

Attributed to

JEAN-DENIS ATTIRET

1702–1768, France

Etched by AUGUSTINUS ST. AUBIN

1736–1807, France

The Battle of Tonguluq

From the Series, *Les Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine*

Sketched in China ca. 1765–1766

Etched in Paris 1773

Gift of S. & G. Gump, 1939 (11,157)

This etching is one of a rare set of sixteen etchings depicting the military victories of the Qianlong emperor, the third Qing dynasty emperor who ruled from 1736–1795. The original drawings were produced by a group of French, Italian and Czech Jesuit priests who were active at the Qing court in the Forbidden City as technical and scientific advisors. The actual etchings were created in Paris, and the entire project took from 1765 to 1775 to complete. The etched set of prints is notable for its use of such Western techniques as shading and one-point perspective.

**6 Two Botanical Illustrations:
PINEAPPLE AND MANGO,**

ca. 1805

Canton, China

Watercolor, gouache on paper

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Christian H.
Aall, 1999 (26,601 & 26,602)

From the early 18th century, "China pictures," workshop paintings in oil on canvas or gouache and/or watercolor on paper executed by unknown artisans, formed a regular part of private trade from Canton to England, the Continent, and the United States. Many works on paper were done in sets, such as groups of port views, representations of different trades, shop interiors, Chinese scenes and landscapes, even botanical illustrations. Sets of images which conformed to Western conventions of naturalism were one of the staples of export painting workshops. Interestingly, these finely painted, colorful representations were frequently painted, as were these, on Western paper shipped to China for this use. They were popular in the West through the third quarter of the 19th century for their decorative, picturesque effect.