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PAULUS SWAEN  
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## CHIA CH'UAN / LI MING - Crossing the ocean and triumphant return. (Taiwan)



Crossing the ocean and triumphant return. (Taiwan) - CHIA CHUAN / LI MING

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**Title :** Crossing the ocean and triumphant return. (Taiwan).

**Map maker :** CHIA CHUAN / LI MING.

**Date :** Paris, Beijing, 1789-1790.

**Size :** 20.0 x 34.3 inches. / 50.8 x 87.0 cm.

**Colouring :** Uncoloured.

**Description :** This very rare copper engraving "Crossing the ocean and triumphant return" is one of a set of 12 engravings showing the campaign in Formosa, 1786-1788, the engraving appeared in 1789-90.

The two Court artists responsible for this work were Chia Ch'uan and Li Ming. The general who commanded the Chinese Forces (and is commended in the text published with these engravings) was himself a son of the Emperor. These engravings provide an extremely interesting example of the inter-action of Chinese and European artistic concepts, as well as an indication of the fascinating relationship of the Jesuit artists in Beijing with the Manchu Court.

The set of the Formosan Conquests is probably rarer than the better known set of conquests in Central Asia, more widely distributed as a result of the Helman publication.

The set of twelve copper-plate engravings commemorates Emperor Qianlong's military campaign in Formosa in 1787 and 1788. The set depicts the victory of Qianlong's troops against local rebels in eleven battle scenes and also shows the imperial reception of the victorious army and its commander, the military officer Fukang'an (died 1796), a Manchu of the Bordered Yellow Banner.

The inscriptions in the top represent poems composed and written by the Qianlong Emperor. They are dated 1787, 1788, and 1789. The series of prints was published in 1789/1790.

The scenes were designed by Jia Quan and Li Ming, Chinese court artists working in the Jesuit tradition. The campaign to quell the uprising in Formosa took Fukang'an and his troops several months of severe fighting. As a reward for his success, he was promoted to Duke Jiayong, a dukedom of the first class. In honor of his bravery for this campaign, as well as his earlier campaigns, three portraits of him were displayed in the Ziguangge, Hall of the Purple Splendour, a hall commemorating military exploits, located on the western shore of the Central Lake ( Zhonghai ) in Beijing (see Arthur W. Hummel, Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period , Washington, 1943, pp. 254f. and p.74).

Read more about [Taiwan](#) or [Ilha-Formosa](#) maps.

**Condition :** Copper engraving. Paper size 550x870mm.

ID: 34121

Item has been sold in a previous auction for \$ 7,500 (not including buyers commission).

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