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# Portraits of Valour: Imperial Bannermen Portraits from a European Collection

Hong Kong | 09 October 2012 | HK0436

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### AN IMPERIAL OIL PORTRAIT OF PURPU ATTRIBUTED TO IGNAZ SICHELBARTH, (AI QIMENG, 1708-1780), ET AL. QING DYNASTY, QIANLONG PERIOD, CIRCA 1771-1776

Estimate: 600,000 - 800,000 HKD

oil on Korean paper

the bust portrait depicting an Imperial bodyguard of the Qing empire, dressed in a plain navy blue robe and donning a court hat with a red button of the second rank and a one-eyed peacock feather, his youthful face of pale complexion and a slightly asymmetrical mustache, all against a bluish-grey background, the upper right corner inscribed vertically in Chinese with the characters Yuqian shiwei lingdui dachen fudutong sandeng fenyong nan Puerpu ('Imperial Bodyguard, Commander of the Northwest Border Militia, Banner General, Baron of the third rank, with the designation Hero of Merit, Purpu'), and repeated in Manchu on the upper left corner, the upper left corner of the reverse attached with a yellow label inscribed Pingding Iiang Jinchuan gongchen xiang di shisi ('The fourteenth painting from the series of meritorious officials who contributed in conquering the two Jinchuan [the major and minor]')

73.5 by 56.2 cm., 28 7/8 by 22 in.



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#### 145

# AN IMPERIAL OIL PORTRAIT OF PURPU ATTRIBUTED TO IGNAZ SICHELBARTH, (AI QIMENG, 1708-1780). ET AL. QING DYNASTY, QIANLONG PERIOD, CIRCA 1771-1776

oil on Korean paper

the bust portrait depicting an Imperial bodyguard of the Qing empire, dressed in a plain navy blue robe and donning a court hat with a red button of the second rank and a one-eyed peacock feather, his youthful face of pale complexion and a slightly asymmetrical mustache, all against a bluish-grey background, the upper right corner inscribed vertically in Chinese with the characters Yuqian shiwei lingdui dachen fudutong sandeng fenyong nan Puerpu (Imperial Bodyquard, Commander of the Northwest Border Militia, Banner General, Baron of the third rank, with the designation Hero of Merit, Purpu'), and repeated in Manchu on the upper left corner, the upper left corner of the reverse attached with a yellow label inscribed Pingding liang Jinchuan gongchen xiang di shisi (The fourteenth painting from the series of meritorious officials who contributed in conquering the two Jinchuan [the major and minor]) 73.5 by 56.2 cm., 28% by 22 in.

#### **PROVENANCE**

Dr. Wuensch, Germany, early 20th century. A rare book dealer in Heidelberg, Germany. E.J. Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 1985.

#### LITERATURE

E.J. Brill, Catalogue 544, Leiden, 1985, no. 5.

#### HK\$600,000-800,000

US\$77,500-104,000

清乾隆約三十六至四十一年 (傳)艾啟蒙等《普屬普像》

兩側漢滿文「御前侍衞領隊大臣副都統三等奮勇男普爾普」 畫背標籤「平定兩金川功臣像第十四」

臉龐尖削、額高廣寬,蓄二撒髭。朝冠頂嵌紅珠,加戴一眼孔雀花翎,身穿深藍色右衽服。背 景滿塗淺藍、色泛灰。上方左右兩側以滿漢文書寫人物官銜姓名,背面左上角有土黃色標籤, 上書其圖像系列及編號。

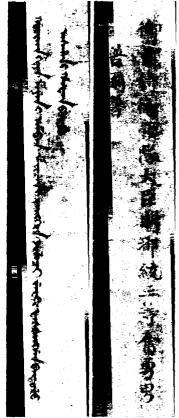
#### 來源:

Wuensch 醫生,德國,二十世紀初 德國海德堡珍本書商

E.J. Brill, 萊頓, 荷蘭, 1985年

#### 出版

E.J. Brill · 《Catalogue 544》 · 萊頓 · 1985年 · 編號5



145 INSCRIPTIONS IN MANCHU AND CHINESE



The Manchu transliteration:

Gocika hiya. meyen-i amban. meiren-i janggin ilaci jergi faśśangga baturu ashan-i hafan Purpu

The English translation:

Imperial Bodyguard of the Antechamber, Commandant of the Northwest Border Militia, Banner General, Baron of the third rank, with the designation Hero of Merit, Purpu

Purpu (d. 1790) was a man of the Erteken family of the Mongol Plain Yellow Banner. His father Batujirgal was originally one of the Ölöt Dörbet nobles who had submitted to the emperor. Purpu joined the campaign against the Dsungars and the Muslim Hoji Zhan where he won merit and rose to neidachen (Senior Asistant Chamberlain of the Imperial Bodyguard. He was also awarded the hereditary rank of honour of Qiduwei. The biography mentions that Purpu's portrait was painted for the Ziguangge. Purpu was appointed bodyguard of the third rank. He then joined the Burma campaign and was appointed Bodyguard of the Antechamber, and made also captain. In 1772 he joined general Wenfu on the second Jinchuan campaign where he undertook a variety of military actions together with Fengsengge, Hailanca, Esentei, et al. For his great achievements during the war he was awarded, in 1776, the rank of Fenyong (undaunted), Baron of the 3rd degree, received imperial gifts, and was eulogized by the Emperor:

His father was the son of Ridi, Zifeinong'er, who when ordered to advance and exterminate rebels exerted himself to the utmost - sparing nothing.

Weaponed and armoured, sheltering in snowy dugouts on icy mountains, he was so able at engaging and withdrawing that enemies dared not resist him.

Afterwards Purpu distinguished himself also during the campaign against Taiwan, and again his portrait was painted for the Ziguangge. He was awarded the rank of Baron of the 2nd degree. He passed away in 1790.