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Fine Chinese Ceramics & Works of Art

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LOT 210

ISIDORE-STANSILAS HELMAN (1743-1806?)

A RARE ALBUM OF TWENTY COPPER-PLATE ENGRAVINGS

THE FIRST SIXTEEN AFTER CASTIGLIONE, SICHELBARTH, ATTIRET AND DAMASCENE TO COMMEMORATE EMPEROR QIANLONG'S VICTORY IN CENTRAL ASIA (1755-59), WITH AN ADDITIONAL FOUR BY HELMAN PRODUCED IN 1786

1. Presenting the prisoners taken during the pacification of the Muslim tribes to the Emperor, 1754, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret
2. The great victory of the Chinese against Muslim troops, 1755, from a drawing by Jean Damascene
3. Raising the siege of the Black River, 1755, the second battle between the Chinese army and that of Ta-ou-Atsi who was beaten and taken prisoner in 1755, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione
4. Storming of the camp at Garden-Ola, the Chinese army fighting Amour-sana who had betrayed them after receiving support against Ta-ou-Atsi, 1757, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione
5. The Battle of Tonguzluq, the pillage of the capital of the Elauths, 1756, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione
6. The Emperor reviewing his troops, from a drawing by Jean Damascene
7. The battle scene between the Emperor's Grand-General Tchao-Hoei and the resurgent Amour-sana, 1757, from a drawing by Jean Damascene
8. Receiving the surrender of the Ili, from a drawing by Jean Damascene
9. The battle of Oroj-Jalatu, the destruction of the enemy camp, 1758, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione
10. The battle of Qos-Qulaq, the enemy is driven into the ravines in the mountains and trapped, 1758, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione
11. The Khan of Badakhsan asks to

surrender, a great feast is given in honor of the General, 1750, from a drawing by Jean Damascene¹². The battle of Yesil-Kor-Nor in 1759, from a drawing by Jean Damascene¹³. The Chief of Us (Turfan) surrenders with his city in 1759, against the two Hot-chom in the mountains of Pulok-koi, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret¹⁴. The battle of Altchouv in 1759, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret¹⁵. The battle of Arcul on 1st September 1759, against the two Hot-chom in the mountains of Pulok-koi, from a drawing by Jean-Denis Attiret¹⁶. The Emperor gives a victory banquet for the officers and soldiers who distinguished themselves at battle, Imperial Palace Gardens, Beijing, on 5th July 1754, from a drawing by Giuseppe Castiglione¹⁷. Ploughing ceremony conducted by the Emperor of China, after a painting belonging to Minister Henri-Leonard Bertin¹⁸. Ordinary procession on the Emperor of China when he visits the city of Beijing, left leaf of a triptych dedicated to Charles Alexandre de Calonne (Minister of Finance), after a Chinese painting dated to 1717 belonging to Minister Henri-Leonard Bertin¹⁹. Ordinary procession on the Emperor of China when he visits the city of Beijing, center leaf of triptych²⁰. Ordinary procession on the Emperor of China when he visits the city of Beijing, right leaf of triptych
Each 10 1/2 x 16 7/8 in.; 26.7 x 42.8 cm, mounted as a bound album

ESTIMATE 25,000-30,000 USD

PROVENANCE

Collection of Andrew Franklin.

Christie's South Kensington, London, 10th May 2006, lot 106.

CATALOGUE NOTE

The Emperor Qianlong commissioned the original set of sixteen engravings of his conquests on 13th July 1765, for the central hall of the Palace of Beijing. The drawings were prepared in China by four Jesuit missionaries: Giuseppe Castiglione (Lang Shining), Jean-Denis Attiret (Wang Zhicheng), Ignatius Sichelbarth (Ai Qimeng) and Jean Damascene (An Deyi). The engravings 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, and the individual engravers include Le Bas, Aliamet, Prevost, Saint-Aubin, Masquelier, Choffard and De Launay.

The copies of these engravings were so rare that Isidore-Stanislas Helman, a disciple of Le Bas reproduced the series in a smaller size and reduced quality, with the addition of four further illustrations, under the title 'Batailles et conquêtes de l'empereur de la Chine.' [Battles and Conquests of the Emperor of China].