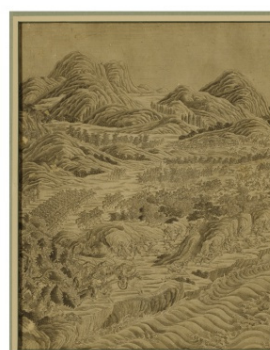
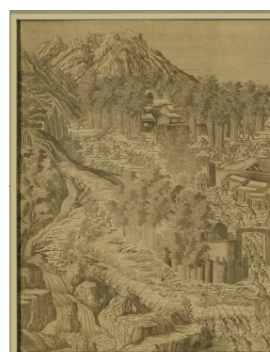
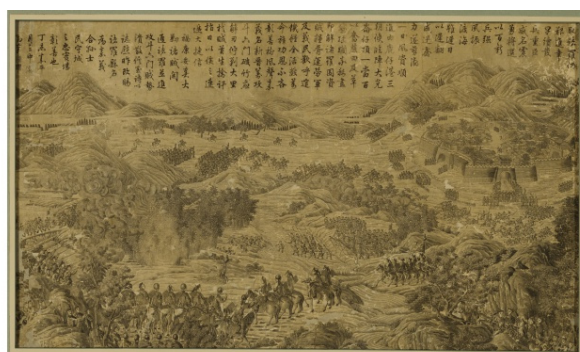


IMPORTANT CHINESE ART

668

PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMAN

A COMPLETE SET OF TWELVE COPPER-PLATE ENGRAVINGS QIANLONG'S FORMOSA CONQUEST 1788-1790

Estimate 80,000 — 120,000 USD ▼



DETAILS & CATALOGUING

A COMPLETE SET OF TWELVE COPPER-PLATE ENGRAVINGS OF QIANLONG'S FORMOSA CONQUEST 1788-1790



commemorating the Qianlong Emperor's 1786-88 campaign in Taiwan, each image accompanied by a poem by the Emperor and bearing his seals, comprising illustrations of *Battle at Dabulin, Attack on Douliumen, Conquer of Douliumen, Conquer of Dali, Attack on the mountain Xiaobantian, Battle at Kuzhai, Capture of the rebel chief Lin Shuangwen, Battle at Jijipu, Battle at Dawujing, Capture of Zhuang Datian, Crossing the ocean and triumphant return, Victory banquet*, individually framed (12)

Height 19 in., 48.26 cm; Width 32 3/4 in., 83.2 cm

IMPORTANT CHINESE ART

11 SEPTEMBER 2019 | 10:30 AM

EDT

NEW YORK

CATALOGUE NOTE

This set of twelve copper-plate engravings commemorates the Qianlong Emperor's military campaign in Formosa in 1787 and 1788. The set depicts the victory of Qianlong's troops against local rebels in eleven battle scenes and also shows the imperial reception of the victorious army and its commander, the military officer Fukang'an (d. 1796), a Manchu of the Bordered Yellow Banner. The inscriptions are poems composed and written by the Qianlong Emperor and dated 1787, 1788, and 1789 respectively.

In the early 1760s the Qianlong Emperor commissioned the Italian Jesuit Giuseppe Castiglione (1688-1766) and three other missionaries at the court to design a first series of drawings commemorating his military victories. Once completed, these were sent to France to be engraved on copper plates and were shipped back to Beijing between 1772 and 1775. Qianlong was so pleased with this set that he later desired similar commemorative prints to be made of his other military campaigns. By the time of the Formosa campaign, however, all four of the Jesuit painters who had worked on the first series, had died, hence court painters were employed instead. The present set, commemorating Qianlong's campaigns in Taiwan to quell rebellious factions on the island, were first painted by Chinese Qing court painters, including Yang Dazhang, Jia Quan, Xie Sui, Zhuang Yude, Li Ming, and Yao Wenhan, and were printed between 1788 and 1790 in Qing imperial workshops, rather than relying on Jesuit painters and European printing. A complete set is preserved in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing.

Two complete sets of copper-plate engravings commemorating the Formosa campaign were sold in our Hong Kong rooms, the first, from the collection of Lord Elgin, Plenipotentiary to China, 27th April 2003, lot 35, and the second, 9th October 2007, lot 131. A third set, in Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin, is illustrated in Herbert Butz, *Bilder für die Halle des Purpurglanzes*, Berlin, 2003, pl. 26, together with the engraved copper plate, pl. 27. Another three engravings from this Formosa series are in the Musée Guimet, Paris, illustrated in Michèle Pirazzoli-t'Serstevens, *Gravures des Conquêtes de l'Empereur de Chine K'ien-long au Musée Guimet*, Paris, 1969, pp 44-46.

