



An Exquisite and Important Pair of
Chinese Paintings on Silk of a
Dutch Couple, c. 1760

Inventory Number :180-110

Size: 12 ½ ins. high and 10 ins. wide

From the renowned Mottahedeh Collection these illustrations came from two eighteenth century volumes depicting Westerners and Chinese provincial traders and artisans. Probably commissioned by a wealthy and powerful Chinese merchant in Canton to record the vast diversity of the population these pieces are unique in having applied captions describing the people and commenting on their appearance and habits.

The captions can be translated as follows;

Dutch Male:

“This man is a Hollander. He wears a black felt hat. When he sees a friend he takes it off. This shows his politeness. He wears a short jacket and leather shoes and holds a stick along with a sword. After about six months he will leave Kuangtung Provence (Canton) by water. He usually comes to trade in Autumn and returns to his country in winter.”

Dutch Female:

“This lady from Holland wears a blue scarf over her hair. Around her neck she wears a necklace made of precious stones, nothing to cover her chest. A long skirt is attached to her dress and a long shawl is thrown over her shoulder. She wear red leather shoes.”

Gouache on silk

Canton, China. C. 1760

Illustrated:

Both pictured in

China for the West

, vol. I, p. 31 by David Howard and John Ayers, Sotheby Parke Bernet, London and New York, 1978.

Michael Pashby Antiques

FINE ENGLISH FURNITURE

Provenance:

Mottahedeh Collection

With Martyn Gregory, London, probably by mid 1980s

Private collection, New York by late 1980s.

For more information please contact us

Telephone [917 414 1827](tel:9174141827)

mpashby@michaelpashbyantiques.com

1235 Park Ave. New York, NY 10128

www.michaelpashbyantiques.com