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LACQUER

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A superbly carved Imperial lacquer rectangular Box and Cover, Qianlong, the top in deep cinnabar relief on a yellow diaper ground, with a vigorously drawn scene within a key-fret border, depicting two scaly five-clawed dragons writhing with legs outstretched amidst the foam of crested waves breaking on jagged rocks, their upper bodies rising among swirling clouds in pursuit of a 'flaming pearl', the straight sides with a delicately carved overall florette-diaper pattern, two similar panels at the ends, the base raised on low pierced corner bracket feet, carved with a matching florette-diaper below a lappet border around the apron, and a band of key-fret on the horizontal flange supporting the shallow sides of pierced cloud scroll design, $41\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $18\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $7\frac{5}{8}$ in. (105.8cm., 47.6cm., 19.4cm.) (2)

£9,000-12,000

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A very fine Pair of carved cinnabar lacquer Vases, Qianlong, with gilt-metal liners, of gently flattened ovoid shape and quatrefoil section, crisply carved with eight different panels, each depicting scholars and their attendants walking among the trees and shrubs along the grassy shores of a lake, reserved on a dense stylised floral ground between bands of false gadroons and archaic blades extending up the waisted neck and over the splayed foot, $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. (31.8cm.), lacquered wood stands. (6)

£3,000-4,000

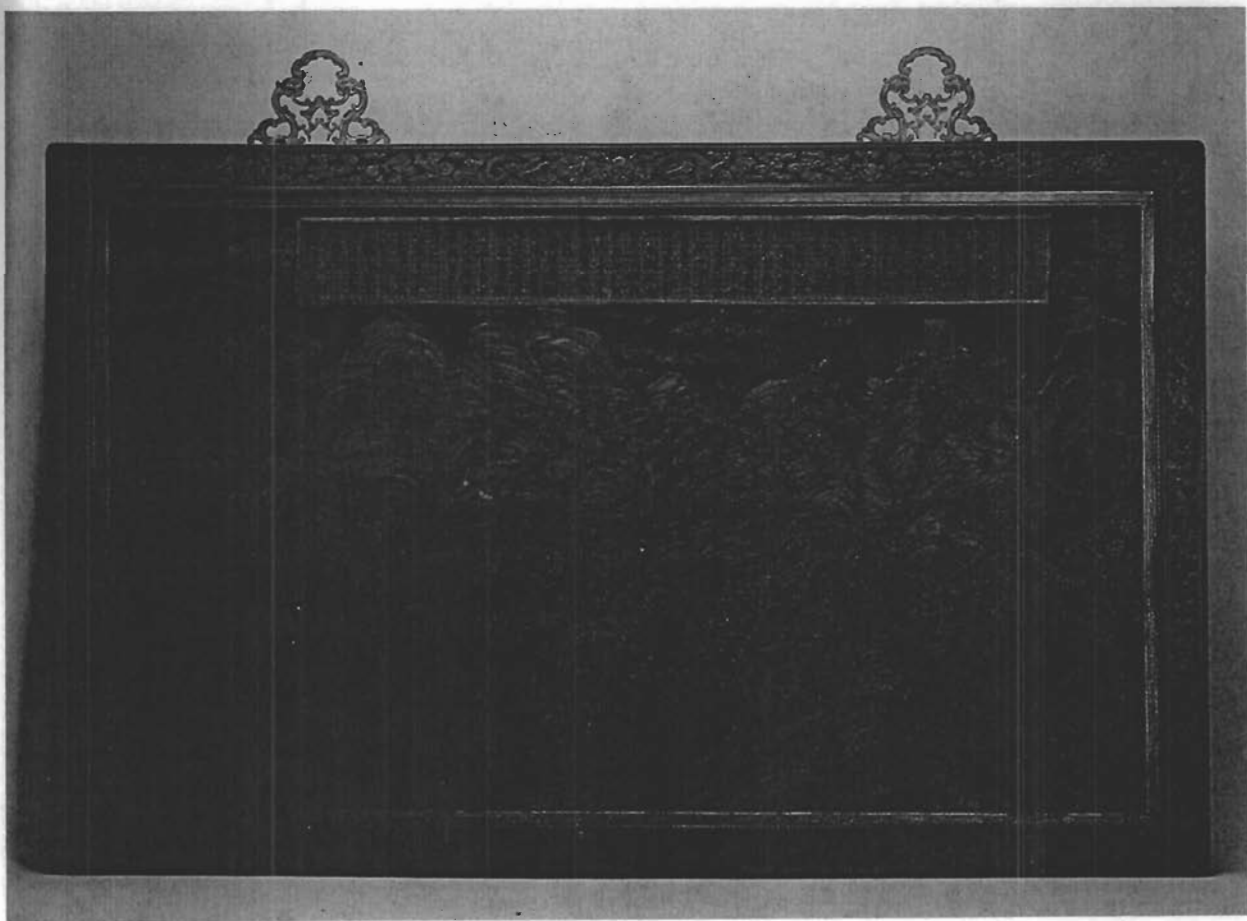
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A highly attractive carved cinnabar lacquer Wall Panel, Qianlong, of rectangular shape well carved in crisp relief with a battle scene below a sky of contrasting black with a long descriptive passage in black characters on an ochre ground within a rectangular panel, the frame carved with dragons in pursuit of 'flaming pearls' among clouds and with two gilt-bronze suspension loops in the form of paired dragon scrolls, the reverse of black lacquer painted in red and gilding with numerous bats amongst the *ba jixiang* spaced among peach sprigs and vaporous clouds, one of the seals reads *Zhong he*, $24\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $39\frac{1}{4}$ in. (62.5cm., 99.7cm.). The scene depicts one of the exploits of the famous Manchu general Agui (1717-1797), who led numerous successful campaigns against rebel armies throughout China, the most memorable being that in the Jinchuan region of Western Sichuan in the 1770s, for which he was highly rewarded and given the title of Duke of the first class in 1776. Scenes depicting these campaigns were painted on the walls of Ziguang pavilion and later engraved, and a complete set of sixteen engravings of the Hinchuan campaign, made between 1776 and 1786, is in the Library of Congress. Another panel from this series was included in the Exhibition of the Minor Arts of China, Messrs. Spink & Son Ltd., 1983, *Catalogue* no. 3.

£3,000-4,000



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Chinese Decorative Arts

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