

- 69 **CLAUDIANUS.** Opera. Lyon, A. de Harsy, 1605. 12mo. 367 pp., printed in italics; ruled throughout. In a contemporary French Fanfare binding, inlaid in olive and yellow morocco in an extremely elaborate and close design, and profusely gilt with very small tools, back similarly decorated, g.e. (127 by 81 mm.). **£365**

A rare type of Fanfare binding in which the intricate pattern is inlaid in morocco of different colours; as is well known, inlaid bindings, as opposed to those on which the design has been picked out with enamel colours, are of very infrequent occurrence before the end of the 17th century. **The above binding comes from the library of C. Fairfax Murray** and is reproduced in the catalogue of his French Books on the plate facing p. 95 (No. 95). It is a strange fact that it, together with another Fanfare binding reproduced on the same plate, remained unknown to the late G. D. Hobson. In the 18th century the volume belonged to the Italian poet Marchese Vincenzo Piazza (1670-1745) and bears his signature on the fly-leaf. A few minor repairs, otherwise in brilliant condition.

PLATE VII.

**ONE OF THE MASTERPIECES
OF FRENCH 18th CENTURY ENGRAVING**

- 70 **COCHIN, CHARLES-NICOLAS.** Victories of the Emperor K'ien-Long of China in Lil and East Turkestan in the year 1755. Paris, C. N. Cochin direxit, 1767-1774. 16 plates, folio oblong (91 by 56 cm.), folded in the middle, engraved by Le Bas, De Launay, Choffard, Saint-Aubin, Prévost, Aliamet and Masquelier after the designs, taken from the wall-paintings in the Hall of Tzu-kuang ko Peking, by Fathers Joseph Castiglione, Ignace Sichelbart, Jean-Denis Attiret, and Jean-Damascène Salusti. Mounted on guards, in a full red morocco volume, gilt over rough edges. **Price on application**

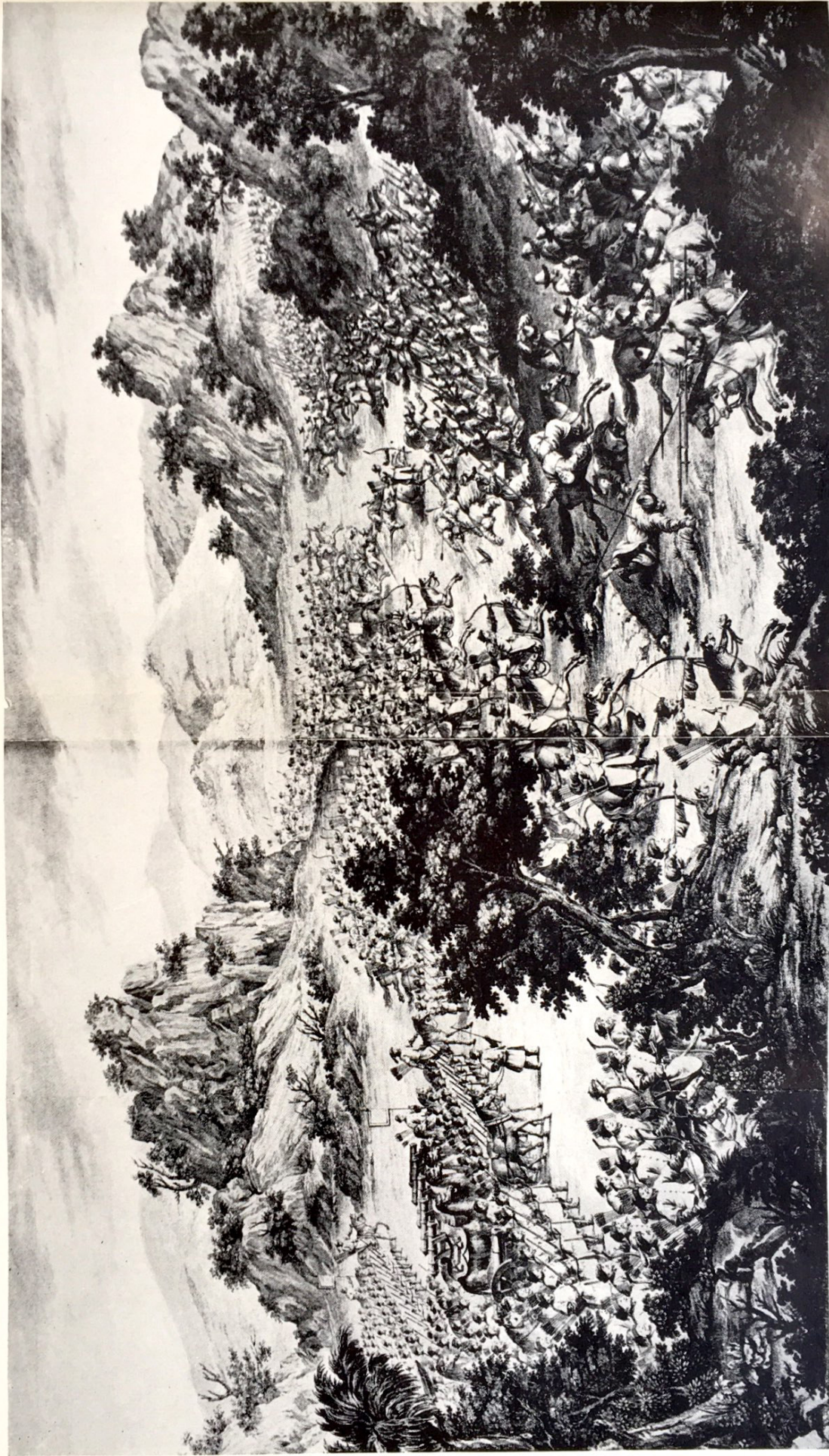
A complete set in proof impressions of the celebrated engravings executed under the direction of Cochin by command of the Emperor K'ien-Long, known as the "Victoires et Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine", one of the most remarkable documents of artistic collaboration between East and West, and a chef d'oeuvre of French 18th century engraving, of which only 23 sets have survived, only 9 of these preserved in private and public collections outside China.

The Emperor who had seen the engraved battle scenes by Rugendas, conceived the idea of having the battle scenes commemorating the victories of his army painted in the hall known as Tzu-kuang ko on the west shore of the central lake (Chunghai) in Peking, similarly engraved in Europe. He ordered the 4 missionaries, Castiglione, Sichelbart, Attiret and Salusti, to prepare the drawings from which the engravings could be made, and, through the French East India Company, ordered a 100 sets to be produced in Paris. A great deal of political importance was attached by the French to this order, and on the advice of the Marquis de Marigny, the brother of Madame de Pompadour, Cochin was appointed to direct a task which presented many artistic, historical and geographical difficulties, and which took 7 years to accomplish at the enormous cost of 240,000 livres. The plates had to be sent to China and only a very few copies were struck off for the King and a few exalted persons in France. There seems to be some doubt whether 2 lots of 100 sets were in fact printed and sent by different ships - several authorities claim that many copies were lost at sea, in any case, of the copies left in Europe and sent to China only 27 were known to have survived, of these at least 4 incomplete, when W. Fuchs published his census as recently as 1944.

Beautiful impressions in fine condition.

Literature: P. Pelliot, Les Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine (in T'oung Pao, Vols. XX, XXVI, XXIX); H. Furstenberg, Kaiser Kien-Lung's französisches Kupferstichwerk (in: Philobiblon IV, 1931, pp. 371-376); W. Fuchs, Die Entwürfe der Schlachtenkupfer der Kienlung und Toakuang-Zeit. (in: Monumenta Serica, Vol. IX, Peking, 1944, pp. 101-122).

PLATE IV.



No. 70. COCHIN, VICTOIRES ET CONQUÊTES DE L'EMPEREUR DE LA CHINE, 1769-1774
(Greatly reduced)

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