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Portraits of Valour: Imperial Bannermen Portraits from a European Collection

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

Estimate: 1,500,000 - 2,500,000 HKD

oil on Korean paper

the bust portrait depicting a commanding officer of the Qing empire in frontal view, his dark pock-marked face naturalistically rendered along with a thin mustache and a wispy goatee, dressed in a plain brown robe with a blue collar, donning an official's hat with a red button and a one-eyed peacock feather, all against a bluish-grey background, the upper right corner inscribed vertically in Chinese with the characters Lingdui dachen Xi'an fudutong Shulin ('Commander of the Northwest Border Militia, Lieutenant-General of Xi'an, Śulin'), and repeated in Manchu on the upper left corner, the upper left corner of the reverse attached with a yellow label $inscribed \textit{ Pingding Iiang Jinchuan gongchen xiang di sijiu} \ ('The \ nineteenth \ painting$ from the series of meritorious officials who contributed in conquering the two Jinchuan [the major and minor]') 73.7 by 55.9 cm., 29 by 22 in.

CATALOGUE NOTES & PROVENANCE

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ENGLISH VIEW FAVOURITES

AN IMPERIAL OIL PAINTING OF SULIN 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 a commanding officer of the Qing empire in frontal view, his dark pock-marked face naturalistically rendered along with a thin mustache and a wispy goatee, dressed in a plain brown robe with a blue collar, donning an official's hat with a red button and a oneeyed peacock feather, all against a bluish-grey background, the upper right corner inscribed vertically in Chinese with the characters Lingdui dachen Xi'an fudutong Shulin ('Commander of the Northwest Border Militia, Lieutenant-General of Xi'an, Sulin'), 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 sijiu ('The nineteenth painting from the series of meritorious officials who contributed in conquering the two Jinchuan [the major and minor]) 73.7 by 55.9 cm., 29 by 22 in.

PROVENANCE

Dr. Wuensch, early 20th century. A rare book dealer in Heidelberg, Germany, 1980s.

HK\$1,500,000-2,500,000

US\$194,000-323,000

清乾隆約三十六至四十一年 (傳)艾啟蒙等《書麟像》 油彩紙本 木框

標題:

兩側漢滿文「領隊大臣西安副都統書麟」 畫背標籤「平定兩金川功臣像第十九」

人物麻臉、細目端鼻、雙唇緊合、蓄二撇髭。朝冠頂嵌紅珠、加戴一眼孔雀 花翎,身穿棕栗色右衽服。背景滿塗淺藍。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·1980年代



148 INSCRIPTIONS IN MANCHU AND CHINESE



148 LABEL

The Manchu tranliteration:
Meyen-i amban Si an-i meiren-i janggin Śulin

The English translation:

Commander of the Northwest Border Militia, Lieutenant-General of Xi'an, Śulin

Śulin (d. 1801) courtesy name was Fuzhai, his family G'aogiya. He was a Manchu from the Bordered Yellow Banner, son of Gao Jin, (1707-1779). He started out as an employee in the Imperial Equipage Department, rose to deputy Lieutenant-General of the Manchu garrison in Xi'an in 1771 and followed the Imperial Councillor Fengsengge to Jinchuan in 1773. After the victory he was portrayed for the Ziguangge. Then he became Governor of Guangxi.

In 1784 he became Governor of Anhui, and three years later promoted to Governor-General of both Jiang provinces. Shortly thereafter he was stripped of his position and exiled to Ili because of nepotism and negligence. He was recalled as governor of Shanxi and in 1791 as governor-general of both Jiang provinces. In 1799 he became President of the Civil Service Ministry and Lieutenant-General of the Plain Red Banner's Chinese troops. He received the honorary titles *Taizi taibao* (Grand Guardian of the Heir Apparent) and was appointed assistant Grand Secretary and Governor-General of Min (Fujian) and Zhejiang. In 1800 as Governor-General of Hu-Guang he extirpated the rebels in the Xiangyang area (Hubei), and in 1801 the rebels under Xu Tiande (d. 1801). He died in army in 1801 and was canonized as Wenqin. His son Jilangga carried on, The Emperor eulogized him:

Originally he was not trained for battle, but when he went into battle, he was fierce.

Afraid that he would not live up to his father's reputation, he would only advance after assembling terrible might,

and only when the meritorious deed was fully accomplished did he allow things settle.

As Banner Commandant at Yulin [Guangxi headquarters], when he had to attack he did so with heroic determination, and when he had to stand guard he did so with great care.

This portrait is particularly noteworthy as it shows clearly that the official suffered from smallpox, and one would not call the face handsome even though he has character. It is an excellent documentation of the new line of 'realistic' portrait painting that the Qianlong emperor encouraged, which was so different from the traditional idealistic/hagiographic style.

書麟(也作書林・1801年卒),字紱齋,高佳氏,滿洲鑲黃旗人,乃高晉(1707-1779年)之子。初授「鑾儀衛整儀尉」,三十六年(1771)遷為「西安副都統」。三十八年(1773),隨參贊大臣豐昇額出征金川,力戰立功,高宗命人畫其肖像,以懸於紫光閣,並擢「廣西巡撫」。四十九年(1784),出任「安徽巡撫」,三年後擢升為「兩江總督」,未幾卻因徇私失察之罪,並革去翎頂,先發往伊犂,隨後任「山西巡撫」。五十六年(1791),復任「兩江總督」。嘉慶四年(1799),起任「吏部尚書」,兼為「正紅旗漢軍都統」,又加「太子太保」之銜,命「協辦大學士」,並授為「閩淅總督」。次年(1800),調任「湖廣總督」,赴湖北襄陽平亂,後又助捕徐天德(1801年卒)等教匪。嘉慶六年(1801),書麟卒於軍中,謚「文勤」,其子吉郎阿則襲其「一等男」爵。詳見《清史列傳》,卷27,頁2096-2104,以及《清史稿》,卷343:列傳一百三十,頁1-2(稱之書麟)。

高宗御製贊曰:「本非習戰,遇戰即奮,恐孤父名(書麟乃大學士高晉 之子),偉哉後進,功成事定,提督鬱林,攻則壯志,守則小心。」

書麟滿臉麻子,畫家卻真實描繪,不加修飾,可見乾隆一朝,在帝君的推動鼓勵下,畫作對逼真形似之追求,有別於傳統畫作主張神似的 觀念。