

(1808-90), inventor of the steel hammer. It is improbable that Nasmyth knew anything about Degas, whose monotypes were hardly known, even in Paris, till after his death, and it may be taken as almost certain that he discovered the process for himself. Some of these little prints have considerable delicacy and beauty; the title written on the back of one of them, 'an arrangement in grey and white', shows that he knew Whistler's work. James Nasmyth received some training as an artist from his father Alexander, the Scottish painter and etcher. The same purchase included, in addition to drawings, some early etchings by James which in unsigned states had hitherto been regarded as the work of Alexander Nasmyth.

C. D.

65. ORIENTAL PRINTS AND DRAWINGS.

THE Print Room has long possessed (since 1848) the rare series of sixteen engravings known as 'Les Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine' in proof state, before the addition of Cochin's name. The Emperor Ch'ien Lung, desiring to have a record of his victories over the Tartars, caused drawings to be made by four European priests who were also painters and who worked under his direction: these were Giuseppe Castiglione, Denis Attiret, Ignatius Sichelbart, and Giovanni Damasceno. The drawings were sent to Paris, and were there engraved, under the direction of C. N. Cochin the younger, by J. P. Le Bas, J. Aliamet, Augustin de St. Aubin, and other famous engravers of the day. The engravings and plates were sent back to China; but as they had no explanatory text, the Emperor caused compositions of his own, in his own handwriting, to be engraved on sheets of the same size as the prints.

Through the gift of Miss Edith Price, the Oriental Sub-Department, which already had a set of copies made from the French prints by Chinese engravers, has acquired impressions of four of the engravings, inscribed with explanations in the handwriting of Ch'ien Lung; also one of the sheets of engraved text mentioned above, and a blue cover stamped with the imperial seal. It seems therefore that we have here a fragment of the Emperor's own copy of the set of prints. They came in fact from the Summer Palace, when it was

destroyed in 1860. Each of the four sheets is numbered on the back in Chinese; the numeration confirming the order established by Professor Pelliot in his long and full article on the subject (*T'oung Pao*, Série II, Vol. 20, p. 183). The engravings now acquired are No. 7, designed by Castiglione and engraved by Le Bas; No. 8, designed by Damasceno and engraved by St. Aubin; No. 9, engraved by St. Aubin after an anonymous drawing; and No. 16, also anonymous, but engraved by Le Bas. With these prints Miss Price also gave a Persian miniature of a battle-scene (sixteenth century) and three Indian miniatures. The most remarkable of the Indian paintings is an adaptation by an artist of the Moghul School of a European print. Most of the paintings of this type are of religious subjects. This is quite unusual, and represents a group of European ladies and gentlemen taking refreshments on a terrace by a broad river on which are men in boats shooting at an alligator. From the fashion of costume the original print, probably English or Dutch, on which this is founded, must date from about the middle of the seventeenth century. It may have been one of a set of the Five Senses (Taste) which were so much in vogue then; but at present it has not been identified. In this attractive miniature there appear to be traces of a line-engraving showing underneath the paint. L. B.

66. OTHER GIFTS.

THE following are the more important gifts, in addition to those already described, received during the period July–October, 1928.

Cash book purporting to be that of the Reform Committee at Johannesburg, 31 December 1895–6 January 1896, the period of the Jameson Raid. Presented by James Hall, Esq., with whom it was left by a clerk who had acted as cashier for the Committee.

Letters, inventories, and estate papers from the Townshend sale in 1924, presented by F. Marcham, Esq.

MS. of Damiri's *Hayat al-hayawan* (an Arabic natural history), presented by Miss Jane D. Wood.

Catalogue of Engravings in the Bank of England, presented by the Governor.

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