後又以軍務為急，准許戴罪立功，跟隨德楞泰出戰。其績可嘉，獲授為「副都統」。嘉慶四年底（1799-80），再遭革職，並判斬刑。嘉慶五年（1800）初，蒙聖上寬赦，同年又被貶謫。十六年（1811），再次遭削銜革職。明亮朝廷供職七十餘年，最終仍官至「大學士三等襄勇侯」。明亮工書法，善畫竹，卻以武官之職為重，奮力於戰，表現出色，鮮有餘暇研習私嗜。詳見《清史列傳》，卷29，頁2215-2230，以及《清史稿》，卷330：列傳一百十七，頁7-11。

二百八十功臣像，油畫、手卷、掛軸三者皆見傳世者，獨明亮一人。其全身掛軸像，現存科隆東方藝術博物館（圖一），而手卷則售於紐約蘇富比1992年6月1日，編號77（圖二）。