

Sotheby's

Asian Art
Sale PF1027

AUCTION DATE

Session 1 16 Dec 10 10:30 AM

LOCATION

Paris

LOT 114



**QUATRE GRAVURES ILLUSTRANT
LES CONQUETES DE L'EMPEREUR
QIANLONG D'APRÈS GIUSEPPE
CASTIGLIONE (1688-1766)
CHINE, DYNASTIE QING, DEUXIÈME**

MOITIÉ DU XVIII^E SIÈCLE

[A SET OF FOUR PRINTS FROM "THE
EMPEROR OF CHINA'S CONQUESTS"
AFTER GIUSEPPE CASTIGLIONE
(1688-1766), CHINA, QING DYNASTY,
18TH CENTURY]

4,000—6,000 EUR **Lot
Sold.** Hammer Price with
Buyer's Premium:
16,250 EUR

MEASUREMENTS

measurements note

52 x 87 cm, 20 1/2 x 34 1/4 in.

DESCRIPTION

tirées d'une série de seize gravures commandées en 1765 par
l'Empereur Qianlong pour commémorer ses victoires en Asie Centrale
(1755-1759)

Quantity: 4

CATALOGUE NOTE

The Emperor Qianlong commissioned the original set of sixteen engravings of his conquests on 13 July 1765 for the central hall of the Palace in Beijing and is recorded to have said: 'I wish the sixteen prints of the victories that I won in the conquest of the kingdom of Chumgar and the neighbouring Mahommedan countries, which I had painted by Lamxinim [Castiglione] and the other European painters who are in my service in the city of Peking, to be sent to Europe where the best artists in copper shall be chosen so that they may render each of these prints

perfectly in all its parts on plates of copper'.

The drawings were prepared in China by four Jesuits: Giuseppe Castiglione, the director of the project, Jean-Denis Attiret, Ignatius Sichelbarth and Jean Damascene. They were sent to Paris, where the engravings were executed by eight artists under the direction of Charles-Nicolas Cochin of the Académie Royale at the Court of Louis XVI. This commission was considered of utmost importance, as it potentially offered France means of leaving a favorable impression on the Emperor and thus gaining advantage in view of commerce and missioning, directed against the Dutch, Portuguese and English.

Complete sets of these engravings are relatively rare: a set is kept in the Bibliothèque Mazarine; another in the Bibliothèque Nationale; a third in the Musée Guimet; and a set given by Louis XVI to Necker, now in Castle Coppet in Switzerland. Another complete set was sold in our New York Rooms 20/21 March 1997, lot 286.



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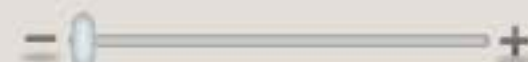
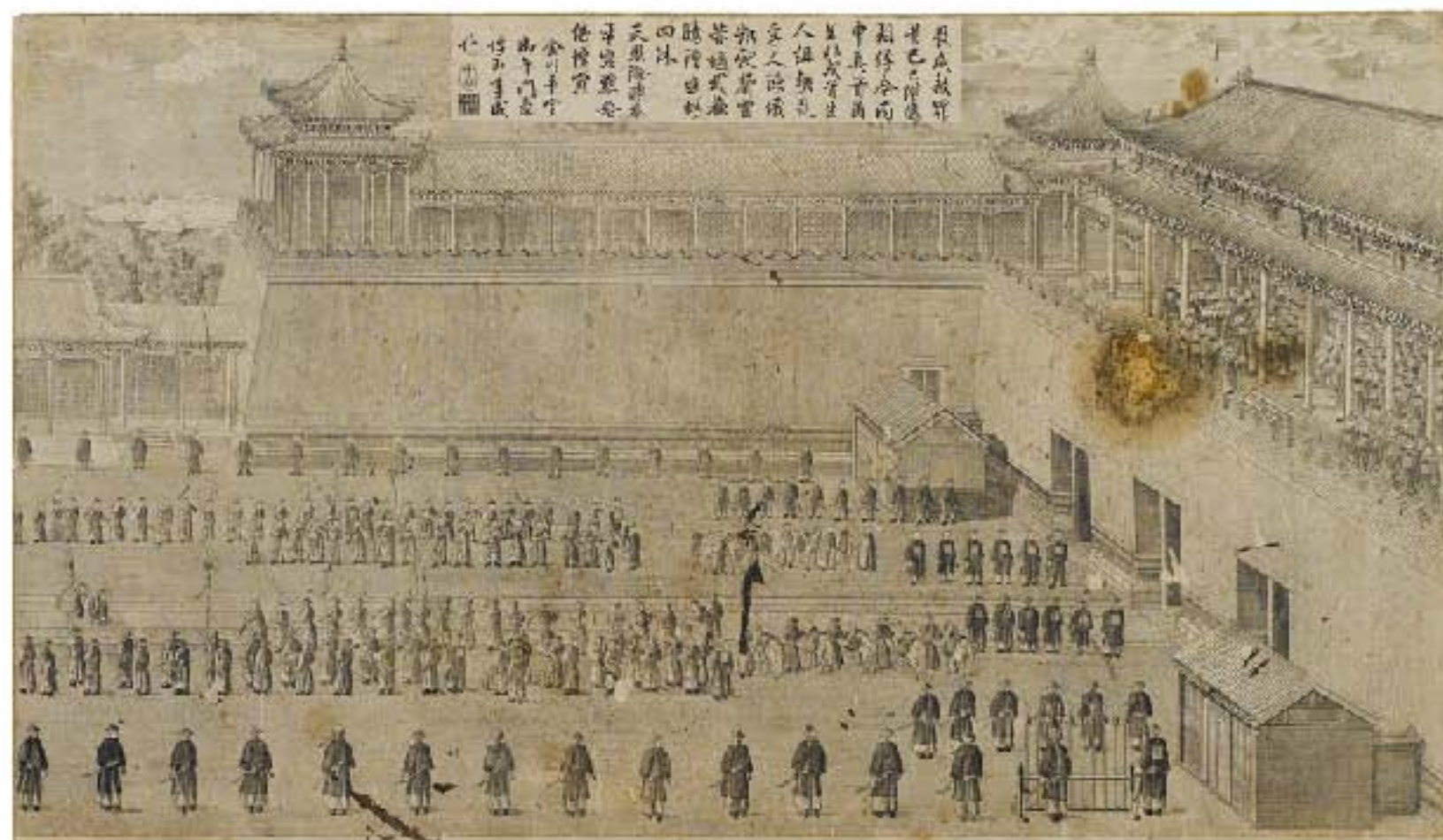
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