

## WORKS OF ART

1454

**A very rare complete Set of sixteen Engravings of 'The Conquests of the Emperor Qianlong, after Castiglione et al. circa 1775**, each commemorating the Emperor's military victories during the period from 1755 to 1760, and depicting scenes of the various battles, surrenders of the enemy, and a banquet feast honouring the victors, *approx. 37 by 21 3/4 in.*, together with a key to the scenes (17)

The Emperor Qianlong commissioned the original set of sixteen engravings of his conquests on July 13, 1765 for the central hall of the Palace of Beijing. The drawings were prepared in China by four Jesuits: Guiseppe Castiglione, the director of the project, Jean-Denis Attiret, Ignatius Sickelpart (or Sichelbarth) and Jean Damascène; and were then sent to France, where the engravings were executed in Paris by eight artists under the direction of Charles-Nicolas Cochin of the Académie Royale at the Court of Louis XVI. With the completion of the project in 1775, the copper plates and two hundred copies of each engraving were sent back to China; very few copies remained in France.

A complete set of the sixteen engravings is in the Musée Guimet, Paris, and was documented in a monograph by Michèle Pirazzoli-t'Serstevens, *Gravures des Conquêtes de l'Empereur de Chine K'ien-long au Musée Guimet*, 1969.

Other complete sets in European collections include those in the Bibliothèque Mazarine and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and a set given by Louis XVI to Necker that is now hanging in the château de Coppet in Switzerland.

Listed according to the numbers in the Musée Guimet catalogue, and translated both from the catalogue and from the engravings themselves in a somewhat abbreviated fashion, the prints comprise:

- No. 1. 'General Fou Te Accepts the Surrender of the Ili (Mongols)', drawn by Sichelbarth and engraved by B. L. Prévost, 1769
- No. 2. 'Storming of the Camp at Gadan-Ola', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by J. Ph. Le Bas, 1769
- No. 3. 'The Battle of Oroï-Jalatu', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by J. Ph. Le Bas, 1770
- No. 4. 'The Victory of Khorgos', drawn by Attiret and engraved by J. Ph. Le Bas, 1774
- No. 5. 'The Battle of Khurungui', drawn by Damascène and engraved by Jacques Aliamet, (no date)
- No. 6. 'The Chief of Us (Turfan) Surrenders with his City', drawn by Damascène and engraved by Pierre-Philippe Choffard, 1774
- No. 7. 'The Lifting of the Siege of the Black River', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by J. Ph. Le Bas, 1771.
- No. 8. 'The Great Victory at Quarman' or 'The Chinese Attack the Eleuths', drawn by Damascène and engraved by Augustin de Saint-Aubin, 1770
- No. 9. 'The Battle of Tonguzluq', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by Augustin de Saint-Aubin, 1773
- No. 10. 'The Battle of Qos-Qulaq', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by B. L. Prévost, 1774
- No. 11. 'The Battle of Arcul', drawn by Attiret and engraved by Jacques Aliamet, (no date)
- No. 12. 'The Battle of Yesil-Kol-Nor', drawn by Damascène and engraved N. De Launey, 1772.
- No. 13. 'The Khan of Badakhsan Asks to Surrender,' drawn by Damascène and engraved by Pierre-Philippe Choffard, 1772
- No. 14. 'Offering (the Emperor) the Prisoners from the Pacification of the Moslem Tribes', drawn by Attiret and engraved by Louis-Joseph Masquelier, (no date)
- No. 15. '(The Emperor) Goes to the Countryside to Take (Personally) the News of the Officers and Soldiers who Had Distinguished Themselves in the Campaign against the Moslem Tribes', drawn by Damascène and engraved by Denis Née, 1772
- No. 16. 'The Emperor Gives a Victory Banquet, for the Distinguished Officers and Soldiers (at Tseu-kuangko, the Imperial Palace Gardens, Peking)', drawn by Castiglione and engraved by J. Ph. Le Bas, 1770

**Très rare Suite de seize Estampes représentant les Conquêtes de L'Empereur de la Chine, d'après Castiglione et al. circa 1755, 94 by 55,3cm., encadrés**  
(17)

FF300.000-400.000





1454 (set of sixteen)



**SOTHEBY'S**  
FOUNDED 1744

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**Belle Collection de  
Porcelaines de Chine**  
et Objets d'Art Chinois

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**MONACO**  
LUNDI 22 JUIN 1987 à 16h

